

So My Parents Were Right

by Kris Swiatocho, The Singles Network

I have definitely had to learn to be wise over the years. As a child my parents taught me to make good choices, to be honest and fair, to treat others as I wanted to be treated. I listened and followed their advice for the most part. (NLT Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my child to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching.) However, once I was on my own and in college, making good choices was doing things my parent's way versus my way. Fortunately, in college is where I met my Savior and began to learn by His example. But once again, I grew to dislike being told what to do and started doing things my way.

I proceeded to make many bad decisions - everything from relationships, to money, to friends to my attitude. I continued along this road of destruction for nearly 5 years, never truly understanding why Christ died on the cross. I also did not know how to make much needed changes. If I could only figure things out myself. I started to make a few changes that seemed to solve some of the problems. I relied on my own discernment on which direction to go. I moved to another city, got a new job and made new friends. When things didn't work out in that city, I moved to another city. Again, a new job and new friends. I continued to use my own wisdom to make decisions about my future. I know now that God was there, but I never acknowledged Him. In fact, God was showing me that no matter where I moved and what job I got, when I didn't seek Him first, then my efforts would be fruitless. But of course, I was unable to see God working in my life. I kept remembering someone

from my past saying, "You are so smart but so dumb", "Do you not see that your choices are leading you to a life of destruction." Then it hit me, "I was too smart to be making such stupid choices." I had been raised by wise parents who had made some of the same mistakes I had made. They weren't trying to control my life but instead guide me.

I ended up back in my home town.

both God and Money.)

I finally knelt beside my bed, and with tears in my eyes, pleaded with God to give me wisdom. To guide me. To help me become like Him. To transform me into His image. Then I held on for dear life. I told God to help me with the particular sin in my life that caused the most separation between us. At that time, it was partying. When I partied I made bad decisions. As a result of this prayer God took my party night and replaced it with a Bible study. That was just the beginning. The beginning of the most incredible journey of my life. God met me where I was, and help me begin the journey of the transformation into His image.

Every day I learned new things that help me make better choices. Well I don't think I am old, but I do think I have a lot of wisdom. Wisdom is learned in our walk with Christ. I am glad the walk isn't over. (NLT Proverbs 1:7 Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline.)



Kris Encourages Singles at the 2003 Labor Day Conference - LifeWay Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC

I basically had to start over. I had to recommit myself to Christ. But what did that mean? How could following Christ be any fun? How could following Christ have freedom? How was I suppose to know what do to? What direction should I be going? I wanted to continue partying and having relationships with people of the world, but also have my bills paid and peace in my heart. Well, as you might figure out you can't have both. You can't serve two god's. (NLT Matthew 6: 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve

Kris Swiatocho is President and Director of TheSinglesNetwork.org Ministries (TSN) located in Raleigh, NC. She has served in single adult ministry for over 19 years. TSN is a ministry for single adults, their leaders, and pastors. TSN helps churches evaluate, develop, and support their single adult ministries. TSN does this through consulting, speaking, conferences, seminars, and leadership development activities. To learn more visit www.thesinglesnetwork.org.