

## PARENTING YOUR PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

### OUTLINE

*"The church should care for any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God very much."* 1 Timothy 5:3

**Intro:** Jesus clearly got mad when people tried to get around honoring their parents ... even on religious grounds!

- *And you do many things like that."* Mark 7:9-13

### I. WHAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW ABOUT OUR PARENTS

- First, just as your parents want to be proud of you ... they want you to be proud of them! *"Parents are the pride of their children. Proverbs 17:6b*
- Second, Your parents want to continue to flourish and do well *"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming "The Lord is upright, he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him." Psalms 92:12-15*
- Third, In your business of living your life –don't forget them! *Do not cast me off in the time of old age, forsake me not when my strength is spent. Psalm 71:9*

### II. DECISION #3: SHARE THE LOAD

- *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2

A. If you are the child providing direct care for your parents

B. ... if you are the sibling of the child providing direct care for your parents

### III. DECISION #4: BALANCE MY LIFE

- *"Love others as well as you would love yourself."* Mark 12:31

A. Your relationship with God must come first *"When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; then your troubles will not overwhelm you". Isaiah 43:2*

B. After God, if you are married, your spouse comes first *"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh". Genesis 2:24*

C. Caring for yourself

- Pay attention to your own needs as well as the needs of the parent. If you don't you will be unable to serve your parent.
- Schedule time for yourself
- Care for your physical body
- Do more laughing - *Proverbs 17:22 - A merry heart doeth good like medicine.*

## **PARENTING YOUR PARENTS STUDY GUIDE**

**Our study this week is scaled back so we can have time for some important 'home work.' Throughout the week, study scriptures to find out what God wants us to know when making choices concerning our Parents.**

**MONDAY** -- The choices you or your parents make will affect the entire family. Read *1 Corinthians 12:26*;

**TUESDAY** -- Your parents' burdens are also your burdens. *1 Timothy 5:8*;

**WEDNESDAY** -- Your parents are worthy of your best caretaking now. *1 Peter 3:8,9*;

**THURSDAY** -- Your caretaking is an extension of God's care. *Mark 9:41*

**FRIDAY** -- When it comes to "Parenting Your Parents," probably no issue will be more important (and often times more awkward and difficult) than finances. To learn the answers to these questions will take some time...so try to get started today!

- Where is your parents' financial information, including everything from hidden documents in lock boxes to complicated contracts, agreements, and trusts?
- What is their financial status - assets, liabilities, and net worth?
- Who is their attorney, tax accountant, and financial consultant, if any?
- Do they have an up-to-date legal will on file?
- Do they have living wills?
- Have they developed a financial "nest egg" over the years? How are the funds invested? Has the financial plan been adjusted for retirement?
- Have they given broad and durable power of attorney to a family member or a professional confidant?
- Have they made plans for their assets to minimize estate taxes?
- Are they receiving full entitlement for their Social Security benefits?
- What are the provisions of their pension plans and life insurance?
- Do they have adequate medical and hospital insurance, including catastrophic coverage and long-term care?
- What are the monthly budget requirements to sustain a reasonable standard of living for them?
- Are they eligible for Medicare? Medicaid? Do they carry Medigap insurance?
- Have they made funeral arrangements and purchased a cemetery plot?
- If worse comes to worst, what are the contingency plans for financial shortfall or catastrophe?