

## *>>> next step >>>*

relationship with parents

The Bible makes it clear that a child's relationship with their parent changes dramatically when the child gets married:

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Discuss:

1. What about before that?
2. What about when you leave for college?
3. Have you ever thought about how your relationship with your parents will change then?

For many of us, parents make up our backbone. In a child's years under their parent's roof, the parents support them, cheer for them, challenge them, develop them, and guide them through the ups and downs of life. Parents pour their lives into their children for 18 years and then set them free to begin to navigate the adult world on their own. It is important to recognize that even if we have left the home physically, we are still under our parent's roof in many other areas. Whether our parents/guardians are amazing and involved or disconnected it's important to figure out what your relationship with your parents looks like in college.

Ephesians 6:1-3

1. When does this expire? Answer: both never and next year
2. Never:
  - a. Galatians 6:10... command to do good to all men, especially fellow believers. We should especially always seek to love and honor our parents.
3. Next Year:
  - a. something is going to change

As you grow and develop the role of the parent changes significantly, take a look at these 4 Cs of parenting. What roles do you think your parents fill while you're in college?

4 Cs of parenting

1. Command – "Here's what you're going to do"
2. Coaching – "I think you should do this... what do you think?"
3. Consulting – "I'm here if you need me"
4. Cheerleading – "You go girl!"

Discuss:

1. Which stage do you feel like you're in with your parents?
2. Most want to jump from 1 to 4. "Give me freedom"
3. how dependent will I be on my parents during college?
4. Are they paying for school, car, insurance, phone, etc.?
5. Am I fully released to support myself?
6. How can I honor my parents who've invested the last 18 years of their lives into me?

7. What are some areas of my life that will be independent of my parents' input next year?
8. What are some areas that I will still need to seek their advice?

Much like other areas of life, it's easy to fall into one of two ditches, take a look at these and discuss:

2 ditches:

1. What does it look like to depend too heavily on my parents during college (not leaving the nest)?
2. What does it look like to completely abandon a relationship with my parents?
3. What does it look like to have balance?

Discuss:

1. How can I honor God with my relationship with my parents?
2. What if my parents aren't believers?
3. How much time should I give to my parents with my weekends/holidays?

Close: Take some time to pray through your years in college and your relationship with your parents. We are called to honor our father and mother, so pray that the Lord gives wisdom about the best way to honor that command.