

The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

Allowing Children to Leave is Difficult

My son spent some time with us this summer and then returned to Northern Kentucky University where he is a student. His leaving reminded me of our leave-taking two years ago when we left him standing in the parking lot of his dorm at the beginning of his freshman year. My dad told me that the hardest thing he ever did was leave me standing outside the dorm at Georgetown College on the first day of my freshman year. When children leave for college or a job or marriage or the military, we parents hurt.

The only thing worse than having your children leave home is hav-

ing your children not leave home. The following quote is from the play *Deadly Departed*:

One thing about Titi, that boy's a worker. He moved the front yard, the side yard, the back yard, plus them six acres I've got out behind the house, restacked the figwood, cleaned out the garage, and hewed in the garden until it was too dark to see. Since his birthday is coming up next week, I gave him three dollars, instead of the usual two. It's hard to believe Titi will be turning thirty-seven. They grow up so fast.

Few parents want a thirty-seven-year old around the house permanently.

The teen-age years are an impor-

tant time of preparation for leaving for both parents and children. The struggle between parents and young people who want to be independent are often a part of these years. Adolescence can become a power struggle which both sides sometimes take to the extreme.

I remember the "Cereal Bowl War" at our house. It began over whether the boys would put their cereal bowls in the dishwasher. It ended as a power struggle as I laid down the law: "Oh, yes, you will take that bowl to the sink, because I told you to!" This battle had little to do with cleanliness and responsibility and a lot to do with who was in control.

The father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) knew how and when to let go. When his younger son asked for his inheritance

and wanted to leave, the father allowed him to do so. Even though he knew his son was making a mistake and even though it broke his heart, he did not turn this into a power struggle.

The father could have berated his son, "You're not going anywhere! You're going to stay here and work on this farm like your brother does. I've worked and slaved to provide for you, and I'm not going to let you throw away half of what I have built. Now get out there on that tractor and get to work!"

Knowing how and when to let the child go is one of the difficult parts of parenting. Letting go too soon is not good. I have seen thirteen-year-old children who have no parental

guidance, and this is not fair to the child.

On the other hand I have seen thirty-five-year-old adults still looking to Mom and Dad to make their decisions. And I have seen parents who continually interfere in the lives of their adult children, making it difficult for these young adults to grow up and causing misery for everyone involved.

As the parent of two adults, I know the difficulty of keeping the proper balance. I pray for the wisdom of the father in the parable, so that I can discern when it is time to let them go.

"Court News"

(Cont. from B2)

Lellian E. Rodriguez: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, paid \$164.50 total fine and costs.

William R. Sandlin: Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, \$350 fine and costs, 14 days in jail, 12 month operator license suspension, ADE School and all applicable costs and fees.

Mark Spoonamore: Alcohol intoxication, bench warrant issued for failure to appear.

Brandon L. Spurlock: Speeding, \$30 fine and costs.

James W. Weaver, Jr.: Operating on suspended license, \$100 fine and costs and 10 days in jail/conditionally discharged one year; Speeding, \$30 fine.

Jerry A. Byers: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, paid.

Rhonda L. Harkins: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Thomas H. Lantz: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, paid \$185.50 total fine and costs.

Reynard Singh: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Deborah J. Welch: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Fred Robert Miller: Speeding, paid \$159.50 total fine and costs.

Jason G. Brown: Speeding, \$60 fine and costs, state traffic school authorized; Failure to wear seatbelt, \$25 fine.

James William Weaver, Jr.: Disorderly conduct, 10 days in jail/credit one day time served/balance conditionally discharged one year; Contempt of court, same as above and

payment of costs only.

Joe B. King: Contempt (fines due \$191.60 and \$149.85), 30 days in jail/serve 10 credit 5 days time served/balance conditionally discharged two years (both counts).

Sherry Fuson: Nonpayment of fine (\$367.35, \$727.35 and \$641.85), found guilty of contempt, 13, 29 and 25 days in jail in lieu of payment.

Ricky Sloan, Jr.: Wanton Endangerment, 12 months in jail/serve 60 days/balance conditionally discharged two years and restitution.

Joseph Burgess King: Fines due (\$191.60), 30 days consecutive/conditionally discharged two years.

William E. Poe: Alcohol intoxication, 5 days in jail.

Steve Tompkins: Criminal Mischief, 12 months in jail/serve 60 days/balance conditionally dis-

charged two years and restitution.

Jon K. Sanders: Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, 12 months in jail/serve 60 days/credit time served/balance conditionally discharged two years and restitution and costs.

Darrell E. Harrison: Defective equipment, \$25 fine and costs.

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2002 Discipleship Rally Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptists

The Rockcastle Association of Southern Baptist churches will celebrate at their annual "Discipleship Training Rally" on September 23, (Monday night) at 7 p.m. at the Ottawa Baptist Church where Bro. Jim Craig is pastor. Pre-session music will start at 6:45 p.m.

This is the 107th year of Discipleship Training and 57 years of Annual Rallies by Southern Baptist Churches for mutual encouragement and cooperation in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Jim Clontz, KBC Discipleship Director, and Rev. Jim Craig, pastor of Ottawa Baptist Church will be the featured speakers. There will be special music and singing by the Ottawa Choir and Shawn Burdette and Julie Phillips, plus Bible Drills and testimonies.

An award will be presented to the church with the highest attendance from among those churches that do not report an organized DT program; also banners to the church with the highest attendance and the one with the largest percentage of DT enrollment present among those churches with Discipleship Training. Also, awards for pastors and DT Directors present.

The public is cordially invited to celebrate with us and enjoy the fellowship of your Baptist neighbors and friends as we worship together.

"Discipleship is a Matter of the Heart!" *"Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the Heart."* 1 Samuel 16:7.

Jack Bruce

Director of Missions

Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptist Churches

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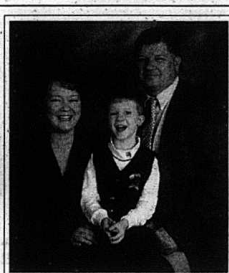
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