

Counseling Struggling Adoptive Parents

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Introduction

- I. Adoptive parents and families do need support, encouragement and oftentimes counsel.
 - A. They need the regular encouragement that we all need
1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:12-13
 - B. But they also need to be in an environment that if they need counseling or more directed help, they know they can get it.
Isa. 35:3; 1 Thess. 5:14

- II. Do not minimize the difficulties of adoption, even if you do not understand them. In other words, try to understand.
Prov. 1:5; 13:15; 14:29; 16:21-22; **20:5**

- III. Listen to the adoptive parents/families as they share they struggles, realizing that they are taking a risk in sharing their struggles. I.e., Don't be shocked by what they say
Jas. 1:19

- IV. Avoid parenting formulas and seek to free the parents from formula bondage
See Jim's book, *Parenting is More Than a Formula*

- V. Encourage them to be creative and wise in their parenting
Phil. 1:9; Col. 1:9; 3:21; Eph. 6:4

- VI. Challenge them, lovingly, to examine their own hearts
Psa. 139:23-24; Prov. 4:23
After They Are Yours, ch 6.

- VII. Helpful reminders
 - A. Spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-13)

 - B. Perseverance (**Acts 20:24**; Rom. 5:3-5; **2 Cor. 12:9-10**; Jas. 1:2-4)

- C. The Gospel
 - 1. To our kids (Ezek. 37)

 - 2. To ourselves (Gal. 6:14)