



The Heart of Every Issue

This is what I know about children from experience and more importantly, God's Word.

- There is some degree of **folly bound in every heart** of every child.
- *"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child."* **Proverbs 22:15 (NIV)**
- **You will see glimpses of good and evil in every heart. Romans 7: 21-25 (NIV)** The answer to all of this is found here, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death. Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our LORD."* **Romans 7: 24-25 (NIV)**
- **They want their own way.** They want what they want, when they want it, and expect you to get it for them. *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn (depart) from it."* **Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)**
- **Think their way is the right way,** but we all know that will lead to death.
- *"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."* **Proverbs 14: 12 (NLT)**
- They will be **Disrespectful, Disobedient and Dishonest.** They are fools. Pick these battles every time!
- **They will at times be rebellious & stubborn.** *"If a wise man goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace."* **Proverbs 29: 9 (NIV)**
- They will resist my authority. *"Everyone must submit to the governing authorities for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."* **Romans 13: 1(NIV) Also note Ephesians 6: 1-3**



- These are the expressions and exposures of **a sinful heart that must be addressed.** *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”* **Jeremiah 17: 9 (NIV)**
- **They are lost and need help finding the way home.** *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”* **Luke 19: 10 (NIV)**

Seek to Understand the Nature of the Heart

- **The heart is “rotten to the core.”**
 - Bible says that it is:
 - Evil: *“...every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.”* **Genesis 8:21b (NIV)**
 - Foolish: *“Folly (foolishness) is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”* **Proverbs 22:15 (NIV)**
 - Folly is the lack of good sense.
 - We must treat the condition, not the symptoms. Think inside out!
- **The heart is the control center.**
 - The heart of every issue is about the heart. The Bible warns us to guard your heart while the world screams the message to follow your heart.
 - *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* **Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)**
 - It’s the storehouse for good and evil.
 - *“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.”* **Matthew 12:35 (NIV 84)**
- **The heart is capable of change.**
 - But not by us.



- “And I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” **Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)**
- “I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.” **Jeremiah 24: 7 (NIV)**

It’s called “Parent”ing for a reason...It is more about the parent

This is what I don’t know:

- Will YOU the one God called to shepherd them show up and **respond “in Christ” as HIS Ambassador or will YOU act like a fool?** “Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5: 20 (NIV)**
- Will YOU know these expressions and exposures of their sinful, wicked heart are innate and desperately need to be taught and trained, rebuked and corrected toward Jesus. **“All Scripture is god-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 (NIV)**
- Will YOU NOT take their behavior so personal and instead rise up and surrender to Christ in order to partner with him. You are CHRIST’s Boots on the Ground!

Scripture prepares for you for the inevitable:

- “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.” **Proverbs 26: 4-5 (NIV)**
- “As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.” **Proverbs 26: 11 (NIV)**
- “If a wise person goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace.” **Proverbs 29: 9 (NIV)**



When addressing our Children’s Behavior “in Christ” or as a Fool?

- “To be ‘in Christ’ is to find personal fulfillment, to enjoy brotherly unity, and to experience a radical transformation. To use biblical expressions, ‘The peace of Christ rules in their hearts,’ ‘the power of Christ is made perfect in their weakness,’ and ‘the life of Christ is made manifest in their mortal flesh.’ John R.W. Stott
- As a Fool (Someone who acts unwisely). Fools refuse to listen to wisdom or learn from discipline. They operate without acknowledging God. They do everything for themselves. They have control issues.

“The words of a wise man’s mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness. A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him? The toil of a fool wears him, for he does not know the way to the city.” Ecclesiastes 10: 12-15 (ESV)

Attitude of Anger

- Truth (Warning) and Reproof (Better Way)!
 - God’s word doesn’t just tell us what not to do but HE always gives us a better way! Let’s contrast living “in Christ” with living as a fool.

Living “In Christ”	Living as a Fool
Brings about the righteous life that God desires	Unpredictable, out-of-control
Gives thought to his steps	Explosive
Fears God	Quick-tempered
Shuns evil	Lacks understanding



Prudent	Rude
Crowned with knowledge	Belittling
Patient and calms a quarrel	Weary
Keeps a straight course	Burdened
Keeps himself under control	Harsh
Patient	Foolish
Understanding	Lacks self-control
Yields to the Spirit	Quick fix mentality
Stands firm	Hot-headed
Diligent	Reckless
Careful	Bitterness
Exercises discretion	Rage

- **“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:** Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” **James 1: 19-20 (NIV)**
- **“DO NOT be quickly provoked (give rise to a reaction or emotion typically strong or unwelcome) in your spirit,** for anger resides in the lap of fools.” **Ecclesiastes 7: 9 (NIV)**
- **“Whoever is patient has great understanding,** but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.” **Proverbs 14: 29 (NIV)**
- **“I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.** Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you. ' “But you have cultivated wickedness and harvested a thriving crop of sins.” **Hosea 10: 12-13 (NLT)**



What my mom wants you to know: Prioritize...

- God's Word
- Prayer
- Seeking – Relationships over Religion

“Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you – they are your life.” **Deuteronomy 32:46-47**

“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.” **Psalms 19: 7-11 (NIV)**