

Chapter 12: Before Going Further

If you have not taken care of every problem or challenge that you are facing to your own satisfaction, you need not worry. There are still two more steps in the process. However, if you are still facing some challenges at home there are a few things that you should review before you go on.

Probably the main reason parents still have problems at this point is that they have not executed the previous parts of the program correctly or thoroughly. Often parents are still getting involved in things that really are solely in their teen's column. That means they are taking upon themselves responsibilities that do not belong to them.

Before Going Further Checklist

List the Items that are still Bothering You

1- _____

2- _____

3- _____

4- _____

5- _____

6- _____

7- _____

8- _____

9- _____

10- _____

Now review your list.

Do any of these things belong primarily in your teenager's column? If so you need to apply the earlier parts of the program to these items. Your teenager will not avoid things that bother you if he is still in a power struggle with you for control over his life.

Do not go on to step 4 unless all the items in you list belong only in your column.

Attitude Check

Another reason why parents still have problems at this point in the program is that often they have trouble feeling that their teens are responsible individuals. If you are sending your child negative messages, then he or she is going to rebel. This is true even if you are being reasonable.

This will require some introspection on your part. Do you feel your child is competent and capable? You need to be honest about this.

Please put an X by the correct statement.

I feel my teenager is competent and capable though he or she makes mistakes._____

I do not feel my teenager is competent and capable._____

If you do not feel that your child is competent and capable then you need to work on this before going on. You cannot get your teenager to behave in a respectful and responsible manner if you don't give him respect and view him or her as a competent person.

To summarize, before you go on you must make sure that:

1. You are giving your teen control over his own life
2. You are showing your teenager respect
3. You are really viewing your teenager as responsible. And this means really believing it not just saying it.

So you have to make these changes as a necessary prerequisite to get your teenager to comply with your wishes.