

## Foreword by Tedd Tripp

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ALEX CHEDIAK HAS done it again! This book is a needed addition to the universe of parenting books. Chediak brings his many years of experience both as a student and as a college professor to the task of preparing teens for college and for a useful future.

As a young man I spent a couple of years working as a resident director for a men's dorm at a Christian college. From that post I observed young people who were not prepared for college. They refused to accept responsibility for their lives. They lacked the foresight to postpone immediate gratification for the sake of future benefit. They did not understand how to internalize their faith and live as people of conviction. They made bad choices of companionship, not understanding that "the companion of fools suffers harm." They failed to comprehend the biblical truth that moral purity is essential to flourishing spiritually. Confronted with our consumer culture, they were tempted to squander money with high-interest credit cards. They did not understand

how to be stewards of God's gifts to them. They lacked self-consciousness about their own talents and natural abilities.

I remember watching teens like those just wasting their years at college. I would try to counsel them, but more often than not the die was cast. The character issues and lack of maturity that drove their daily choices kept them from receiving wise counsel. As I read Alex's book, I thought that the sacrifice parents make to *keep* kids in college would be more wisely invested in *preparing* them for college in the ways this book outlines.

*Preparing Your Teens for College* is a clarion call to parents to be people of influence in the lives of their teens. Alex proposes a wide-ranging series of conversations for parents to have with their teens: conversations about being responsible, making good decisions, forming good friendships, understanding faith, learning how to live as a Christian in ways that are wise and gracious, being smart with money, maintaining personal purity, developing convictions, living from convictions, discerning gifts and talents, working diligently as to the Lord, and many other topics. Teens need these engaging conversations with their parents. They are at the point in their life when they are forming opinions on a whole range of issues: identity, personal values, career goals, relationships, how to live as Christians in our culture, and understanding their gifts and talents, to name just a few. They need parents who have maturity, wisdom, and life experience to engage them in serious conversations. This book will equip you to do just that.

Alex identifies the important topics, outlines the content of the conversations, and even walks parents through possible approaches to these much-needed conversations. The importance of these conversations is simply impossible to overstate. Too many parents want to have these conversations but are not sure what to say. Sometimes, they haven't taken the time to work through the range of topics they want to cover and plan those conversations.

In each chapter, you will find a discussion of the spirit of the age and how young people think in our culture. Alex provides a biblical critique of modern thought as well as the Christian truths you will want to emphasize with your teens. At the end of each chapter, there is a series of discussion questions that will lead to fruitful conversations. Parents who take the time to engage their teens in the ways Alex recommends will accomplish things that cannot be achieved through any exercise of parental authority.

One of the most humbling truths we know as parents is that we cannot save our children. God must work in their hearts. There are limits to what we are able to do. It is encouraging to remember that God works through means. One of the means he uses is parents who diligently shepherd their children. I am happy to recommend this book as a sharp tool for *Preparing Your Teens for College*.