

# Relationship Series

## Parents' Relationship with Adult Children

Eph. 4:2-3 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Eph. 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Transition from children to adult

Treat them as adult and peers rather than as dependent children

By law the children at 18 is legally adult

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Parent-children is temporary

Husband-wife is permanent

Parent-children mode interrupts husband-wife relationship

Steps for relationship with adult children

([www.christianparenting.org/articles/the-tug-of-war-between-parents-and-adult-children/](http://www.christianparenting.org/articles/the-tug-of-war-between-parents-and-adult-children/))

- 1) Observe respectful boundaries
- 2) Listen more than you talk
- 3) Set ground rules for how to disagree
- 4) Make room for significant others in your children's life

Letting go of adult children is a struggle for all parents, both Christian and non-Christian

Child-rearing consumes our time, energy, love, and concern for 20 years of child's life

Parents invest their hearts, minds, and spirits into children's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being

More mothers than fathers seem to experience difficulty due to maternal urge to nurture and care for children and amount of time spent with children as they grow

Parents have fear in letting go for children live in a scary world

Letting go means to turn over to our heavenly Father who love the children more and who guides and guards them

We are not the only parents facing letting go of our children.

Even Bible characters face the issue of their children wandering from God

Samuel: his sons (1 Samuel 8:1-3)

3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

Eli: his sons (1 Samuel 2:12-36)

2:12 Now the sons of Eli *were* corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

Prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

Father gave what his son wanted since he was old enough to do in his free will

His son lost everything and ate with the pigs

Father was patient and waited for his return

Father was merciful and gracious regardless how his son lived

Navigating difficult questions

Their hearts were broken

They are not in healthy relationship

They have wandered in their faith

They have developed unhealthy habits or addictions

Others

Don't be a helicopter parent and allow them to make mistakes in their free will

Trust in God's sovereignty

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Grace is the key

Eph. 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love" (ESV); 2b ... bearing with one another in love (NKJV)

Dr. Pickhardt (The Connected Father) - one rose at a time

Verse to live by

Eph. 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love" (ESV); 2b ... bearing with one another in love (NKJV)

You are always his or her parent

Change your role from parent to children mode to parents to adults mode













