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- Probe first the health of the marriage. The "failure to launch" situation will bring to the forefront tensions between a husband and wife.
 - Is the husband and wife relating to one another as scripture instructs believers to relate to one another? Colossians 3:12-17
 - Is biblical order and authority practiced in the marriage? Ephesians 5:21-33
- The son or daughter will use infractions to focus the attention away from his or her unhealthy and sinful behavior.

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- Husband and wife must be on the same page. This is a special challenge when in a blended family.
- Question to discover division and bring scripture to bear to bring about heart change that will result in an unbreakable unity.
 - ⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." *Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)*

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- Look for biblical infractions in the parent and child relationship. (See Genesis 27)
 - Is the child constantly defended at the expense of the other spouse?
 - Is a spouse deliberately kept in the dark concerning the child?
 - Is the child mistreated in order to take vengeance on a spouse?
 - Does either the mother or father make a point to criticize the other spouse to the child?

Moving toward a solution

- Each parent must honestly and objectively look at his or her own spiritual condition.
- Parents need to honestly and as objectively as possible assess the spiritual condition of the son or daughter.
 - Is he or she a true follower of Christ? What criteria was used to determine this?
 - What opportunities of spiritual growth is he or she pursuing?

Parents have the right to expect obedience and honor from a son or daughter.

- ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV)

There is no age limit here and the adult child, especially living at home, must realize that this still applies.

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- Jesus practiced submission to his earthly parents.
 - ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. *Luke 2:46-52 (ESV)*

Assess whether you are dealing with a wise or foolish son or daughter and proceed accordingly.

- ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. *Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)*
- ¹⁰ A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. *Proverbs 17:10 (ESV)*
- ² A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. *Proverbs 18:2 (ESV)*

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- With the wise you apply instruction
 - ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. *Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)*
 - This may lead to a sober reflection on how well the son or daughter has been equipped for life.
 - What are the gaps in this son or daughter's ability to be self-supporting?

Assess whether you are dealing with a wise or foolish son or daughter and proceed accordingly.

- With the foolish you allow or apply consequences.
 - ³⁵ The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace. *Proverbs 3:35 (ESV)*
 - ²⁹ Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart. *Proverbs 11:29 (ESV)*
 - ³ By the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will preserve them. *Proverbs 14:3 (ESV)*

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- With the foolish you allow or apply consequences.
 - ⁶ A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. *Proverbs 18:6 (ESV)*
 - ²⁹ Condemnation is ready for scoffers, and beating for the backs of fools. *Proverbs 19:29 (ESV)*
 - ²⁰ Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. *Proverbs 21:20 (ESV)*

Some things to look for in the son or daughter.

- Fear
- Resentment
- Sense of entitlement
- Laziness
- Behavior suited more for a child than for an adult.
- Confusion
