

STONES

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but with God all things are possible” Matthew 19:26.

When discussing the negative attitudes of judgment and condemnation, we are reminded of the true account found in John chapter eight where Christ interrupts a public execution involving a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. The religious leaders asked Jesus concerning His thoughts about the Mosaic law with the intention of confusing Him, to which He simply replied, “He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her.” This was amazing, but the story does not stop here. As the execution squad quietly walked away, Jesus told the woman that her accusers no longer condemned her and neither did He, go and sin no more. When we see the animosity, disgust, and contempt toward those who have made horrible choices, the question remains as to why human nature is always ready to throw the first stone?

I recall the old saying about how people who live in glass houses should not throw rocks and this should remind us of God’s mercy toward us. I believe it’s important in these troubling times, to be more forgiving and more concerned about making sure our own heart is right with God. Spending our time focusing and judging others, causes an infection of pessimism, resentment, and even hatred. When we neglect to pray for those who have lost their way, we continue to grow cold and harsh which adds to our misery. Are we not to love others as ourselves? “All have sinned and come short of the glory” Romans 3:23. Asking God to forgive and wash us clean, fills us with His peace, and reveals our need to drop the stones and search deep within our hearts for His mercy.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

DADS

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I mean really listen — not just waiting for your turn to speak or thinking about what you’re going to say. Listen to their perspective, their heart. It might sound alien to you, but it’s real to them. Teens can smell authenticity a mile away, so ask questions beyond: “How was school?” Be genuinely interested in your teen — who they are, what they are becoming, and how you can help get them to a great place. As you guide your teen, you still have final say, but including teens in the conversation shows respect and helps them develop decision-making skills they’ll need as they mature.

2. *Time.* Love is spelled T-I-M-E, not just S-P-O-R-T-S. Yes, catching the game together is great, but it’s passive. Do things with your teen that require actual interaction. Be willing to try things your teen is interested in, even if they’re not your cup of tea. Find activities you can genuinely enjoy together because it’s the undistracted time together that counts.

If you’re waiting until your schedule clears up or until you achieve that next career goal before investing in your relationship with your teen, you’re making a catastrophic mistake. The window of opportunity is closing. Your teen is forming their identity right now, and if you’re not part of that process, someone else will fill that void. I’ve worked with countless

fathers who wished they could turn back time — men who spent their kids’ teenage years chasing promotions, golfing with clients, or just vegging out in front of the TV. They all say the same thing: “I thought I had more time.” But you don’t. Give up some of your personal time now when they need you the most. I promise you won’t regret it.

3. *Don’t be afraid to spend money on experiences.* I’m not talking about buying your teen’s love with more stuff. This isn’t about the latest gadget or designer shoes. I’m talking about investing in meaningful experiences — using your time, energy, and yes, sometimes money — to create opportunities for connection. That could look like grabbing concert tickets, planning a weekend getaway, or picking up some gear for a shared hobby. These moments of fun and recreation are where lasting memories are made. The mood of a lifetime is often shaped in those everyday adventures and intentional getaways — not in what you bought, but in how you showed up. Shared experiences build bonds that outlast any material gift.

4. *Love your teen even through your disappointments in them.* This is where the rubber meets the road. Your teens will mess up — sometimes spectacularly. In those moments, they need to know: “There’s nothing you can do to make me love you more, and nothing you can do to make me love you less.” When a teen knows your love isn’t performance-based, it gives them a secure founda-

tion to grow from, even when they’re testing boundaries and making mistakes.

5. *Communicate a clear message of love and acceptance.* Teens are constantly wrestling with questions about their worth and where they fit in the world. In the middle of all that noise, they desperately need one thing to be unwaveringly clear — your voice. Make sure they hear this from you, often and without condition: “Even at your worst, our family is better with you in it.” That kind of message isn’t just encouraging — it’s anchoring. Your consistent words of love and belonging can be a lifeline in the chaos of their teen years. So say it. Show it. And keep repeating it until they believe it for themselves.

CONCLUSION

When you truly understand the vital role you play in your teen’s life, the sacrifice becomes clear — and worth it. Yes, it may mean giving up some personal preferences, hobbies, or downtime. But the time you give to your son or daughter, especially when they need it most, is never wasted. These adolescent years are your opportunity to speak a blessing over your teen — to let them know you see them, you’re proud of them, and you’re willing to move mountains to support them on their journey. When they know they are loved, valued, and that they belong in your family, they won’t feel the need to go searching for that identity elsewhere.

I know you’re busy. You’ve got work, responsibilities, maybe even a dozen vol-

unteer commitments on your plate. Your calendar is packed, and you’re doing your best just to keep up. But hear this: sharing your time can literally be the thing that keeps your teen from drowning in the noise and pressure of today’s culture.

So, Dad — lean in. Show up. Stay close. Your presence is more powerful than you know.

TaJuana Davis, with Living Hope Christian Coaching & Counsel, is a Licensed Social Worker, KY State Certified Batterer’s Intervention Provider, Certified Addiction & Recovery Coach, Professional Christian Life Coach, Certified Christian Mental Health Coach, Independent Case Manager, and a Christian Author and Keynote Speaker. TaJuana is available to assist with abuse and trauma related issues for both men women, teens, and children, and works with family relationships and other life-controlling issues. Services include Batterer’s Intervention, Domestic Violence, Parenting Strengthening Skills, Struggling Teens, Children Suffering during Separation from

Parents, Anger Alternatives, Addiction & Recovery, Anxiety-Depression, and Mental Health Wellness, and work with court mandate clients, as well as self-referrals.

Flexible hours — phone sessions, skype, and in-person sessions are available.

Call: 270-625-5926, email: tajuanajodavis18@aol.com, or for an overview of our services and upcoming speaking events, visit: www.livinghopeministriesky.com

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TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE!



"AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY ADJOINING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BENTON, MARSHALL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON CORNER OF SAILBOAT DRIVE AND KAREN STREET"

This Ordinance is summarized as follows: An ordinance annexing the unincorporated property owned by Casey Noel Griffith, f/k/a Casey Noel Henderickson, into the City Limits of the City of Benton, Kentucky, pursuant to the Consent to Annex granted by the owners of the property. Said property consists of 0.42 acres and is located on the corner of Sailboat Drive and Karen Street. A complete copy of this ordinance is available for viewing at the City Hall during regular business hours.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct summary of an Ordinance adopted by the City of Benton on the 16th day of June, 2025.

Rob Mattingly
City Attorney

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The City of Benton, KY will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a lot located at 109 A Street (map #0B-07-00-018) and a lot on B Street (map #0B-07-00-023) located directly behind and adjacent to the 109 A Street lot, both in in the City of Benton. Both lots will be sold together and will need to be brought into full compliance with the Benton nuisance and maintenance codes by the purchaser within thirty (30) days after purchase. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 P.M. on Monday, July 7, 2025. Bids may be delivered to the City Clerk at Benton City Hall, 1009 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025 or emailed to bcooper@cityofbenton.org.

The City of Benton reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any informalities or technicalities therein.

The City of Benton does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provisions of services.

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer