

We're Not Raising Children We're Raising Grown Ups

By Carol Topp CarolToppCPA.com and MicroBusinessForTeens.com

Stunting our adults-to-be

"It's time for the single Christian men to get off their duffs and start asking girls out as soon as possible. ... Date and date often. How are they ever going to know 'she's the one' without dating experience?" -mother of three single daughters, all beautiful, in their mid 20's, early 30's, and still unmarried

"I speak to singles who are so concerned with "guarding each other's heart" that they're not talking to one another." - Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*

<http://www.covlife.org> "Courtship Shmourtship" sermon

Signs you are micro-managing your teen by Joanne Calderwood, author of *The Self-Propelled Advantage*

- You help your teen without being asked
- You run your teens daily schedule of activities
- You step in before your teen makes a mistake

"Western parents are extremely anxious about their children's self-esteem. Tiger moms assume strength, not fragility" – Amy Chua, author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*

"Promise me you'll always remember: you're braver than you believe and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think." - Christopher Robin to Pooh

"Give them wings not strings. We tie our kids down when we overly enable or control them...they are inhibited rather than equipped. When we fail to relinquish control, (our children) become weak in areas where they need to be strong because we exercised our own muscles in those situations and not theirs." -Dennis Trittin, author of *Parenting for the Launch*

- If they sleep in, don't nag and yell
- If they spend all their money, don't bail them out
- If they have a conflict, don't jump in and try to fix it

Incrementally release control...increasingly hand over the reins. Require them to do things like:

- Earn their own income/Manage their money
- Do their own laundry
- Fix some meals
- Clean the house before and after friends visit

- Make their own appointments
- Keep their own schedule and calendar
- Do (or pay) for car maintenance

Areas of growth

Academic: Lee Binz, *TheHomeScholar.com*, author of *Setting the Records Straight*.

Spiritual: Phil Vischer podcast *PhilVischer.com*

Relationships: “A college roommate is preparation for marriage.”- Skip Trudeau, Dean of Students, Taylor University

Career Exploration: <http://MicroBusinessforTeens.com/Career> for ebook and book.

Financial

Budgeting: anything by Dave Ramsey including his podcast, YouTube videos and seminars

Taxes: <http://TeensAndTaxes.com> ebook

“My goal is to raise taxpayers!” - Dave Topp, Carol’s husband

Micro Business for Teens by Carol Topp. Books, ebooks, YouTube videos, podcast at *MicroBusinessforTeens.com*

Life Skills: laundry, cooking, cleaning, car maintenance

Find Carol Topp at

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