
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

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LIFE NIGHT: ONE CHOICE

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Every parent wants what is best for their children. We want our children to be in the best situation, receiving the best education, with the best teachers, on the best sports teams, doing the best extracurricular activities, even having the best health. While this notion is in no way wrong, there is potential danger when the 'best' is not achieved.

What happens if we put our children in the best schools, yet they fail to receive anything but a 4.0 G.P.A or higher? What happens if they make the best sports team, yet fail to win the championship? What happens if they are placed in the best theatre program, yet don't receive the lead role in a play? Do parents love, respect, or value their children any less?

The answer to these questions is most likely a resounding, "No! No, I love my children regardless of what they do or don't do." But, do your children know that?

Likewise, God, our Father, loves and values each and every one of us, no matter what we do or don't do.

Too often, teens base their value off their achievements and failures. They can feel valuable when they receive a 4.0 G.P.A. Not only are they affirmed by a parent and teacher, but they too may feel accomplished. On the other hand, teens can also feel not valuable or worthless when they receive anything less than a perfect GPA. A teen can feel valuable when they are on a team that wins the state championship. But, they can also feel not valuable when they fail to perform in the big game, walking away with feelings of worthlessness and disappointment.

As we enter into this new Life Night series, with this session titled, *One Choice*, we begin to discuss what it means to be authentically "pro-life." We often associate "pro-life" with controversial issues like abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. However, being pro-life is much more than discussing those three issues (which we eventually will throughout this series, along with other issues such as immigration, poverty, and homelessness). Being pro-life is about making one choice, the choice to love and value everyone the way they deserve to be loved and valued, regardless of the circumstances. We have to recognize that each and every person has infinite value. This value or worth does not come from grades, sports, accomplishments, or performance. This value only comes from the fact that each person is created by God, in the very image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)

At its root, being pro-life is conforming our hearts to God's heart and allowing that to be reflected in our choices, actions, and words.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Parents: Instead of facilitating a discussion, take time to write your son or daughter a letter. In this letter, explain how much you love them and how valuable they are to you. Make sure not to base this love from something that your son or daughter accomplished, but by being a beautiful creation of God...that is simply enough!