



A Family Legacy

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020
CROSSPOINT AUDITORIUM | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

You Never Stop Being a Parent

Parenting Your Adult Children

I. Introduction

II. What can you do to prepare your children for adulthood?

A. The goal of parenting is to make your children ready to live wisely (on their own). (Pr. 4:3-4; I Cor. 13:11)

1. Parents, be ready to lose control!
2. Learn to relate to your children as adults. (Col. 3:21; Phil. 2:3-4; Prov. 20:5)

B. What can you do to make your children ready to live on their own?

1. Teach them to fear God and to live for His glory. (Pr. 1:7, 3:7-8; Dt. 6:5; Mt. 22:37)
2. Teach them to put others ahead of themselves. (Mt. 22:39; Phil. 2:3-4)
3. Prepare them to pursue a vocation so they can work hard to care for a family. (Prov. 6:5-11, 24:30-34, 26:12-16, 12:11, 13:11, 22:29, 10:4-5, 28:19, 14:23)
4. Teach them financial wisdom. (Pr. 6:8, 13:11, 21:5, 22:7, 6:1-5, 3:27-28, 9-10)
5. Teach them God's design for marriage (and sex). (Prov. 5:1-23, 6:20-35, 7:1)
6. Teach them to choose their companions carefully. (Pr. 1:10-19, 13:20, 22:24-25, 23:20; I Cor. 15:33; Ps. 1:1)
7. Teach them to resist temptation. (Pr. 29:25, 2:12-15, 20:1, 31:4-5)

C. When is a child ready to leave home? (I Cor. 13:11)

D. Some children leave too soon.

E. What authority does a parent have over an adult child?

1. Parents must recognize that their relationship with their adult child is very different from what it was when the child was small. (Eph. 6:1ff; I Cor. 13:11)
2. One of the biggest mistakes made by Christian parents is to treat their young adult offspring as if they were still small children. (Col. 3:21)
3. When your child is married, he/she is in a new family unit and no longer under your authority. (Gen. 2:24)
4. Are single adults also free from parental authority? (I Co. 9:5, 7:39, 13:11; Jo. 2:3ff; Num. 32:11)

III. What do you do when your adult children come back home (or never leave)?

A. The phenomenon of the “twixter” (or boomerang kids/adultolescents).

B. What are valid reasons for an adult child to stay home?

1. A son may stay at home while he is completing his education, establishing his business, or saving for marriage. (Pro. 10:4b)
2. A daughter may choose to stay under the protection of her parents prior to marriage. (Gen. 2:24)
3. Some young adults are not physically or mentally able to take care of themselves.
4. Children may stay at home in order to take care of aged or disabled parents or other family members. (Ex. 20:12; Mt. 15:5-6; I Tim. 5:4)
5. Sometimes children move home because of extraordinary circumstances.
6. Young adults should only be living at home if there is a clear goal.

C. Some young people sinfully postpone the responsibilities of adulthood: vocation, marriage, and children.

1. They fail to establish a career by which they can provide for themselves. (Prov. 6:5-11, 12:11, 28:19)
2. They expect others to take care of their financial needs. (II Th. 3:10-13; I Tim. 5:8)
3. They are financially irresponsible. (Pr. 22:7)
4. They place a high value on relationships and entertainment. (Pr. 14:23)
5. Instead marrying and having a family, they indulge in uncommitted relationships and fornication. (I Cor. 6:9-10, 7:9; II Ti. 2:22)

D. Parents contribute to this problem.

1. They fail to prepare their children to be on their own. (Proverbs 1:8)
2. Some refuse to let go of their kids. (Gen. 2:24)
3. They inadvertently enable sinful behavior. (Pr. 15:19, 6:11, 10:4, 20:13, 16:26)
4. They are afraid to take strong steps to deal with their kids. (I Sam.2:22-25)
5. Some birds would benefit from being pushed out of the nest.

E. What are the challenges of having an adult child living with his parents?

1. The child wants to be treated as an adult, yet he is still dependent upon his parents.
2. Parents often have a hard time looking upon their child as an adult.
3. Being under your roof subjects them to your rules.
4. The rules should be reasonable and you should recognize their adulthood.

F. What can parents do to help their twixters grow up?

1. Encourage maturity. (I Co. 4:20)
2. Be willing to make tough choices for the good of your children.
3. If they continue to act like children, they must be treated like children.
4. Make your expectations clear, along with the consequences.
5. You may need to seek their forgiveness for having spoiled them.
6. Their return to your home may be one last hope for you to train them. (Pr. 19:18)
7. Do what you can to show you love them without compromising your standards.

G. What should be expected of an adult child living at home?

1. Expect them to take financial responsibility. (II Thess. 3:6-12)
2. Don't allow them to be lazy while living under your roof. (Eph. 4:28; Pr. 10:1,4-5)
3. Demand sexual purity. (Heb. 13:4)
4. Do not tolerate substance abuse. (I Th. 5:7; Pr. 23:20, 30-31)
5. Make them pay a price for irresponsibility. (Pr. 26:3)
6. Be willing to kick them out.

IV. What do you do when your adult children get into trouble (substance abuse, debt, crime)?

A. Whose fault is it when adult kids go bad?

1. Parents are responsible to raise their children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord. (Pr. 22:6, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17; I Sam. 2:12ff)
2. Children are responsible for the choices they make. (Pr. 20:11, 20 30:11, 17; Ezek. 18:5-13; Isa. 1:2; Jer. 2:30; Eph. 6:2)
3. You are dependent upon God's sovereign grace for the souls of your children. (Lu. 12:51-53; Gen. 4:1-9; Ps. 51:5; Eph. 2:1ff; John 6:44)

B. Adult children often look to their parents to bail them out.

1. They can be very charming, persuasive, and manipulative.
2. Parents are often motivated by fear and guilt. (Pr. 29:25)
3. Cry out to God for help and wisdom. (Js. 1:5)
4. Seek godly counsel. (Pr. 11:14)
5. Face the fact that your child may not be converted. (Jo. 14:15; I Jo. 2:3ff; Mt. 7:20)
6. Learn to distinguish between worldly sorrow and true repentance. (II Co. 7:10)

C. Don't enable a sinful lifestyle. (I Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25, 3:13, 4:11)

1. If you feel guilty about how you raised your child, confess your sin to God, your child, and your spouse; but don't compound your guilt by financing more sin.
2. You may be circumventing the very consequences God has designed to bring sinners to repentance. (Luke 15:13ff; Pr. 16:26, 19:15)
3. Many wayward children have an entitlement mentality. (II Thess. 3:10; Pr. 10:4)
4. Don't buy into the world's lies which excuse sinful behavior: the disease model.

D. Help should be offered wisely and lovingly.

1. Express love to your child and offer godly counsel. (Pr. 1:8ff)
2. If your child wants your money and not your counsel, you probably should give him neither. (Mt. 7:6; Pr. 1:7)
3. Offer help which addresses your child's root problems. (Pr. 4:23; Mark 7:21ff)
4. Establish expectations as a condition for your assistance. (Pr. 13:20, 20:1, 20 6:6ff, 10:5; I Th. 5:7; I Co. 15:33)
5. Does this somehow violate their adult status? (Pr. 26:3; I Co. 13:11)
6. If conditions are not met, you must stand your ground, even if this means kicking the child out.
7. What help can you offer a non-Christian child?

E. What should you do about an incorrigible child? (Deut. 21:18-21; Pr. 19:18, 29:1)

1. Recognize that there is such a thing as an incorrigible child.
2. You should be concerned about the effect he/she will have upon others. (I Co. 15:33)
3. You must be prepared to take drastic measures.
4. You must allow them to experience the full consequences of their sinful actions.
(I Pe. 2:14; Rom. 13:1-7; Pr. 19:15, 18)
5. God sometimes uses hardship to bring a child to repentance. (Luke 15:18, 21)

V. When should you give financial help to your grown children? (Part 2)

A. Should parents pay for their children's college education?

B. Is it good to transfer wealth from one generation to another?

1. There is biblical basis for leaving an inheritance. (Pr. 13:22, 19:14; Nu. 26:53, 32:18; I Ki. 21:3f; II Co. 12:14)
2. A suddenly gained inheritance may be squandered. (Pr. 20:21; Luke 12:15ff)
3. You may be able to offer crucial help to your grown children: an inheritance before you die.
4. You may be able to help bring the family together for special events.
5. You offer them a better spiritual inheritance. (Eph. 1:11; Heb. 9:15)

C. Money matters are very dangerous to family relationships. (Pr. 22:7)

VI. What is your role as your adult children approach courtship and marriage?

A. Ideally you will have significant positive involvement in your child's courtship. (Gen. 2:24; I Co. 7:36-38; Ex. 22:16-17; Dt. 22:13-21)

1. Ideally, both sets of parents will be actively involved in the courtship.
2. Children are wise to seek and heed parental wisdom. (Pr. 31:30, 3:5-6; Jer. 17:9)
3. Ideally, all will agree as to the choice of a spouse, the timing of the wedding, etc.
4. We don't always receive what is ideal in life.
5. Give your dreams to God.

B. What authority do parents have in their children's choice of a spouse?

1. If you don't have your child's trust (heart) you will have relatively little influence on their choice of a spouse.
2. Parents do not have the right to impose marriage on their child. (I Co. 7:39)
3. Parents must be careful not to provoke their children to anger. (Col. 3:21)
4. Some young people marry just to escape tyrannical parental authority.
5. Under what circumstances may a child go against parental wishes when marrying?

C. What should you do if your children make romantic choices which you believe to be less than ideal?

1. What if:
 - a. Your child marries a professing Christian against your will?
 - b. Your child marries an unbeliever? II Co. 6:14 I Cor. 9:5 7:39,16 I Ki. 11:4
 - c. Your child lives with someone out of wedlock? Heb. 13:4
 - d. Your child is a practicing homosexual?
2. Some would say that you should shun a disobedient adult child.
3. You are to pursue peace. Build the relationship, so far as possible. Rom. 12:18ff
4. You are free to love people who have sinned against you. Gen. 45 Mt. 5:43ff
5. The limitation is that you cannot participate in sin. Rom. 14:23
6. Be sure that you are limiting because of conscience; not anger, bitterness, or a desire to control. Eph. 4:26-27

D. How can you be an in-law without becoming an outlaw?

1. How does your relationship with your child change?
2. What kind of relationship should you expect with your child's spouse?
3. Be careful to respect the integrity of this new family unit. (Genesis 2:24)
4. Be ready to overlook offenses and slights which may occur. (I Pe. 4:8; Ro. 12:18ff)
5. What should you do if your child's spouse tries to shut you out? (Mt. 7:5)
6. Pursue Peace.
7. What should you do when you see your child is in a terrible marriage? (Mt. 19:6)

E. What if your adult child remains single?

1. Be careful not to push him/her too hard towards marriage.
2. Recognize he/she may have the gift of singleness. (I Co. 7:1, 8, 32-33)
3. Help him/her to get ready for marriage.

VII. Conclusion

Godly Grandparenting in an Ungodly Age

I. Introduction: God's all-sufficient Word contains principles of wisdom. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

II. The ideal – Three generations work together harmoniously

A. Grandchildren are a great blessing to grandparents. (Dt. 4:25; Ps. 103:17, 128:6, 112:1-2; Pr. 17:6; Job 42:16; Ruth 4:14-17)

B. Grandparents are to be a blessing to their grandchildren.

1. A spiritual heritage. (Deut. 4:9, 6:1-9, 20-24, 12:28; Ex. 10:1-2; II Tim. 1:5; Ps. 145:4-7, 71:16-18, 78:1-8)

a. Instruction – recounting the great redemptive acts of God.

b. Example. (Rom. 12:1-2; Mt. 5:16; 1 Co. 11:1; 1 Pe. 5:4)

c. Prayer. (Gen 48:9; Eph. 6:10-18)

d. Communication/connection. (Phil. 1:8; Rom. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:4)

e. Kindness, affection, unconditional love and affirmation. (Phil. 4:8f; 1 Co. 1:4-5; Prov. 31:29)

f. Gentle correction. (Gal. 6:1)

2. An earthly heritage/inheritance (Prov. 13:22, 19:14)

C. Grandparents can be a blessing to their adult children – counsel and help. (Pr. 4:1, 10, 20)

D. Grandparents should be honored. (Ex. 20:12; Pr. 23:22; 1 Tim. 5:18; 1 Lev. 19:32)

III. Beware of common danger spots for grandparents. (Col. 3:21)

A. Ungodly grandparents can be a bad influence. (2 Ki. 17:41; Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 78:9ff)

B. You must respect the right of the parents to run their families and raise their children according to their own consciences – even when you disagree. (Gen. 2:24)

1. Don't nag or try to control.
2. Don't undermine parental authority – Make it clear to the parents that you will honor their standards and wishes when you deal with their children.

C. Don't show favoritism. (Deut. 1:17; Acts 10:34; James 2:1; Gen. 37:3-4; 1 Co. 1)

D. Beware of in-law problems.

E. Don't be selfish. (Luke 22:26)

IV. Some grandparents experience exceptional challenges in the face of sin and unbelief.

A. The gospel sometimes divides families. (Luke 12:51-53; Gen. 4:1ff)

1. You may have adult children who are not believers, thus they don't wish to raise their children (your grandchildren) as Christians.
2. You may have grandchildren who rebel against God and their parents.
3. Don't be shocked when some family members reject you because you follow Christ. (John 1:9-11, 3:19, 15:18; Mark 3:31-35; 1 John 3:13; Mt. 10:22; Ps. 27:2, 10)
4. You may be even faced with having to choose between Christ and your relatives. (Deut. 13:6-9; Luke 14:26, 9:57-62; Mt. 10:37-39; 1 Sam. 2:29, 12-17, 22; 2 Sam. 13:11ff, 19:4-7; 1 Ki. 1:5-6)
5. Unbelieving family members can be extremely moralistic, judgmental and intolerant. (John 16:1-4; Mt. 10:24ff; Luke 14:27ff)
6. Even if your family members reject you, keep loving them. (Luke 6:27ff; Mt. 5:43f; Rom. 2:4, 12:20)

B. Why do kids (and grandkids) turn out the way they do.

1. Parents (and grandparents) are an important influence. (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Prov. 23:13-14, 29:17; I Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25, 29, 3:13, 4:11; 2 Sam. 13 1:5f)
 - a. While influence how their children turn out, they do not have control.
 - b. What about Proverbs 22:6? (Prov. 10:4; I Ki. 1:5f)
2. The world, the flesh and the devil also seek to influence our grandchildren and children. (1 Jo.5:19; Ro. 12:1-2; Pr. 7:1ff, 9:1-6, 13-18, 13:20, 1:20ff; 1 Co. 15:33, 34)
 - a. The whole book of Proverbs seeks to persuade the young person to reject the voice of folly and to heed the voice of Wisdom.
 - b. No matter how much we try to shelter our children (and grandchildren), the voice of folly will seek to appeal to them. (Gen. 4:5-7; Mark 7:20ff; Gen. 34:1ff)
3. Children are responsible for the choices they make. (Pr. 20:11; Ezek. 18:5-13)
 - a. Not all rebellion is the fault of the parents. (Ps. 51:5; Pr. 22:15; Gen. 4:1-9; Mark 7:18ff; Deut. 21:18-21; Jer. 2:30, 5:3, 7:28; Isa. 1:2)
 - b. As our children enter adulthood, they are responsible to make their own life decisions. (Prov. 1:21ff, 20:11, 9:1ff; Ezek. 18:5-13; Eph .6:2; Ex. 20:12)
4. God's sovereign grace is needed to save our kids. (Eph. 2:1-10; Rom. 8:6-8; John 6:37, 44, 1:12-13)

V. Wisely navigate difficult situations with you children and grandchildren.

A. What spiritual influence can you have if the parents aren't believers? (2 Tim. 1:5; Ezek. 18)

B. What can grandparents do when access to their grandchildren is restricted? (Mt. 7:1ff; Rom. 12:18)

C. What do you do when the parents act irresponsibly and it affects your grandchildren.

D. What can you do when your grandchildren turn away from the Lord? (1 Jo. 4:19; Rom. 2:4)

E. Some may have to rescue their grandchildren from a dangerous or abusive situation.

F. Sometimes grandparents have to take over the parental role .

VI. Conclusion

A. Old age can be a time of great blessing. (Ps. 92:12-15; Isa. 46:4)

B. Jesus incorporates you into His heavenly family. (Ps. 27:10-14; Jer. 17:5-8; Luke 18:28-30, 8:19-21; Mt. 19:29; Mark 3:31-35)