

## ARGUING FOR BEING COMPETENT AND DANGEROUS

Most parents want to raise their children to be good — good people, good citizens, good partners, good employees and employers. And yet, raising good people is the MOST difficult job to accomplish. Practically anyone can get a child to adulthood — but competent, virtuous and moral adults are a vanishing breed.

In the spirit of helping parents win at the hardest part of the job, here is some wisdom from psychologist Jordan Peterson:

**“It’s very helpful for people to hear they should become competent and dangerous and take their place in the world.**

**“Dangerous because it’s the alternative to being weak. And weak is not good. You should be capable of hurting somebody, but that doesn’t mean you should use it. Those who have swords and know how to use them but keep them sheathed will inherit the world.**

**“If you’re not formidable, then there’s no morality in your self-control — if you’re incapable of being violent, then not being violent isn’t a virtue. Capacity for danger and capacity for control is what brings about virtue. Otherwise you confuse weakness with moral virtue: ‘I’m harmless, therefore I’m good’.**

**“No, that’s not how this works at all. If you’re harmless, you’re just weak, and if you’re weak, you’re not going to be good. You can’t be, because it takes strength to be good. Being good is very difficult.”**

To relate the concept to sexual self-control, we would add this: If a young person’s parents are setting all the boundaries and making all the decisions such that sexual activity is impossible (or nearly so) then that child hasn’t really developed the



ability to resist temptation. Having good judgment requires the opportunity to make a poor decision and choosing not to — otherwise it’s only theory and not truly a skill.

Clearly, we aren’t advocating you toss your child into an unsupervised situation with naked people, but rather giving him/her the freedom to make choices about activities and companions to test their ability for themselves. If there are no opportunities to see if their character assessment skills are sound, outside of mom or dad’s influence, then the proving ground will be In Real Life when the stakes are higher.

Better to let your child test how easily they can be fooled, peer-pressured or even bullied while you can still rebuild their confidence, than to catapult them into the world defenseless.

# PREFERENCES OF A PEDOPHILE

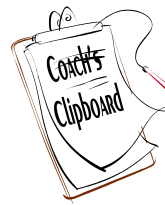
A man convicted of child molestation agreed to reveal how he chose his “targets.”

Top of the list, he looked for single moms or uninvolved parents. Next, easy targets were a child who is socially separate — either by temperament or ostracization, so he watched for children who don’t speak up very much. And last, he said he was also on the lookout for sign that the child would keep a secret — typically ones who got little or no attention.

What were his no-go signals?

- ◆ A strong father figure.
- ◆ A religious family life.

**An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backwards. So when Life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means you are about to be launched into something great!**



## COACH'S CORNER

Young people have a gloomy perspective on marriage — usually as a result of a divorce in their family. But when given a chance to opine on what caused the breakup, very often they recognize underlying structural problems. For example, one partner who is a big-spender while the other is excessively frugal. Or one comes from a large family, and the other is an only child.

**THIS MONTHS TIP:** Help your child develop a “good picker” by discovering where their best match would fall in these areas:

- ◆ Money: saver or spender?
- ◆ Recreation: Outdoorsy/active or sedentary/passive?
- ◆ Food: Adventurous or predictable?
- ◆ Music: Wide ranging or only certain genres?
- ◆ Communication: Frequent and verbose or quiet and taciturn?
- ◆ Social: enjoys group activity or prefers one-on-one?
- ◆ Disputes: sticks up for themselves or goes-along-to-get-along?

Of course there are many more categories and preferences to consider, but these are a good start!

One or two things to keep in mind: a preference expressed at age 10, might not be the same at age 15. It’s also common for adolescents to be attracted to the opposite qualities they see in themselves, thinking it will relieve them of having to develop their own ability. So remind them that **Yes, opposites attract but they don’t usually LAST.**

As with most of our coaching tips, the goal isn’t to create a checklist you kids will commit to for eternity, but to help them reason through the exercise, **based on the information they have at the time.** And above all, to see YOU as their ally in the discussion.

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