

Parenting Adult Children and Grandchildren

“Grandchildren are the crown of old men.”

1. The joys of generation.
Proverbs 17:6
Psalm 127:3
2. The nature of covenant relationships in respect to growing families.
 - a. Genesis 2:22-24 is a depiction of covenant marriage.
 - b. What is biblical leaving and cleaving?
Leaving: Deuteronomy 31:6, 16

Cleaving: Deuteronomy 10:20; 13:4
 - Have you forsaken the covenant with your parents?
 - Have you allowed your adult children to forsake their covenant with you?
3. The nature of the child/parent relationship after marriage.
 - a. Parents no longer have the duties/responsibilities of parenting.
The rod has been laid down.
 - b. Children no longer sit under the command “obey”.
“Children, obey your parents” no longer applies.
 - c. Parents still have duties toward their children and grandchildren.
Proverbs 13:22; Exodus 10:2; Deuteronomy 6:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:14-15.
Respect for elders implies respectable elders.
 - d. Children still have duties toward their parents.
The 5th commandment; Mark 7:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:3-8
4. Common temptations in these relationships that bear upon “oneness”.
 - a. Parents might be tempted to say “the three or four shall be one”
They might want to help row the boat for their grown children.
 - Some ways this might happen.
 - How you might know that it is happening.
 - b. Children might be tempted to invite parents into the boat or fear removing them.
 - c. Parents might be tempted to avoid any influence of grown children.
 - Why parents might be tempted to withdraw influence.
 - d. Children might be tempted to shun or shut down any influence.

- Why children might be tempted to turn away influence.
5. Common temptations associated with grandparenting.
 - a. Grandparents may be tempted to make their grandchildren idols.
 - Dangers with the idea that grandparents can “spoil” grandkids.
 - What grandchildren learn when treated as an idol.
 - Burdens placed upon grandchildren when treated as an idol.
 - b. Parents may be tempted to have inordinate expectations of grandparents.
 - Ways that a parent might expect too much from a grandparent.
 - Reasons parents might be tempted to have inordinate expectations.
 - Effects inordinate expectations might have on the various relationships.
 6. The importance of communication in relationships.

How to graciously remove a “helpful” parent from the boat and other issues.

 - Ephesians 4:15—speaking truth in love.
 - James 1:19—quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.
 - Proverbs 27:6—faithful are the wounds of a friend.

Additional questions if time:

Should parents expect their children to obey grandparents?

Should grandparents expect obedience from their grandchildren?

Should adult children conform to the household rules, traditions, or etiquette of their parents when visiting? What if you disagree?

Should parents conform to the household rules, traditions, or etiquette of their grown children when visiting? What if you disagree?

Should parents expect grown children and grandchildren to conform to household rules, traditions, or etiquette when visiting?

Should grown children expect parents to conform to household rules, traditions, or etiquette when visiting?