



TGWAC: (Teenage Guide with Aunty Comfort)

RAISING A GODLY GENERATION

Correcting Teenagers Without Causing Annoyance: **The F.A.C.E. Strategy**

By Aunty Comfort

Parenting teenagers in the modern age presents unique challenges, especially when it comes to correction. Teenagers are navigating a complex period of development marked by evolving cognition, a drive for independence, impulsive decision-making, multiple external influences, and often, a lack of awareness regarding long-term consequences. Because they won't always get things right, correction is sometimes necessary. However, the approach matters significantly.

Delivering correction in a way that fosters understanding rather than annoyance is crucial. I therefore introduce to you the F.A.C.E. strategy as a framework for effective correction. This strategy emphasizes four key elements for correcting teenagers constructively

1. Friendship (F)

Building a friendship with your teenager is foundational. Friendship creates opportunities for open and unrestrained communication. It builds confidence and a sense of security. Friends strive to understand and are generally calm and forgiving, even when mistakes happen. Proverbs 17:17 highlights that "A friend loves at all times". Without a base of friendship, parental corrections can feel authoritative or like an attack, leading to annoyance.

2. Acceptance (A)

Accepting your teenager is vital for creating a supportive environment. Avoid assuming they will always get things right or constantly opposing their views. Keep communication channels open. Provide clear instructions before needing to correct. Choose your battles wisely; weigh the options before intervening. Always ask if what you want to do will achieve what you want. Corrections are better received when teenagers feel they are on the same team as their parents. Accept them into your team, don't make them see you as an opponent.

3. Confidentiality (C)

Respecting your teenager's privacy is key. Teenagers desire respect. Offer more compliments than corrections. Praise them publicly but correct them privately. They will impress you more. Aim to embrace rather than embarrass. Speak more with your teenager in private than in public settings. Direct but private correction is often best. A good parent corrects gently, like stepping on

toes without messing up the shoes.

4. Empathy (E)

Understanding your teenager's perspective is crucial. Recognize that it's not always easy for them; they face numerous struggles like puberty, peer pressure, various expectations (societal, parental, academic), and internal pressures. Try to put yourself in their shoes, remembering the challenges of adolescence. Hebrews 4:15. Be the last person to give up on your teenager.

*Before correcting, always pause and ask yourself: * What is the goal of this correction? * What is the desired outcome? * Will my planned approach achieve this*



*outcome? * What is the best approach to reach the goal?*

Having clear goals ensures corrections are well-directed and outcomes are more predictable. It's also important to know what not to do:

** Avoid automatically replicating your own parents' correction methods, unless they were positive. * Refrain from correcting in anger. James 1:20 * Do not resort to nagging, yelling, complaining, or comparing. Ephesians 6:4 advises against provoking children. * Avoid bringing up past mistakes when addressing a current issue. Hebrews 8:12 speaks of God remembering our sins no more.*

I believe that by applying the F.A.C.E. strategy - Friendship, Acceptance, Confidentiality, and Empathy - parents can correct their teenagers effectively without causing undue annoyance, foster growth and maintain a fulfilling relationship.

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