



Parenting Adult Children

Doing Life With Your Adult Children



You're Fired!

PRINCIPLE ONE: Your Role as Their Parent Must Change

"Be nice to your adult children. After all, they will most likely be the ones who will eventually take away your car keys and usher you into the convalescent care facility."

The parallel journey

- *Reinvent the relationship*

Your New Job Description



Keep Your Mouth Shut and the Welcome Mat Out

PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO: Unsolicited Advice Is Usually Taken as Criticism

*"But why does she need to go to Europe to 'find herself' when
I have all the answers for her life right now?"*

Keep Your Mouth Shut and the Welcome Mat Out

Give Respect Because No Adult Wants to
Be Told What to Do

- *"Whenever we are intrusive, what they hear is not the lesson we are trying to share, but the message that we don't really respect that they are now grown." - Ronald Greer*

You are now a mentor and a coach

Your words have the power to bless and to curse

- *"And so blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth..." James 3:10*



Who Is This Kid? And What's Taking Him So Long to Grow Up?

PRINCIPLE THREE: Become a Student of Their Culture

"Lord, teach me to parent the children I have, not the child I was or the kids I thought I would have."

Distinctives

- *They are shaped by technology*
- *This generation wants a healthy marriage and family*
- *They view tolerance as one of the major traits of a loving person*

The Cringe Factor

- *Pornography*
- *Cohabitation*
- *Gender identity confusion*
- *Spiritual life*

How to Raise an Entitled Adult Child...or Not

PRINCIPLE FOUR: They Will Never Know How Far the Town Is If You Carry Them on Your Back

"I wish my 22-year-old would schedule his own pediatrician appointments." (Irony Alert)

Are you enabling your adult child? Or Helping?

Negotiating Boundaries and Expressing Expectations

- *"You earned it."*
- *"It's the pain of discipline or the pain of regret."*

Always Keep the Goal in Mind: *Responsible Adulthood*



When Your Grown Child Violates Your Values

PRINCIPLE FIVE: You Can't Want It More Than They Want It

"Good thing Easter is a season and not just a day because some resurrections take time."

"Hardship often prepares an ordinary person for an extraordinary destiny." (C.S. Lewis)

Here's what works:

- *Offer your adult child tough love*
- *Don't bail them out*
- *Don't be a "one topic" parent*
- *Don't dump your anger and frustration on them*

The Prodigal Son...Or the Loving Father Luke 11:15-32

When your child strays from faith

The anatomy of a lost faith

- *Neglect*
- *Drift*
- *Unbelief*
- *Disobedience*
- *Dull of hearing*
- *Forfeiting your spiritual purpose*

Find Joy in the Empty Nest

PRINCIPLE SIX: When your child leaves home and their life fills up with fresh experiences, follow their lead and do the same thing.

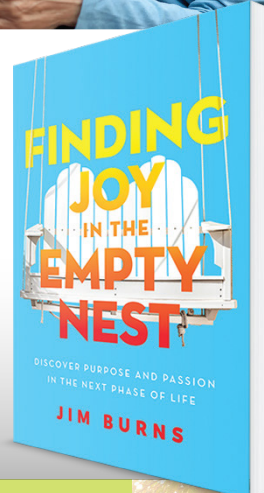
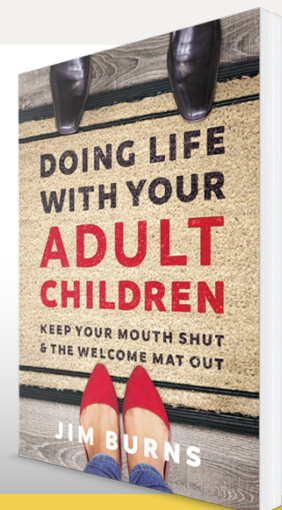
Remember – games are usually won in the second half.

“Be alert, be present.
It’s bursting out!
Don’t you see it?
There it is!
I’m making a road
through the desert, rivers
in the badlands.”

Isaiah 43:19 (The Message)

HomeWord has the resources you need to make the most of your relationships.

Need help navigating the sometimes-choppy waters as you do life with your adult children?



Are you having trouble finding joy in the empty nest?

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