

God's Plan for Your Home to be Awesome  
**Raising Kids with Character**

**Twelve surefire ways to provoke your children and cause them to sin (Ephesians 6:4)**

1. **INCONSISTENCY**

- a. Not being good to your word - such as on arrival times home
- b. Not following through on discipline or promises (confuses expectations)

2. **DISRESPECT**

- a. Not listening to your children
- b. Making light of things that, to teens, are really big things
- c. Teasing, sarcasm, embarrassing them
- d. *"When they go out and don't tell me where they are going or when they will be back."*
- e. *"When they're talking to my friends and then ask them awkward questions that make my friends feel uncomfortable; borderline socially unacceptable questions. Ugh!"*
- f. *"Thinking they always know you better than you."*

3. **AUTHORITARIANISM**

- a. Overly strict
- b. Not giving them a chance to tell "their" side of the story
- c. Enforcing rules without winning their heart
- d. Physical, verbal or emotional discipline that is abusive

4. **ANGER**

- a. Losing it in front of them
- b. Irritability

5. **SELFISHNESS**

- a. Too busy (with work, leisure, chores, stuff, self) and therefore not there for them
- b. Acting like (or saying) your children are a burden to you
- c. Vicarious living through your kids (eg. I never made it to the NHL, but my kid is going to; I wish I had learned to play piano...)
- d. Unrealistic expectations... expecting them to do things that they are not fully capable of doing—physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually—and usually in a time frame that fits your schedule or situation, not theirs

6. **HYPOCRISY**

- a. Taking them to Harvest and knowing what we teach but then not teaching them the Word at home
- b. The "do as I say, not as I do" mentality
- c. Not loving the other parent (you said you would in your vows)

7. **STANDOFFISHNESS/PASSIVITY**

- a. Lack of physical / emotional / verbal affection and gentleness
- b. Not letting your kids see you struggle...they need to see where you turn when life's not fair
- c. Never letting them know what you are thinking or going to do next
- d. Not providing any discipline
- e. Not being intentional about the relationship
- f. Not understanding that children require an individual touch

8. **INSENSITIVITY**

- a. Teasing them or embarrassing them especially in front of others
- b. *"When you have plans to be somewhere at a certain time and your parents know (and are even the ones giving you the ride) and then five minutes before you have to leave, they tell you that you can't go unless you vacuum the whole house."*

9. **FAVOURITISM**

- a. Showing favour to one child over another
- b. Always comparing one child to the other

10. **SUSPICIOUSNESS**

- a. *"Sometimes they smother me. I can't seem to do anything without a full-blown investigation from my parents. You would think I'm in a high security prison."*
- b. Not giving the benefit of the doubt, not trusting them, assuming the worst
- c. *"Yelling at me for something I was not even in the room for."*

11. **CRITICISM**

- a. Nagging, not affirming and encouraging enough
- b. Always seeing the negative, what's wrong and not what's right

12. **PRIDE**

- a. Never asking for forgiveness when wrong about something.

