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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR WHEN YOUR TEEN MAKES A *POOR DECISION*

Parenting—even Christian parenting—is not easy. We are not guaranteed our child will do everything right. A child who participates in risky or promiscuous behavior reminds us of our need for the Lord. Don't forget that many well-respected parents have had wayward children.

Ask the Lord to search your heart as you examine your parenting practices. Allow him to reveal areas where you can change your parenting. Remember, you are learning to parent the child God gave you.

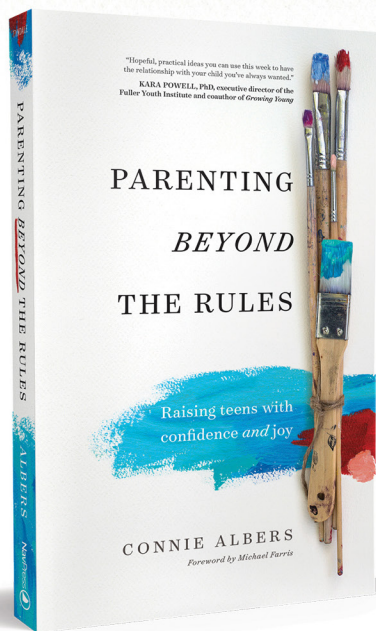
Holding on to guilt or shame only keeps you from loving your son or daughter unconditionally. I know how hard it is to let go of mistakes. But to be the parent, you must.

It is always too soon to quit. Your struggling teen needs unconditional love now more than ever. It can be challenging to know when to pull back and when to pursue. Don't let your hurt or heartbreak trap you from moving the relationship forward.

Separate what your teen does from who they are. These are different things. Who we are at the core is not always reflective of what we do.

You aren't in control. That position belongs to the Lord. He alone knows the heart and mind of your child. He has a plan for that precious life. He will use every mishap and mistake.

You don't know the end of the story. This is only a chapter in their life. Chances are, your teen will look back on this season and tell your grandkids about how you helped them get through a difficult time.



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CONNIE ALBERS spent 25 years parenting her five children and 20 years working with teens. She is a popular speaker and writer dedicated to strengthening families, parenting, homeschooling teens, faith-filled living, and leadership. Her practical content inspires and equips parents in the trenches. Connie has been a spokesperson for a Fortune 500 company as well as serving as a director and board member for a nonprofit state homeschool organization.

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