

# THE PERFECT PARENT

Note: The term parent here refers to all kinds of parenting adults—birth, step, foster, and guardian.

1. Here's a list of problems teens can have with parents or guardians. Which ones do you think are the **worst**? Rank them in order, with **1** being the **worst**.

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watching parents divorce                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Being told you can't date                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enduring verbal or psychological abuse                | <input type="checkbox"/> Having parents who don't love each other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being treated like a child                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Living with alcoholism or drug abuse     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being afraid to talk to parents about personal things | <input type="checkbox"/> Enduring physical or sexual abuse        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experiencing the death of a parent                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting no respect or trust              |

Which **three** you think are the **most common**? Put a  beside these.

2. What do you think causes **problems** between parents and teens?

- Teens today have whole new problems to face—and parents can't relate.
- Parents haven't been taught parenting skills—some parents just don't know how to raise kids.
- Parents are too independent—they don't invest enough time in their teens.
- Some parents are just screwed up—they're too deep into sin to be a good parent.
- Teens want to grow up too fast and can become impatient and rebellious.
- Teens think they know more than their parents—and don't want to listen to their parents.



Which statements are true for **your family**?

3. Psalm 27:10 says, "My father and mother walked out and left me, but God took me in" (The Message). Based on what this verse says, how would you answer these questions?

How do you think God feels about you?

What do you think he'll do because of his feelings?

Is he likely to change his feelings? Why or why not?

4. Check out each of these verses. In what ways have you done what the verse says (in the last week or so)?

Deuteronomy 5:16

Ephesians 6:1-3

Proverbs 1:8-9