## All About Teenagers: By Erica Jermanus

A teenager is between the ages of 13 and 19. A teenager is an adolescent and is transitioning from childhood to adulthood. A teenager is growing in their mental and physical development before becoming an adult. A teenager goes through many mental and physical health struggles as they develop into adults. Many teenagers struggle with emotional problems because their emotions are developing to full maturity. Many teenagers' emotions fluctuate, especially teenage women with menstrual cycles and premenstrual syndrome. Women get a menstrual cycle in their teens, and they get mood swings around their periods. Teenage men and women may go through growth spurts where they become taller or bigger in height and weight. That is because their bodies are growing and maturing to full adulthood.

Teenagers' personalities and interests begin to change as they get older and grow to be adults. They are starting to find out who they are in Christ and their identity. They find out their purpose in life and what it is they are called to do as believers. These teens will find ways to serve using their gifts and talents. They will be taught by their parents to have a personal relationship with Heavenly Father and to serve others.

So teens will gear their interests based on their gifts and talents. So if a teen loves to sing, that teen may also play an instrument along with singing. If a teen loves to paint or draw, that teen may draw and paint for their church or for an organization. If a teen loves to cook and clean, that teen serves at a homeless shelter cooking for the homeless. That is why it is important for parents to teach their children to use their gifts and talents and to serve the body of Christ or the underprivileged.

Teenage men develop beards and mustaches, or facial hair. Teenage men are going through an increase in hormones, such as testosterone and progesterone. So men have a higher sex drive when they are young, and they may be tempted to give in to sexual sin, such as being exposed to pornography when they are young. Teenage men may be tempted to have sex outside of marriage, which is a sin of fornication. Many teenage men are exposed to masturbation, and this is a sin too. These sexual sins need to be repented of, and teenage men and women should keep their hearts, minds, and bodies pure and holy. Teens should wait until they are married to have sex.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."

1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

That is why it is so important for parents to teach their children about God and the Bible when they are young so that they do not fall into willful sin and disobedience when they get older. When parents discipline their children when they are young, then when they get older, they will most likely not give in to these sexual sins, drinking, and getting high off of drugs and alcohol. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not

your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Parents should teach their children to have good morals and values when they are young and also teach them the Bible and about Jesus Christ.

Children should be homeschooled when they are young because public schools have a lot of problems. A lot of public schools teach children worldly views and standards. Public schools do not teach their children the Bible or about God. Children and teens are bullied in these public schools. Children and teens are peer pressured in public schools. Children and teens are pressured into drinking, smoking, getting high, and fornicating when they are public schooled. That is why parents should homeschool so that their children are not exposed to the world and so that children and teens can live a pure and holy lifestyle that honors God.

Children and teens should be homeschooled and taught everyday things or trades, such as cooking meals, cleaning the home, fixing things, and chores, such as washing dishes, doing laundry, taking the trash out. Other things that teens should be taught while homeschooled are how to manage their finances, how

to take care of their bodie's temple, how to stay safe in environments that may be dangerous, etc.

These are things that will help children and teens grow into adults. These are things that will stay with the teens for the rest of their lives. They are useful and helpful to the teen as they grow into mature adults. Children and teens should also be taught basic skills, such as reading, writing, public speaking, math skills, counting, etc. These skills will help them in their everyday life. These skills can be taught through homeschooling. I don't believe children should be put through public schooling unless the parents cannot homeschool due to various reasons, such as health problems or working jobs themselves.

As far as dating and relationships, I believe that teenagers should wait on God to send the right person at the right time. I don't think teens should be on these dating websites because there are rapists and murderers on these websites. So teens should wait until they get into their adult years to date and marry unless it is God's will otherwise for two teens to get married and have children. Teens should wait until marriage to have sex and should continue to keep their

sexual purity. Teens can resist temptations with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Every state and country is different when it comes to doing certain things. But in teenage years, teens can graduate high school or homeschool and go to college; they can learn how to drive and get a driver's license; they can work and have a job. Mostly the teenage years to do these things are after the age of 16 or 18. I believe the parents should give their children freedom and independence to make decisions, but also their decisions should be led and guided by the Holy Spirit. John 16:13 says,"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

I also believe that parents with younger teens should not be allowed to have a cell phone because it can lead to other sins and problems. I believe teens can have a phone when they get older. Also, teens should not just take any job but be led and guided by the Spirit as to what job they should be working and what they should be doing. I believe that teens should be taught to fulfill their God-given purpose when they are young. Parents should teach their children and teens to use their spiritual gifts and talents to serve God and others. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

When a teenager uses their gifts and talents for the glory of God, they are sowing into the kingdom of God. Then, they will have rewards when they get to heaven if they are believers and remain faithful to God. Parents should teach their children about Jesus Christ and how to serve him and others. Jesus Christ said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." 1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Matthew 25:21 says, "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."