

## American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

May 2011

### Wired for Worship



Children are instinctively worshipers. They are glory givers. It isn't a conscious decision on their part; they are hard-wired for worship. ...

You may be thinking, "Not my kids, they fall asleep in church." Be that as it may, they are worshipers. They are made in the image of God. They are uniquely designed for worship. Their eyes and ears and imaginations are receptors for seeing the glory of God in all that he has made so they can respond with worship, adoration, and love.

Your children go into the world everyday in search of an answer to the question, "What makes life worth living? What can I find to excite and delight me?" We do not have to look far;

the world conspires to seduce the heart with cheap and empty pleasures.

God designed children for worship. The only question is, what will they worship? ...

What happens when creatures uniquely designed to be dazzled by God's greatness and respond with worship, fail to worship God? They do not cease worship; they simply worship something other than God. ...

Your children will worship God or idols. The idols are not small statues; they are more subtle than that. Ezekiel 14:2-3 paints the vivid picture of God's people setting up idols in their hearts. ...

... In the Bible, idolatry is the most frequent metaphor for loving created things more than God. Strive to understand idols of the heart. You will learn to detect your own idolatry and to talk to your children about their idols. Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5 that idolatry is not a marginal footnote in life. Rather,

the idolatry of greed, lust, craving, and coveting often dominate life. ...

Idols of the heart lose their grip on the soul when they are replaced by greater, more pleasing delights. Your children are hard-wired for delights that last, not for a moment, but for a lifetime and for eternity. ...

Because your children are uniquely designed to worship God, one of your most important callings is to display the glory of God. ...

The deepest, most profound joys are found in knowing God. Children's deceitful hearts will tell them that life is found in other places. Formative instruction unveils the beauty of God. There is a resplendent radiance to the power and personality of God. The glory of God demonstrates that he is praiseworthy. God's character gives a reason for hope and confidence. He is worthy of our trust, praise and boasting.

[Taken from *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Ted & Marcy Tripp, Shepherd Press]

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## 13 Things I Wish I'd Known at Age 13



1. Life is not meant to revolve around me!

2. Don't expect your friends or family to be perfect. They are sinners just as you are and sometimes they're going to hurt you.

3. God will never hurt you or abandon you. When it feels like He has, it is because you have turned from Him. Just turn around.

4. Forgiveness is an act of the will and the path to freedom and peace. Make it a habit.

5. A very wise man once told me that "God's men (and women) bounce." So, when you are knocked down, get up and purpose to keep going by doing the right thing.

6. Do not be afraid of hardship. Put your hand in

God's hand and let Him lead you through trials. He uses hardship in our lives to perfect us into His character. He loves us too much to leave us in our imperfect state!

7. Sometimes our difficulties are simply a result of our own sin or bad choices. Don't blame God. Take responsibility, confess any sin or blame, and keep moving forward with His guidance.

8. "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." This kind of friend is rare. Choose your friends wisely and cautiously. Some people look great on the outside, but when you get to know them, they are not the kind of friends you need. Love them but be cautious in opening yourself up to them. The Bible says: "Jesus entrusted himself to no man because He knew what was in the heart of man" (John 2:24).

9. Don't focus on outward appearance. When you begin to bring others into your love, they forget all about the outward appearance.

10. Laughter is soothing to the soul. Laugh with your family! The memories are

priceless and will bless your entire life.

11. Stay close to your brother and sister. Forgive their faults against you immediately. God has given you these specific siblings for your good and theirs. If you maintain a close relationship with them you will be blessed for your entire life.

12. Begin now to make it a habit to be in the Word daily, even if it is just a verse. You will be amazed how God uses the Holy Spirit to remind you of His guidance when facing challenges during your daily routine.

13. Pray, pray, pray! God is your Father. Just as your parents want to hear your thoughts and concerns, so does your Heavenly Father. He wants you to walk with Him, your hand in His. He wants to hold you in His lap while you share, while you cry, while you laugh. Learn to tell Him everything! Simply talk to Him quietly throughout the day. That not only blesses you but it blesses Him.

[Taken from *American Family Association Journal* by Debbie Fischer May 2011]

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