

Give a Year Tips

Talking to Your Parents - by Pete Bullette

This is a transcript of a video down by Pstr Pete Bullette of UVa Chi Alpha. The actual video can be found at Chi Alpha's YouTube Channel.

I am thrilled that you are thinking about giving a year. In this video I would like to prepare you for something that many of you will face.

So you come back from a Chi-Alpha meeting or discussion with your campus pastor and you're so excited about giving a year to missions, and you're excited about the nation you'll possibly serve.

And then you're struck with terror, the terror isn't about what nation you will serve, but it's terror that you need to talk to mom or dad about the fact that you are not going into the marketplace but you want to give a year to the mission field.

That strikes terror into the hearts of many students.

I want to prepare you for that conversation.

First of all I wanna give you a little advice: I want to encourage you to be infinitely patient with your parents. I want you to understand, that your parents have had dreams for you for 18-22 years of what your future will look like. They've dreamed about your career, they've dreamed about your family, they've dreamed about where you may or may not live. They have expectations about what your life will be like that they have been forming for 20 years.

So here's what you need to know. It is not reasonable for you to expect in a 2 minute conversation for them to just push all of their dreams aside and be totally enthusiastic about your new plan for your life.

Understand it will take them time to embrace what you are saying. It will take them time to readjust their mental picture and to be excited for you and what God is doing in your life.

Not because they don't love Jesus, but because emotionally they just have to readjust and then embrace this new vision. And that will take a little bit of time.

Secondly, I wanna encourage you to not be easily offended. Your parents are gonna ask you good questions. And they should ask you good questions. They should ask you about insurance, they should ask you about the missionary you're gonna serve. But here's what I've noticed, I've noticed that we can be patient with other people but when our parents ask us a good question, we get offended. We say, *"Mom, dad don't you trust me? I'm not a little kid anymore. I'm not the little Johnny I used to be. I've thought about these things. Just trust me."*

I would encourage you with this, be as patient with your parents as you would be with your campus pastor asking you good questions. Be as patient with your parents as if your professor asking you good questions, as you shared your plans with your economics professor.

Be patient with them, don't be offended but stay unemotional.

Here's what I know, if you handle that conversation with low emotion. Their confidence that you are not making an emotional decision but you're thinking wisely about the process will go up.

But if you respond with a bunch of emotion, they're just gonna think that you're on an emotional high and that you're making a rash decision.

And finally, the third thing I wanna encourage you with is I wanna encourage you to show your work.

You know I remember math class when my math teach would say, *"Here's the long division problem, I want you to show all your work."* And man, I would work that thing out, and it would take up a whole sheet of paper, and I hated it because I could've done it really quickly at the top. But my math teacher wanted to know how I got to the answer I got to. So if I made a slight mistake, she would be able to see where that happened.

Let me encourage you with something, will you show your work to your parents?

So many times we come in and say, *"Hey mom, dad I'm gonna give a year to missions."* And we don't show any of our work.

I wanna encourage you to tell your parents the first time you have the thought about giving a year to missions. Where were you? What was going on? What did you do after that? Talk about the conversations you've already had with your campus pastor. Talk about what you've learned about the missionary you wanna serve with. Talk about the process you've gone through to getting answers to questions that you've already thought of.

Show your work. Take them on the journey, so they can see the wisdom you've used in the process. And so they can see how you've gotten to where you're at. Versus just "seeing" the answer. It will honor them.

And also, as you do that their confidence in how you've gotten to where you at, will go up. They'll be blessed by the fact that you're level headed as they ask you good questions. And they'll be thankful for your patience as they readjust their mental picture of what God has for your life.

So may God bless you as you look to give a year.

And here's one final encouragement, pray before you talk to your parents. I believe God will be with you, He will give you the words to say. And He'll be at work on your behalf.

God Bless You!