

Immediate Family Problem Parents

I. Adult - How to deal with parents who are doing/have done major wrong.

- A. Not all parents are good parents
- B. Parents can do great harm to their children
- C. Sometimes parents are totally wicked - Satan has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV), "Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

- D. Sometime parents are just imperfect and do things in weakness/ignorance
- E. We have seen each of these cases all down through history
 - 1. Jacob wronged his 11 other sons - Genesis 37:3-4
 - 2. David wronged Tamar and Absalom - 2 Samuel 13:1-22
 - 3. Manasseh - 2 Kings 21:1-6
- F. There is no set answer to how we are to handle our parents wrong doings.
 - 1. The way we are called to handle depends on the root reason for their actions.
 - a) Rooted in ignorance/lack of wisdom
 - b) Rooted in satanic bondage/wickedness
 - 2. Only the Holy Spirit can give you the discernment to know which is which.

II. Rooted in ignorance/lack of wisdom

- A. Go to them and point out what they have done / are doing.
 - 1. Galatians 6:1

"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. Luke 17:3-4

“Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

3. Work toward restoration

B. Forgive them

1. Matthew 6:14-15,

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

2. Mark 11:25,

“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

3. Colossians 3:12-13

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

C. Pray for them

1. Matthew 5:44,

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

2. Luke 6:28,

“Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

D. This can take time

III. Rooted in wickedness

- A. Point out their sin just like we talked about earlier
- B. If they do not repent - stay away

1. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13,

“But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

2. Ephesians 5:11,

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”

3. 2 Timothy 3:1-5,

“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

4. Titus 3:10

“As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him.”

- C. We are responsible for drawing appropriate boundaries around ourselves and our families.
- D. Forgive them - understanding that forgiveness does not mean you associate with them

E. Avoid a bitter root

1. Hebrews 12:15

“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.”

F. God will give you the grace to do this

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

G. Pray for them

H. Give God time

I. Reassess periodically

1. 2 Corinthians 2:8-11

“So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”