

**# 260 10/18/04 Using power, influence to honor, glory God**

A trait that I admire about David, the shepherd-king, is that he used his power and influence to God's glory. His reign followed a time when the Hebrew people had failed to keep their covenant with God. As king, David was able to reestablish and strengthen the worship of God. He brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem and worked to unite the kingdom. Lesser men often use their positions for their own gain.

Today, we have no arks to bring home, but God's kingdom still needs leaders who are willing to use their resources to strengthen worship and unite the body of Christ. There are young men who will step up to that call. How will you help your daughter recognize them?

When I was a high school counselor, one of my students had stepped up to the call to be a leader in his generation. He had a position of power and influence due to his personality and his achievements in academics, athletics and the performing arts. He was a gifted young man. It would have been very easy for him to use all that charm and talent in self-serving ways.

Instead, he used his gifts to glorify God. He never missed an opportunity to tell others about Jesus. He reached across racial and economic lines to spread the word. He was a leader in organizations that honored God. I frequently heard him invite others to the youth group at his church. He always treated peers and adults respectfully. I believe that young man could be called a man after God's own heart.

Would a young man like that be attractive to an adolescent girl? The number of girls who sought to be his friend indicates that he was. Would he make a good date and husband? He only dated for big events such as the prom, but he had many young ladies who sought his attentions. I am sure that those whom he dated had a good time and were treated like royalty.

Teach your daughter about David's character. With the foundation in place, she is ready for discussions with you. Ask open questions about her friends. Do not be critical. She will learn more from her own evaluations than from yours. Your biggest job was the foundation building. Now just listen and guide.