

**# 258 10/04/04 Is the young man willing to admit mistakes?**

I continue looking at David, the shepherd-king, as a standard for teaching our daughters about date choices. In previous weeks, I have written about his willingness to work at humble jobs, his courage, his respect for his mother, his respect for authority and his loyalty to his friend Jonathan.

Another of David's admirable character traits is his willingness to admit mistakes. The best-known example was when David slept with Bathsheba and had her husband killed to cover his sin. When Nathan confronted him, he responded, "I have sinned against the Lord." 2 Samuel 12:13. David wrote one of the most heart-felt Psalms of repentance after he confessed his sin. Psalm 51.

In another incident, Saul massacred eighty-five priests because they had helped David. Only Abiathar escaped. Because David had known the massacre might happen, he felt responsible for the deaths. He said to Abiathar, "I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family." 1 Samuel 22:22b. Afterwards, he offered Abiathar sanctuary.

We live in a world in which the majority of people try to place blame on anyone but self. I hear, "He made me mad," to explain a temper tantrum. "My wife nags me," is used to explain adultery. A student blames his failure on a teacher, saying, "She didn't do a good job of teaching." The exceptional young man who says, "I did it, and I apologize," is a man of character.

Suppose that your daughter has a curfew that she and her date both know. If they are late getting back to her home, the date can behave in one of two ways. He can hurriedly leave her at the door to face the consequences alone, or he can choose to go into the house with her. I once knew a young man, who went inside with his date. Even though she was equally responsible for the tardiness, he said to the father, "Sir, I apologize for getting your daughter home late. It was my fault. I hope you will forgive me. I will definitely start home earlier next time."

Which young man would you want your daughter to be dating? Are you teaching her the difference? The quality of her marriage will be affected by the lessons you are teaching.