

## PARENTS AND THEIR GROWN CHILDREN

### I. CHILDREN SEPARATE FROM PARENTS AT MARRIAGE

#### A. **Genesis 2:21-24**

Scripture records a time before there were any fathers and mothers on the earth, explaining that, in marriage, a man must “leave” his parents to be “joined” to his wife.

#### B. **Ephesians 5:22-33**

At marriage, a woman shifts submission from her parents to her husband, and a man gains the responsibility of being head over his wife. It is a new household with its own hierarchy in which the parents must not interfere.

### II. PARENTS SHOULD INFLUENCE SPOUSAL SELECTION

#### A. **Genesis 24:1-9**

Abraham was involved in the selection of Isaac’s wife Rebekah, and, in fact, Isaac was not. Arranged marriages are not required, but there is nothing wrong with them. At the very least, parents must teach their children how to choose a husband or wife. In Isaac’s case, Abraham was concerned that he not marry any Canaanite woman.

#### B. **Judges 14:1-4**

Samson’s parents were also involved in arranging his marriage. They were alarmed about him choosing a Philistine woman.

#### C. **Ruth 3:1-4**

In Ruth’s case, her late husband’s mother advised her about her next husband.

### III. GROWN CHILDREN MUST TAKE CARE OF ELDERLY PARENTS

#### A. **Mark 7:9-13**

Jesus was angry that the Pharisees did not apply the Fifth Commandment to their parents, knowing they should take care of them as they aged.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:3-8, 16**

Children are bound to “*repay their parents,*” relieving them, so the church is not burdened.

**C. John 19:26-27**

Among the few words Jesus uttered as He died were instructions concerning the guardianship of His mother.

**D. Ruth 2:18**

After gleaning grain from the fields all day, Ruth went straight home to feed her mother-in-law.

**IV. PARENTS SHOULD LEAVE AN INHERITANCE BEHIND**

**A. Proverbs 13:22**

One indication of a “*good man*” is that he provides for his posterity following his death.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:14**

Although applied in a spiritual sense between an apostle and a church in this verse, it is evident that the foregoing truth remains valid in the New Testament.

**C. Luke 12:13-15**

It would be prudent if begetters would make plain to heirs who receives what, to minimize disputes between siblings following their decease.

**V. PARENTS MUST CONTINUE TO ADMONISH**

**A. Proverbs 6:20**

Solomon addressed “*My son*” 23 times in the book of Proverbs and in this verse reminds him to continue obeying his parents. This is a book filled with practical wisdom for adult life, including financial advice and marital counsel. Clearly, adults need to continue learning from their parents.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:11-13; 2:12-17, 22-34**

Eli was held responsible for his failure to restrain his sons from their sins. He did rebuke them, but took no further action, and was punished with them.

**C. Titus 1:5-6**

Churches need men with “*faithful children*” in order to be shepherded by qualified elders.

**D. Luke 15:11-32**

The father of the prodigal son was not in a position to retrieve the young man when he went astray, due to the distance, but he was ready to receive him when the son came home.

**VI. PARENTS SHOULD HELP CHILDREN RAISE THE GRANDCHILDREN**

**A. Proverbs 17:6**

Grandchildren should be a special delight.

**B. Ruth 4:13-17**

Breastfeeding one’s grandson is very unusual, and there is no need to think this needs to happen in most cases, but it goes to show that Naomi was active in Obed’s care.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:3-5**

Most importantly, grandparents should pass faith in Jesus onto their children.