

PARENTING: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

SECRET STRUGGLES . . . FAMILY TROUBLES

2 SAMUEL 13



The Heart of the Matter

Severely dysfunctional families often appear on the surface to be unaffected by secret sins. But what transpires as a result of a shameful act leaves a dreadful impact not only on the victim but also on the entire family—and it only intensifies with the passing of time. Parental passivity can destroy a family, causing its members to become more and more dysfunctional. Parents must be courageous, facing painful truths and addressing evil wherever it may be found.



Discovering the Way

1. Opening Words of Concern and Caution

The worst kind of evil can happen in the most respected homes, and if it is not handled correctly, the fallout can result in lingering complications.

2. Setting the Stage and Explaining the Event (2 Samuel 13:1–23)

The effects of David's sin with Bathsheba reached into the lives of his children and ultimately into the lives of all the people of Israel. David's moral fall stripped him of his authority to lead his children.

3. Understanding the Rebellion of Absalom (2 Samuel 13:23–39)

Because of unresolved conflict and unpunished sin, the dysfunction in David's family increased to such a degree that it had irreversible consequences for all.



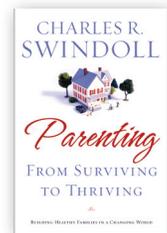
Starting Your Journey

Three lingering principles from these painful passages require our attention.

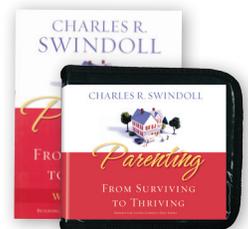
1. Disconnected and damaged family relationships result in dysfunctional family members.
2. Passive and permissive parents produce angry and frustrated children.
3. Unresolved and unreconciled conflicts lead to wounds that refuse to heal.



Tools for Digging Deeper



Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book



Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
by Charles R. Swindoll
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Top Temptations Fathers Face
by Charles R. Swindoll
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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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