

Aging Parents With Grown Children

“We Need To Talk!”

Here is a scriptural basis for what I believe the Lord wants us to hear this week; 1 Timothy 5:8 says: *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* This verse about family ties right with 1 John 3:17: *“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”* It is rather obvious that God wants us to help one another, especially our own families!

When we lived in Arizona, Vicki and I volunteered with an organization called “Elderbuilders” which helped elderly and/or handicapped folks with grocery shopping, doctor visits, small tasks around the home, etc. We soon learned that right there in Payson, AZ, there were an overwhelming number of elderly residents who were in poor health, and/or just aged to the point they couldn’t do things for themselves, and the majority of them lived far away from their children. I believe the same is true here in Williston, Fl and in many other cities and states all over America.

We ran into another problem in AZ, and I’ve seen it in every church I’ve ever been a part of - simply put, PRIDE! Parents don’t want to admit to their children they have problems, whether it’s physical, financial, or emotional, they don’t want to “worry” or “bother” their kids, saying the kids have enough problems of their own, and they don’t want to be a “burden” to them or “bother” them. When they do this, they are in essence preventing their kids from being the blessing God meant them to be to their parents in their “golden years!”

So allow me to speak frankly to both sides of the equation. Grown children - there is a very high probability your parents need help in some way, so check on them - regularly! Ask them to tell you honestly how their health is, how their finances are, and let them know that you are there for them if they need any kind of help or assistance! If you can’t be there personally, find out who you might get to help them locally, and if they are on a fixed income during this time of high inflation, consider blessing them with a monthly “allowance,” similar to the one they gave you as a child!

And now to you aging parents (myself included), I implore you, be honest with your children and let them know if you need help in any area of your life! In your asking for help, you are allowing your children (or others if need be) to be a blessing to you; and think about this - weren’t they a “burden” to you for the first 18-20 years of their lives? Not because they wanted to be, but because they needed you, and now you need them!

I’m sure there are some who will read this who have broken family relationships. Pray and ask God to bring reconciliation and restoration, and be willing to make the first move in that direction! Amen? Amen!