



HOW TO LOVE THEM WELL

A Guide for Every
Season of Parenting

WEEK 3 - PARENTING ADULT CHILDREN OVERVIEW

The pace of change in our world seems to be constantly accelerating. While new technologies continue to astound, amuse, and amaze, new economic uncertainties have transformed the economic prospects of young adults entering the workforce. Being in one's twenties or thirties these days looks nothing like it did just one or two generations before. As a result, parenting adult children presents a host of new challenges. Into this mess, however, a clear invitation from Scripture emerges: to love our adult children *accurately*. This means not only continuing to set a Christlike example for our children (as mentioned in weeks one and two) but also being especially attuned to their unique challenges and needs. Does your adult child need tender compassion right now or bold encouragement? Do they need hopeful joy or a shoulder to cry on? Being this attentive is not easy, but we have the Holy Spirit to help us along the way. If we listen to the Spirit's voice, we can love our adult children in exactly the way they most need, even in a rapidly changing world.

Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a pile of parenting books (or other advice-type books)? If so, did you read them and find them helpful?
2. At what point do you think a person is done parenting?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22.
 - a. What stands out to you from this passage as good advice for parents of adult children?
 - b. How would Paul's advice be helpful in a family setting?
4. How can a parent help their adult children navigate the challenges, problems, and obstacles they're facing?
5. When you were a young adult, what do you think you needed from your parents? Did those needs change as you grew older?
6. Describe what it means to "love them where they are".
7. Amy said that sometimes parents just need to get out of the way and let God work. What does that mean to you? Tell about a time when this happened to you - as a parent or as an adult child.
8. What are some ways for parents to show their adult children the love of Jesus?