

Table of Contents and Daily Checklist

Use this set of questions as a daily evaluation and as a table of contents for the rest of the book. Read and answer these questions at the end of each day. Your honest answers will help uncover problem areas. The page numbers listed with each question will direct you to further study and questions related to each evaluation question.

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"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." (Ecclesiastes 11:6)

"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." (Proverbs 20:4)

"The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets." (Proverbs 22:13)

"The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason." (Proverbs 26:16)

Am I experiencing difficulties in my family that are directly related to my own sin and negligence?

"Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." (Proverbs 19:15)

"The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain." (Proverbs 15:19)

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute." (Proverbs 12:24)

"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." (Job 4:8)

"Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." (Jeremiah 5:25)

"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)

I sin against my parents by:

Envy at Their Persons and Places

The sin of pride will tempt me to resist my parents' rule over me. I will be tempted to question their right to govern my actions and their ability to make wise decisions on my behalf. In order to quietly rest under the protection and leadership of my parents, I must prayerfully remain in humble submission to God and His sovereign plan.

Do I pray for God to reveal areas of pride and sin in my life?

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults." (Psalm 19:12)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Do I resist or resent my God-ordained position of subordination under my parents?

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." (1 Corinthians 12:18-21)

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

Am I challenging the right of my parents to rule over me?

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:26)

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." (1 Peter 2:13-14)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

Am I, in pride, stepping out from under the protection of my parents and their loving authority over me?

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake." (Romans 13:1-5)

"As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place." (Proverbs 27:8)

Am I unwilling to trust God to lead me through the counsel, commands, and decisions of my parents?

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. . . But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." (James 3:13 and 17-18)

“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.” (Proverbs 1:24-26)

“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” (Psalm 78:5-7)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Am I unwilling to submit my will to that of my parents?

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” (Romans 13:1-2)

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5)

Am I acting as the authority in my own life?

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.” (Proverbs 12:15)

“No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 16:25)

“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.” (Psalm 19:13)

Do I argue with my parents?

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” (James 4:1-2)

“The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.” (Proverbs 17:14)

“He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” (1 Timothy 6:4-5)

Am I angry when my parents' decisions go against my will?

"An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression." (Proverbs 29:22)

"A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife." (Proverbs 15:18)

"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." (James 3:16)

"He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated." (Proverb 14:17)

"Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath." (Proverbs 21:24)

Is my relationship with my parents one of mutual encouragement and respect, or one of strife and discord?

"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1 Corinthians 3:3)

"Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm." (Proverbs 3:30)

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones." (Proverbs 14:30)

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Do I seek to exercise authority that is not rightfully mine in our household?

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." (Galatians 6:3)

"He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction." (Proverbs 17:19)

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." (1 Corinthians 8:1b-2)

Do I seek to discredit my parents' ability to lead me and our family?

"Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer." (Psalm 101:5)

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.” (James 3:14-16)

Do I criticize the actions and decisions my parents make related to me and my siblings?

“He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.” (Proverbs 26:17)

“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (Galatians 5:15)

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.” (2 Peter 2:9-10)

Do I attempt to draw my siblings' loyalty away from my parents and toward me?

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:26)

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.” (Romans 16:17-19)

“Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.” (2 Samuel 15:4-6)

Do I seek to lead my siblings in a direction that is contrary to the goals and leadership of my parents?

“It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.” (Proverbs 20:3)

“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.” (1 Peter 4:15)

“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Do I challenge the authority and character of my parents when they abuse or neglect their responsibilities, fearing that God has forgotten me or is powerless to help?

"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins." (Proverbs 10:12)

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

"The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us..." (Psalm 115:12a)

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day..." (Exodus 14:13a)

I sin against my parents through:

Contempt of Their Persons and Places

I cannot hold my parents in contempt while obeying God's command to honor them. As I honor my parents, I will acknowledge their worth and their rank as it has been granted by God. To despise them implies that I view them as worthless and below myself. The prideful attitude of contempt will express itself in actions, attitudes, and words that must be repented of.

Do I treat my parents disrespectfully?

"He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach." (Proverbs 19:26)

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Do my face and gestures communicate sinful pride toward my parents?

"An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." (Proverbs 21:4)

"A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way." (Proverbs 21:29)