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### Shepherding Adult Children

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### Challenges in the relationship of parents and adult children.

- Arising from the Adult Children
  - Manipulation based on guilt for real or perceived shortcomings of the parents.
  - Rejection of the parent's values
  - Rejection of God
  - Passivity-expecting things to come their way with little or no effort
  - Entitlement mentality-I deserve to have what others have.

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Challenges in the relationship of parents and adult children.

- Arising from the Parents
  - Neglect
  - Harsh or other inappropriate treatment
  - Criminal acts
    - Great bodily harm
    - Sexual sin

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Challenges in the relationship of parents and adult children.

- Addressing these specific issues will involve:
  - Biblical instruction
  - Godly Sorrow
  - Repentance
  - Forgiveness
  - Restoration with God and each other

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The focus of this teaching is to help parents engage with their adult children and assumes the challenges previously mentioned are being addressed biblically.

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**Begin with a candid spiritual assessment  
of your life.**

- <sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.  
*1 Timothy 1:12-15 (ESV)*

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**Grasp opportunities to give witness to how  
God wants to work in your child's life as He  
has in yours.**

- <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.  
*1 Timothy 1:16-17 (ESV)*

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**Clearly communicate your desire that they  
prosper as they have been gifted by God.**

- <sup>18</sup> This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. *1 Timothy 1:18-19a (ESV)*

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### Warn them about misplaced priorities

- <sup>6</sup> If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. <sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; <sup>8</sup> for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. <sup>9</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup> For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. *1 Timothy 4:6-10 (ESV)*

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### Encourage them to lead others by example as they grow in godliness.

- <sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup> Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup> Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. <sup>16</sup> Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. *1 Timothy 4:11-16 (ESV)*

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### Help them get a biblical perspective on finances.

- <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. *1 Timothy 6:6-10 (ESV)*

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Give guidance to what is worthy of time and attention.

- <sup>11</sup> But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, *1 Timothy 6:11-13 (ESV)*

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Diligently pray for them.

- <sup>3</sup> I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. *2 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)*

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Proactively encourage in times of confusion and turmoil.

- <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. <sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup> which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. *2 Timothy 1:6-14 (ESV)*

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Guide them to take responsibility for the next generation.

- <sup>1</sup> You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.  
*2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)*

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Model and teach a diligent and disciplined approach to life.

- <sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.  
*2 Timothy 2:3-7 (ESV)*

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Instill in them the confidence that God has provided the guidance and instruction for life in His Word.

- <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.  
*2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)*

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Let them know how they can be a blessing to you.

- <sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me soon. <sup>10</sup> For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry... <sup>21</sup> Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.  
*2 Timothy 4:9-11,21 (ESV)*

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Never grow weary of reinforcing good counsel.

- Compare:
  - 1 Timothy 4:6-7 with 2 Timothy 2:14
  - 1 Timothy 6:11 with 2 Timothy 2:22
  - 1 Timothy 4:11-16 with 2 Timothy 4:5

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