

How to Keep Kids from Satan's Snares (Part 1)

2 Samuel 13

Introduction:

1. What do you think is the foundation of any society or culture? Is it small business? Is it big business? Sorry ladies, it's not the mall, and it's sure not Walmart. Is it the government? Is it the church? Actually, it is none of the above.
2. The foundation of any society or culture is the home - the family! Because of this, Satan's plans have always been to attack the home, and attempt to fracture and disintegrate it. This is exactly what happens here in our text.
3. King David's home is in shambles.
 - One of David's sons commits incest by raping his sister.
 - One of David's sons has his brother murdered.
 - One of David's sons flees from home, and is gone for three years.
4. As you read the chapter, it's chaos! David was a man of God with a heart for God, but that did not insure him a peaceful and godly home. What went wrong? There are many people who love the Lord whose kids don't turn out godly.
 - Sometimes it isn't the parent's fault at all. It is simply the free will of the child to choose evil and wrong. You can take two kids raised the same way, and one will choose to love the Lord, and one will choose to rebel against the Lord.
 - But, there are other times when the parents could have possibly prevented it by exercising greater wisdom.
5. The Bible talks about recovering people from the snares of the devil (2 Timothy 2:26), but how can we keep our children from ever being ensnared to begin with? The key, of course, is the parents. The church, youth group, school, etc., can hopefully help the parent, but ultimately it's up to parents.
6. Let's learn from David's negative example in this chapter and turn it into some positive principles for parents.

Parents:

Become a godly role model for your child. vs. 1-2

1. Amnon (David's oldest son) had a carnal, evil, sexual lust for his half-sister, Tamar. This lust would lead to rape and incest (vs. 11-14). How shameful and wicked! We cringe at this, as we should. This young man had a serious lust problem.
2. But, I wonder where Amnon learned about carnal, sinful lusts. He learned about them from dear old dad (2 Samuel 11). David's lust problem had quite an impact on his son. Only, Amnon took it a step further in his immorality.
 - One old preacher used to say, "Father, be careful, or while you're making one lap around the devil's track, your boy will make six!"
 - What he was trying to say is that, many times, the sin we allow in moderation, our kids will do in excess.

- This is why God said to “*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*” 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 - God also warned, “*Neither give place to the devil.*” Ephesians 4:27
 - When our kids act out what they watch on the Internet, should we really be shocked? When our kids live out what they see us watch on TV or at the movies, should we really wonder why? When our kids listen to our worldly music and then take it a step further in listening to utter filth, does it surprise us? When kids see parents curse and swear at each other or at others, should we be appalled when we hear them do it to us or others?
3. Have you noticed that our kids don’t imitate what we say, but rather what we do?
 4. Colossians 3:21 commands parents not to provoke their children to anger. One of the surest ways to do this is to tell them to do one thing and then you do completely opposite.
 - One of the most difficult persons to reach for Christ is a person who had parents that claimed to know the Lord and believe the Bible, but set a hypocritical example.
 5. Parents, I understand that we are not perfect and never will be, but when we fail or come up short of God’s holy standards, our kids need to see us quickly admit it and get it right. Notice I used the word “become” on this point, because we are all learning and growing.

Insure that your child chooses godly friends.

1. Sometimes, when teens get involved in a destructive lifestyle or harmful habits, you will hear this: “He got involved with the wrong crowd.” “She got in with some bad girls.”
2. Do you think the friends we choose have influence in our lives? The Bible teaches that they do. In fact, they can make or break us spiritually. Proverbs 13:20; 22:24-25
3. Amnon’s “friend” counseled him to make a decision that led to Amnon committing a gross, incestuous sin, and ultimately being murdered by his own brothers. That is some friend! vs. 3-5, 28-29
4. Here are some questions to ask about any friendship (that you or your children may have):
 - Does this friendship draw me closer to the Lord, or does it hurt me spiritually?
 - When I’m with this person, do we end up discussing things or doing things that we shouldn’t do?
 - Has this friendship influenced me to get my priorities out of line?
 - Does this friendship hurt or help my marriage relationship?
5. What does the Bible teach we should do if we find ourselves in a friendship with an ungodly person? 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14
6. God’s warnings and instructions concerning friendships lead us to two practical conclusions in regards to the home:

- Parents had better know who their children's friends are, and should guide them in choosing the right kind of friends. I am amazed at how many parents do not know who their children's friends are. They are clueless.
- Parents should set a godly example by carefully choosing their own friendships (Jesus should be #1, and your spouse #2).

In Conclusion:

1. Parents, Satan would love to destroy your child's life. You have to be sober and vigilant. Be on guard! Nobody else is going to protect your child.
2. You must be an active part of their daily life. How else can you be a role model and help them choose godly friends?
3. Next week we will examine two more vital principles in keeping ourselves and our children from Satan's snares.