

6 Principles to Parenting Your Adult Kids

Principle #1: Your _____ as a parent has to change.

- We have to move to an _____ - _____ - _____ relationship.
- Be _____, not intrusive.

³ Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from Him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Psalm 127:3-5a

- Our kids are like _____ launched toward a target.
- The real goal isn't that everything is the way you like it, but that they actually _____ the purpose God has for them.
- Am I helping or am I _____ dependency?
- _____ is a better teacher than advice.
- When we let them go, there is a sense of _____.
- As the role changes, we have to get as physically, emotionally, and spiritually _____ together.

Principle #2: Unsolicited advice is usually taken as _____.

- Keep your mouth _____ and the welcome mat out.
- Them pulling _____ is a part of them growing up.
- We have to _____ for permission.
- The way to build a bridge is _____ and asking questions.

⁸ Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

⁹ Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:8-10

Principle #3: Become a _____ of their culture.

- Distinctive #1: They are shaped by _____.
- Distinctive #2: They don't live to _____, they work to live.
- Distinctive #3: They want to have a good _____ and they want to be good parents.
- Distinctive #4: They consider _____ as a form of loving.

²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:20-22

Principle #4: When your grown children _____ your values, you can't want it more than they want it.

- You've got to give them _____.
- You can't _____ them out.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

- Love is giving another person what they _____ the most, when they _____ it the least, at great personal cost.
- We need _____, counsel, and wisdom.
- We have to _____ our children to God.

The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

Principle #5: They will never know how far the town is if you _____ them on your back.

- There's pain in life. It's either the pain of discipline or the pain of _____.

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:11

- Set _____ and _____.
- People support what they help _____.

Principle #6: Financial independence and responsibility is the _____.

- Develop a clear plan and an exit _____.
- Part of our godliness is how we _____ our money.

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

Luke 16:10

- Teach them to be good _____ of money.

Application Questions:

1. What is the most challenging thing about moving from an adult-child to adult-adult relationship for you?
2. Which of your attitudes and behaviors are unintentionally causing obstacles to your adult child becoming independent?
3. How does the idea of “asking for permission” to give advice make you feel? What step can you take to apply the concept the next time you want to give advice?
4. Do you try to understand your adult child’s point of view, or do you try to convince them of yours?
5. How would you describe the tone of your relationship with your kids? Is it full of A.W.E.? (Affection, warmth, and encouragement?)
6. How do you show love and grace to your adult children who aren’t living according to your values?
7. Some people confuse tough love with meanness. How do you define it? What does tough love look like in your relationship with your adult child?
8. What is something you’re doing for your adult children that they’re capable of doing for themselves?
9. Jim talks about the value of setting clear expectations and boundaries. If your adult children are living at home, how are you doing with that?
10. What discussions do you need to have that would strengthen your adult child’s ability to be financially independent?