

I. Parental Protection Against Predators

1. Plants are concerned about predators that not only can harm themselves but their offspring.
2. Christians have a powerful adversary who is classed as a predator ([1 Pt. 5:8](#)).
 - a. He was brash enough to tempt the Lord Himself ([Mt. 4:1-11](#)).
 - b. We are not above our Lord and so he will come after us too ([Jn. 15:20](#)).
3. Parents have the responsibility to protect their children against predators.
 - a. Training must be initiated very early in the child's life ([Eph. 6:4](#)).
 - b. Instruction must be provided on a daily basis ([Dt. 6:4-9](#)).
 - c. The devil is resisted with the faith and so we and our children must know it and use it ([1 Pt. 5:9](#))!
 - d. The full armor of God must be employed ([Eph. 6:10-17](#)).

II. Parental Protection Against Pressures

1. Plants must also respond to the various environmental pressures that surround them.
2. Pressure from the world is something that we all must face.
 - a. This worldly pressure can be especially difficult in youth and so parents must protect their children.
 - b. It is never right to do wrong even if the majority is doing it ([Ex. 23:2](#)).
 - c. The world is opposed to the people of God ([Jn. 15:18-19](#)).
 - d. Who we associate with will have an effect upon us ([1 Cor. 15:33](#)).
3. Pressures show up with various lustful activities which must be fled from ([2 Tim. 2:22](#)).
 - a. Sexual sins ([1 Cor. 6:18](#); [1 Th. 4:3-4](#)).
 - b. Materialism ([1 Tim. 6:10-11](#); [Col. 3:5](#); [Eph. 5:3](#)).
 - c. Drug use ([1 Cor. 6:12](#), [9:27](#)).
 - d. Pride ([Pr. 8:13](#); [Lk. 14:11](#)).
4. Open, honest, and frequent communication will go a long way in protecting children.
 - a. Children must know that no matter what situation they are in or what they have done they can come to their parents for protection and help.

III. Parental Protection with Preparation

1. Proper preparation in plant life produces much higher success of the future generation.
2. Youth is a very precious time that does not last long.
 - a. As the twig is bent so grows the tree ([Ps. 127:3-5](#); cf. [Pr. 22:6](#)).
 - b. Timothy's mother got started early in his Biblical education ([2 Tim. 3:14-15](#); cf. [2 Tim. 1:5](#)).
 - c. Moses had great parental preparation considering his godly stand in a foreign land and his leadership ([Heb. 11:23-29](#)).
3. Parents are tasked with preparing an inheritance for their children ([2 Cor. 12:14](#)).
 - a. What better inheritance to leave our children than the hope that is Christ Jesus ([Col. 1:3-5, 27](#))?