I. Introduction:

Think about your style of communication with your children for a moment. Up to a certain age our children have been hearing things like:

- Stop doing that.
- Don’t do that.
- Get away from there.
- Come here.
- Didn’t I tell you not to.....
- What are you doing?
- Don’t bother me.
- Don’t bother me now.
- Do you have to.....?
- Not now.
- Go ask you mom (dad).
- Where have you been?
- Stop talking so much.
- Do you have to ask so many questions?
- Didn’t I just tell you....?
- How many times do I have to tell you?
- Why are you spending so much time in your room?
- Talk to me while I do....
- I’m busy, let me finish...
- Let’s play the quiet game, let’s start with you.

II. Prerequisites to good communication.
A. Listen carefully
   1. Pr 18:13

B. Respond biblically
   1. Eph 4:29

C. Reflect Christ
   1. Eph 4:30-32
III. Talking and listening*
   A. Why teens don’t talk.
      1. My dad and mom don’t talk to me.
      2. They answer before I even finish talking.
      3. We never agree anyway. So why talk?
      4. There’s nothing to talk to them about.
   B. Why teens don’t listen.
      1. My folks don’t do what they say; so why should I listen to them?
      2. I’ve already heard it a dozen times.
      3. My parents are sarcastic. They put me down.
      4. I know just as much as my mom and dad do.
      5. My parents don’t expect me to listen.

IV. Communication is more than talking.
   If we as parents desire to communicate with our children and they with us it must start with us the parent. We must:
   A. Listen carefully.
   B. Respond biblically.
   C. Reflect Christ.

HOMEWORK

Evaluate your relationship with your teen and make whatever corrections, if any, are necessary. If you find that you have established a biblical form of communication continue implementing what the bible requires.

* The main points are taken from Reaching the Heart of Your Teen by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo.