

Parents and Proms

Parents are responsible to bring up their children in the **nurture** and **admonition** of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). This involves training the children and warning them concerning the dangers of life. The Book of Proverbs is one excellent source of instruction dealing with self-control, integrity, diligence, properly fearing God, and avoiding sexual dangers. Parents should be able to remember their own childhood years and the often unhappy struggle with erroneous ways. Surely parents can remember their own adolescence and the struggle with sexual development and desire. Spiritual guidance is vital to the well-being of teens, as we older ones should know very well.

How teens dress, where teens go, and with whom they are companions are all within the scope of parental oversight. Boys who wear pants that appear to be falling off and see-through tank tops cannot have the self-image and the respect of others that they need to have. Girls who wear skin-tight hip-hugging jeans that expose their midriff cannot have the sense of dignity and self-respect that a Christian should have, and they make themselves objects of base sexual attraction. Unless parents have no sense of modesty and propriety, they know that such attire is unfit for wholesome young people.

Wise and understanding parents also know the wrong of the prom. They know the sensuality of bodily contact between people in a romantic setting. They know the strength of sexual desires in teens. They know the power of peer influence. They know that a sense of freedom from authority and from restraint on the part of a teenager is an open invitation to behavior that is reckless, dangerous, and immoral. Dressed-up sin is no less sinful. A teen drunk on champagne is no better than one drunk on cheap wine or beer, and fornication through the influence of the prom is just as sinful as immoral conduct on any other occasion. Are you a wise and understanding parent? Read Galatians 5:19-21. Parents and grandparents, are you warning your children of these dangers?

Gilbert Alexander