

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

Good morning Crossroads. We're going to talk a little bit about what we just saw this morning. We're going to talk about that whole concept – do as I say, not as I do. How many of you would agree that we live in a different world than it was when we were kids? That's a common complaint that I hear from parents that things are just so radically different than when we were kids. In fact, we use that sometimes as an excuse with our kids. For example, we'll say things like the role models were different. When we grew up in the sixties this was the role model of the happy couple. (Illustration of Ozzie & Harriet) Many of you might not even know who that is. That's Ozzie and Harriet. If you grew up in the sixties you know of them. But that's not necessarily the role model for today. What's the role model for today? The role model for today is something like this. (Illustration of Ozzie & Sharon Osbourne) It's Ozzie and Sharon, right? Things have drastically changed. Or if you grew up on the seventies then you know the role model for the family was this group. (Illustration of the Brady Bunch) It was the Brady Bunch, right? But if you're growing up today who's the role model? It's this family – the Kardashians (Illustration). And this is what we have to deal with.

Listen to this quote. "Youth today love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, no respect for older people and talk nonsense when they should be working." Sounds like a commentary on today, doesn't it? You know who wrote this? Socrates wrote this five hundred years before the life of Christ. What's my point? My point is yes. I would agree with you. Our role models have changed. The world has changed. Things are different from when we grew up but kids are basically the same as they've always been.

We're in a series that we're calling Junior and my goal is to help you raise amazing kids. Now, if you're kids are already out of the house or you don't have kids I don't want you to tune me out because what we're doing is we're talking about applying God's Word, principles to our life and so if you open your heart this morning to the Word of God I know you'll get something out of this but really I've kind of made this my focus as to help you as parents raise amazing kids and what we're going to do this morning is we're just kind of laser in on one particular area. I want to help you learn how to see your kids so that you can influence your kids.

Now, let's work on the first one first – how to see your kids. What do I mean by that? What do I mean when I say how to see your kids? Well, it's important for you how to see your kids as individual people because you know what we do as parents? We fall into a trap of seeing our kids as extensions of ourselves; as just part of our family unit. You know, they look like us. They act like us. They usually do what we do. They sound like us. But the reality is they're not us. And many times they have their own way of thinking, their own way of processing, their own way of doing things. And so we need to understand them as individuals. And one of the things that I think would help in that process is to put some filters on your parenting. Let me talk about two filters that might help you understand or see your kid.

The first filter is a good memory. What I mean by this is a good memory of the past. Do you remember what you were like when you were your children's age? Do you remember when you were a seven-year-

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

old boy or a six-year girl? Do you remember what it was like when you were ten or when you were thirteen? Do you remember what it was like when you wanted to be older; wanted to be sixteen? Then you were sixteen. Then you wanted to be eighteen. Then you were eighteen. Do you remember what was going on in your life? What you were thinking? What you were wanting? What you were doing? How you were processing? What am I getting at? I'm getting at this. If you can put your self back into the shoes of that age group then you've gone a long way of understanding what's going on in your son or your daughter's life. And why do we want to do this? Because we want to help influence them and steer them through portions of life that we've been through. You see, if you can wrap your mind around the way they're thinking, feeling, saying, what they're wanting that is the way you did when you were that age you will understand as a parent exactly how you might be able to steer them in a direction that will help avoid certain consequences and move them into a right path.

Well, have you every thought about this? Does it ever bother you about some of the things you're kids do like how loud they talk, or how emotional they can swing from high to low or how argumentative they can be or selfish or rude or boy crazy or girl crazy or how appearance conscience they can be? That was kind of bothering me. I was watching my daughters as they were growing into their teen-age years and they were just so appearance conscience until last week we were out to dinner together. And we were talking a little bit about that and one of my daughters asked me, she said what was the fashion like when you were in high school? And when she said that it transported me back thirty years. 1982, I was graduating from high school. I was eighteen-years old. And the fashion of the day was, get this, Sperry top-siders, khaki pants, around your waste, not sagging, and I had some kind of shirt like a button down or an Izod shirt. Do you remember that? Remember wanting that? Remember going to your parents and saying I want an Izod shirt. And they would say I am not going to spend twenty-five bucks for a shirt, right? Everybody else had them and you wanted them. And that was kind of who you were. That's who you wanted to be.

In fact, all of my friends had this book. Remember this book? (Illustration - The Official Preppy Handbook) That was like the bible guide to fashion. And then you open it up and remember that girl and that guy that had...remember this guy? All my friends wanted to dress like this guy. Well, not all my friends. Half my friends, I guess they use this book as their guide to dress. (Illustration - The Official Redneck Handbook) I'm not sure but anyways we the whole thing is we were totally into fashion conscience-ness at that age and when she said that it was like in that moment I started to realize we're not that different. And I used to be so enraptured by that and so it helps me understand what they're going through right now but you can not just live in the past. At the same time you be a person of the present.

So, the second filter - you have to have a good understanding of the present. You have to have a good understanding of the culture today. Look at your outlines. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:32. It says, from the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times. Now, circle that, underline that, star that. And knew the best course for Israel to take. How did they know the best course for Israel to take? Here it is. They understood the culture. They understood the signs of the times. Now get this. You were once their age but you were never their age in

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

this age. And so that means what you need to be parents, you need to be students of the culture. You need to understand what's going on. That means you need to understand music and music trends. It might not be your music but you need to understand what's on their iPod? What are they listening to? What are they bringing into their world? See, you can't steer and guide them unless you know. What's going on in television? What's going on in television trends?

Did you realize over the last eighteen, twenty-four months there's this huge trend in entertainment and television to be somewhat focused on the occult? There are more shows that have to do with witchcraft or warlocks and vampires and zombies than any other times. Now, I don't know if that matters to you but at least you ought to understand it if you are going to be concerned about steering your children through that path. You need to be understanding about fashion trends, communication. Let's talk about communication for a moment. When you and I were in high school what was the quintessential height of making it? It was having a phone in your room? Remember that? Having your own phone. You know, our kids don't care about having a phone in their room, why? Because they have a phone every where they go. They carry it with them. And I guarantee when your parents would say get off the phone it's because you were spending too much time on it. You probably don't say that to your kids today. What do we say to our kids today? Would you stop texting at the table. Can you get get of Facebook. Would you stop tweeting. So, you have to understand communication.

Now, here's the thing. This is why it's important. Communication and technology is the gateway into the social world for your children. And I realize that parents, some of you, you're not tech savvy at all. You're not into technology. In fact, the last time you said log on it was because you were cold. You had no idea about this whole idea about how important it is. But your kids live in that technology world right now. And so, if you're going to spend any kind of energy in understanding their world you have to understand how they get into their world. And you have to understand what makes up their world and so technology's a big thing. You're going to have to make that leap and you're going to have to learn exactly what's going on in that area. Some of you who are grandparents you know, your five-year old grandson, you know – they're helping you maneuver that thing, it's called a mouse on your computer around. Or, sign you up for email. There's nothing wrong with that. Use their knowledge to train you to help you understand technology. Technology trends are changing all the time. That's part of our culture. You need to stay up on it.

Sexual trends. You need to stay up on sexual trends. Let's talk about the sexual trends today. Do you realize that our children are exposed to more sexual images than we ever dreamed of as kids? In fact, the average age for the first sexual experience of our children is somewhere around ten or eleven and it usually happens when they're doing homework. It's some image that pops up on the screen on their computer. Do you realize that ninety percent of kids by age sixteen have seen extreme, I'm talking about extreme sexual, graphic imagery and videos? By age sixteen. So what does that tell us parents? That tells us that if we've going to give them a computer we ought to also give them the tools, somehow, some filtering system that you buy into that would guard their hearts from the things that they can be exposed to.

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

Now, they're going get it sooner or later. That's just the world that we live in. We can't stop that. That's just the world we live in. But during those most impressionable years what we can do we can guard them. Why? So we can guide them and navigate them through these things. Remember what the scripture said. We looked at this a few weeks ago. That you are to train up a child in the way he should go and when he's old he will not depart from it. See, it's your responsibility to train them. It's your responsibility to guide them and one of the areas that many times we as parents don't like to talk about is this whole sexual aspect. It's because we're not comfortable with it. But listen, that doesn't mean you should stop talking about it. In fact, if you stop talking about it you're the only person in the room without a voice because they're talking about it. Their friends are talking about it. It's going on at school. It's going on in the media. It's going on in their entertainment. It's going on in their music.

One of the things I often tell parents whatever happens, maintain open communication with your children through all the stages of their life because I'll tell you what. There's a time coming. We've all been there. We all understand it. There's a time coming when they're going to begin to disengage. You know what I'm talking about? Somewhere around thirteen, fourteen, fifteen they're going to disengage from you. Do you remember that in your own journey? Do you remember when you started to disengage from your parents? What were you doing? It wasn't that you didn't like your parents. It was that you were trying to discover who you were apart from your parents. You see, that's what's going on with your kids. When they're reaching that age and they're spending more time in their room or they're spending time alone or they're spending time with friends and they'd rather have you drop them off two blocks before they get to the school or two blocks before the party. It's all that sense of disengagement.

Now, listen, that's the time when you need to be the most open, the most creative, the most wise about how to maintain a relationship with them because you can't force yourself on them. That will just push them away all the more. But here's what happens. If you're not prepared for that, when that disengagement starts your feelings are going to get hurt and then you're going to disengage from them. You can't disengage from them. It doesn't matter what you've heard. All the studies still tell us the most influential people in a child's life is their parents. So, don't disengage.

I have a friend, family that we've actually been around for a bout twelve years. And they have two boys and they've grown up and one's in college and one is a high school student. I'm kind of like that weird uncle, you know. I'm always around. They're kind of like my little brothers and so I've watched them grow up and I've been a part of their lives and they're a part of my kid's lives and so it's been one of those things. And I've watched them get to that age, natural age when they start to just disengage. They were actually just disengaging from me and so I knew that was natural. But I have to tell you, my friend was so wise because you know what he did? He didn't push himself off on his sons. He understood that time of life and he did something that I think was one of the wisest moves he could have ever made. During the summer months he rearranged his schedule. I knew this was a sacrifice for him but he rearranged his schedule so he could at least be with his boys on Thursdays. And every Thursday he had something planned for them. He would either take them out and they'd go golfing or swim in a pond or they would go four-wheeling or he'd take them down to Mohican and hiking or doing the zip lines or

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

whatever. He was always engaging them. The thing is as your kids start to disengage you have to wise and you have to be creative as parents to at least put yourself into their world because those times when they're trying to discover who they are they still want to know you're close. They still want to know you're around because it doesn't matter, and we know this right? What age you are you always value what your parents think of you. And even if your kids are pushing away a bit all you have to do, just get around them in some way. Influence them.

How do we influence our kids? Well, let's jump to that. Let me give you three ways that I think you can influence your kids. In fact, we're going to be talking about this for the next couple of weeks. This is going to be the basic premise behind the rest of the series. How can we influence our sons. How can we influence our daughters. Well, let me just lay a ground work today. Let me just give you three ways to influence your children.

The first way that you can influence them is by encouragement. Influence them through encouragement. You know what the standard operating procedure for most of us as parents of been? It's not necessarily encouragement. It's telling them what they've done wrong. I want you to do this. You're not doing this right. You could do a little better in this area. And it's always this negative sense. Why don't you change up the negative for the positive and try to steer and guide them. Why? Because we as human beings interact best when people are encouraging us. Have you ever met anyone who says oh, enough. I can't take it anymore. Stop being nice to me. Stop encouraging. No. We like encouragement. Our kids are the same way.

Look at this passage. 1 Thessalonians 5:11. It says encourage one another and build one another up. This would be a great rule for parents. Encourage. You know what this word comes from? It comes from the word *parakalēō* in the New Testament and it's a root word for the Holy Spirit. Why was the Holy Spirit given to us? The Holy Spirit was given to us to encourage us; to help us. And then the second word build up. It's the word *oikodomēō*. It means, literally a house builder. And so what are we doing with our kids? We're building a house and how are we going to best build that house? We do that through encouragement. I mean, you are speaking into a child's heart when you're encouraging them. Well, you say then, how? How do I do this?

Doug Fields, a nationally known youth leader he says, parents often encourage their children through the four A's. Appearance, athletics, academics, and the arts like music and things like band. That's easy. They get a good grade. We encourage them. The way they look. We encourage. They score a touchdown – we encourage them. He said the best way we can encourage our children is when we encourage their character development; when we encourage character behavior. For example, when you see your son, for example, you see your son and he's doing something that's an aspect of compassion. Encourage that. Say, I saw that. I saw how you treated your little brother. Thanks for not beating him into a pulp. You're growing.

You say, what area should I try to seek out? Well, you know what? Scripture helps us. Galatians 5:22. Look at it. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. Remember

a couple of weeks ago we were talking about building a spiritual foundation? Here it is. When you see the roots of their spiritual lives start to grow into their actions this is how it's going to manifest itself by the fruits of the Spirit. And so if you see them acting in a way that demonstrates patience or kindness or goodness you ought to be all over that. You ought to be the first one, right there saying I am so proud of you. I see that. Because what's going on? You're guiding them. You're directing them by a positive influence saying this is how we ought to live our lives. It's not through the negative bashing them over the head. It's through the positive saying I'm going to guide you and direct you by encouraging you. So, how do we influence our kids? Through encouragement.

The second things that I'm a huge advocate of we need to influence our kids in responsibility. We need to encourage our kids to take responsibility because parents, what is parenting all about? Parenting is all about moving them from dependence to independence, right? Or as a friend of mine says moving them from dependence on us to dependence on God. We want them to be off the dependency of the parents so that they can be independent people. And what is the best way you can do that? You teach them responsibility. That's why I'm an advocate of family jobs. Your children ought to be learning the work ethic and skills of working at home. Give them a responsibility that benefits the entire family because it not only benefits the family. It benefits them as individuals.

Listen to Proverbs 22:29. Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before Kings. He will not stand before obscure men. You know what this is saying? It's saying that if you teach a person to work hard it does something for their own self-esteem; helps them to stand strong. Responsible. Independent. And so, let me give you some benefits of why it's important to give your children, no matter what age, even if you have young children to give them responsibilities in the home.

Let me give you five. Number one – it teaches them skills. It teaches them basic skills that they're not only going to use around your home but in their home as well. Number two – it increases their significance. It means they're a part of the family unit. They're working as part of the family to move the family forward. They're not just kind of hanging around doing nothing. They're actually seeing that they are contributing to the growth of your family. Number three – it builds a work ethic. It builds something internally in them. They're not going to get that anywhere else but home. And we've all been there, right? We've been on the other end of someone who does not have a good work ethic. You go to some restaurant and you know, you got some kid, you can barely understand what they're saying and they're kind of slovenly moving around. And you're thinking I'm going to eat the food that they just created for me. You know. It doesn't help anything. It doesn't help them in the future and we know people, right? Usually it's our relatives. It's usually some brother that we're ashamed of or some sister we don't talk about who has a terrible work ethic and they're a slob and they're always borrowing money from mom and dad. We don't want our kids to become like that because we'll be the mom and dad bank and we don't want that, right? What do we want to do? We want to teach them responsibility.

Number four – it trains them in responsibility and this is important - consequences. Because when you give them a family job then you get to reward them with an allowance. And if they don't do that job the

way you expect then you can teach them consequences and is that not the real world? If you do not do your job the way your employer expects what happens? There's monetary consequences in your life. Teach that starting in the home. We'll talk about this more in a moment. And then number five – it prepares them to tithe. It prepares them to tithe. Now, if you started following Christ later in your life I guarantee you I know one of the struggles that you're having. It's that releasing of your monies in a tithe to God to show that He's number one in your life. That's why we tithe by the way. We tithe, the scriptures tell us we tithe because it demonstrates that God is more important than any other thing in our life. Do you realize you can over that hurdle by teaching it young in their life?

For example, Jack gets, he's seven-years old his allowance amounts to two dollars. Now he gets, when I pay his allowance he gets these two dollars in a one dollar bill and ten dimes and he comes down to the counter in the kitchen. He brings his little tithing envelope and he brings a little saving envelope and I give him his dollar and I give him his ten dimes and say ok, now we're going to break out. We're going to take ten percent. We're going to give it to God. I explain why we're doing this. This is a part of what God wants and sometimes it's a great time to share some scripture with him. This is ten percent we're giving to God. And then we're going to take that other ten percent. We're going to save that for the future. And there's also some great passages on the importance of saving as well. Then the other eighty percent is yours. Now, we've been doing this for some time. In fact, we did this with our daughters who are now older and they're allowance is much larger than Jack's but guess what? The principle is still the same. They still come down. We're still at the counter. They bring their little envelopes and we just break it up so that they can easily disperse their funds in whatever envelope they need to disperse it in. And there's no kick back. I've not ever really heard my kids complain about giving portions of their money to the church or to savings. Why? Because we started it when they were young. But it's predicated on the responsibility of a job that they have.

Now let me talk about that. Let me talk about the jobs you could give your children. We have a base. We have this base understanding with our kids that they're responsible for their rooms, making their beds and at least for our teen-age daughters for doing their own laundry. That's the base. You don't get paid for that. That's just part of living in the house. You have a problem with that I have a nice little barn you can go camp out in. You can check that out. But that's the base for living in our house. Now, from that point forward we say ok. Now here we're going to enter some type of monetary type of arrangement with you. And so Michelle and I have developed two charts. This is the first chart. We have taken our house and divided into zones so every month they can decide which two zones they are going to be responsible for and that will give them their base allowance. Now, written right into my little contract with them is the understanding that if they don't do the cleaning the way I want them to, the way Michelle wants them to do it then we reduce a percentage of their base salary or their base income from us. That just creates an understanding of responsibility. You can't just go about it and kind of do your work. You have to do it to the level of expectation. Why? Because that's what an employer will have, right? There's a level of expectation for all of us and if we don't meet that expectation then there's ramifications. The same thing happens in the house.

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3

Raising Amazing Kids

Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

Now, we also give them an opportunity to make more than their base allowance and this is up to them. And the reason we do this is that we want them to have this sense of achievement in their work and so just take for an example they want to go to a concert. And they come to us; they come to us kind of wanting to play the lottery. You know what that means? That means mom and dad are the lottery and they're going to try to get the concert for free. They're going to spin the wheel. They're going to roll the dice. Usually, like in the real world the lottery doesn't pay off and so what do they have to do? They have to then go to the next chart. And I realize if you can't see this that's ok. We have uploaded these charts to our website. There's a button on our homepage. Press it. Go right here. You can download these. Manipulate them. Create your own. Just give you a start. But we use this chart. This is the specialties area chart and every month they can sign up for specialty areas in and around our home. And I'm going to change this by the season because they can't mow the lawn in the winter. They can shovel and that kind of thing. But see, what they do is they pick an area that has a monetary value to it. And then if they want to go to the concert really badly we can sit down with this chart and say well, here's what you need to do. You need to pick out some of these other areas that you can save up over the course of a couple of months and then you can go to the concert. It works in favor for everybody. Teaches them responsibility and at the same time I'm not the lottery system.

Now, we do a few things different on large events. Child comes to you saying they want to go to camp. That's somewhat expensive. I'll say. I'll tell you what. I'll pay for half of it. But you have to pay for the other half. And we'll sit down and go to the specialty chart and all that. But what happens if you've made this contract with your kids and they don't live up to their half of the deal? You know what many times we do? We fold and we say all right. I'll just pay for all of it. Don't do that. Make them suffer the consequences. Why? Because, well, that's the real world. And if there's going to be a safe place to learn that it needs to be in the home. If they don't meet the expectations of you then don't allow them to go on and pay the road ahead. Or you know what? They'll get wise to that and then they'll start playing you and playing the system. You have got to maintain this with a rigid sense of understanding that we're trying to teach them responsibility. Why? Because it helps guide them and navigate them through life.

Now, I'm running out of time so I'm going to give you the last one real quick. Number three – we need to influence them through modeling. We're going to talk more about this as we go on and develop our series but we need to influence them through modeling because let's face it. Our children intuitively know. They know when we're telling them to do as we say not as we do, they know that's not going to work. And when you're not watching they're actually going to do what you do. That's why it's so important to understand how to model. Paul said this in 1 Corinthians 11. He said follow my example to the Corinthians. As I follow the example of Christ. Now, we just got done studying 1 Corinthians. We know Paul had a lot to say to the Corinthians. But he didn't just say it. He modeled it. Parents we can't just say it. We have to model it. That means we have to be very, very conscience of our lifestyle choices because what you do is what they're going to do.

I think we need to pray for our kids. Will you pray with me? Lord, thank you for your Word and thank you for how practical it is. I pray for our kids. And I pray that they would have hearts that would want to

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Message Series: Junior Pt. 3
Raising Amazing Kids
Do As I Say Not As I Do

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 01.21-22.12

grow and follow after you but this morning Lord, who I pray for the most is I pray for parents. And I ask that you would give them wisdom. Use your Word as a foundation to create wise parenting and for those who are struggling, suffering, who are at wits end I pray you would give them a calmness this morning to regroup and go back to the basics of your Word and to parent by your Word. Our greatest desire Lord is that our children would grow to follow after you and not make some of the same mistakes that we did. Rather that they would grow in righteousness. We know that largely depends on us being the models for them so may we be diligent, follow steadfastly after you. We pray these things in Christ's name, for the sake of Christ. And all of God's people said – Amen.