

## Adulthood

### I. Introduction-

- Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Ps 133:1

Adulthood= noun, the practice of behaving in a way characteristic of a responsible adult, especially the accomplishment of mundane but necessary tasks.

"it feels really good to take a step back from adulthood and have someone else cook dinner for me"

### A. The reason to prepare for our death

- Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Heb 9:27
- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Phil 1:21

Benjamin Franklin- "in this world nothing is certain other than death and taxes"

### B. Children with aging parents also enter into a new phase of life-

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. Eph 6:1
- Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. II Tim 5:7

### II. Are we and our families spiritually ready to depart this life?

- Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24
  - My relationship with Jesus Christ will define all my other relationships-

### A. The path to eternal life with God-

1. There is only one way, one path to eternal life in heaven-

- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

2. Only Jesus' death can pay for and remove my sins-

- This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Act 4:11
- He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. I Pet 2:24
- You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. I Pet 1:18

### B. There are only two destinations after we die-

- Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Mat 7:13
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 6:23

1. Well done-

- His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. Mat 25:21

2. Depart from Me-

- "On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Mat 7:21

### II. Are our relationships in the right place for us die-

- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Rom 12:16

**A. Parents responsibility is to raise adult children in the Lord, not older children-**

- Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov 22:6
- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Eph 6:4

**MATURITY CHECKLIST**

I. Being responsible for actions, attitudes and responsibilities-

II. Knowing that we will reap what we sow-

III. Understand what our role in life is-

IV. Having emotional maturity-

V. Having relational maturity -

VI. Having spiritual maturity-

**B. The spiritual battle over the family-**

- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith. I Pet 5:8
- Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3

**C. The family's responsibility to Jesus Christ-**

- Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph 4:21

1. Do the essentials of Christian relationships-

Radically love and serve others

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Phil 2:3

Seek and grant and seek forgiveness to everyone-

- Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:31
- let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. Eph 4:25

Continue to repent and grow in Christ and His character

- Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. Eph 4:14

2. To tell others about the good news of Jesus-

- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Act 1:8

**IV. Adulting in our family as we mature and grow-**

**A. Parents are to grow into advisors and companions for their children-**

**B. Children are to become supportive advisors to their aging parents-**

- Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Eph 6:1
- Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. II Tim 5:7

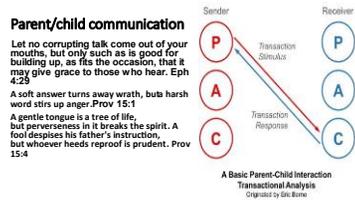
**C. The hard part of supporting our parents-**

- The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it. Prov 27:12
- Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Gal 6:1

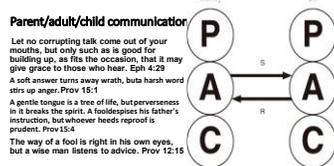
- Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. Eph 4:25

## D. Understanding our roles in our relationships -

### 1. The basics of parent child communication -



### 2. Basic communication adult to adult



## MATURITY CHECKLIST

### I. Being responsible for actions, attitudes and responsibilities-

#### A. Knowing and doing our personal responsibilities- GAL 6:4

1. Doing our work without being asked-
2. Being responsible for controlling our actions, words and attitudes
3. Controlling our spending and the use of our time-

#### B. Working without supervision- COL 3:22

#### C. Not justifying, blame shifting, or denying our faults- I JN 1:8

#### D. Accepting correction from the authorities over us PROV 17:10

#### E. Learning from our mistakes- PROV 26:11

### II. Knowing that we will reap what we sow-

#### A. Making and following plans for the future

#### B. Investing our time, money and energy for best results GAL 6:7, PROV 21:5

#### C. Recognizing future dangers and avoiding them- Prov 22:3

### III. Understand what our role in life is-

#### A. Family roles-

##### 1. Role of parents-

- Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. Prov 22:6

## **2. Role of children- First time obedience to authority**

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do Eph 6:1

### **B. Roles in society-**

1. **As workers-** II Thes 3:10

2. **As citizens-** Rom 13:1

### **IV. Having emotional maturity-**

- A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls. PROV 25:28

**A. Have self-control over our emotions, attitudes, and sexual drives-** PHIL 2:3, GAL 5:22

**B. Have control over our anger, fears, and stress levels-** Eph 4:26

### **V. Having relational maturity -**

**A. Being able to forgive others and to seek forgiveness-** Eph 4:32

**B. Being able to communicate clearly with love-** Eph 4:29

**C. Being able work through conflict with others-** Rom 12:17

**D. Being able to resist unhealthy peer pressure and to select healthy relationships-** II Cor 6:14

**E. Having good social manners and civility**

### **VI. Having spiritual maturity-** Mat 16:25

**A. Have biblical relationship with God-** Mk 12:29, I JN 2:4

**B. Being able to give an account for our faith-** I PET 3:15

**C. Knowing our spiritual gift and using it to serve others-** I PET 4:10

**D. Roles in the church-** HEB 13:17, Eph 4:16

### **E. Have the attitude of a learner-**

1. Daily prayer and study time with God

2. Growing in biblical knowledge-

3. Attending church to learn about god and his ways