

PARENTING: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

CONFRONTING THE “OLDER BROTHER ATTITUDES”

LUKE 15:25–32



The Heart of the Matter

When the prodigal son received grace, the older son’s response revealed a condemning, vengeful attitude. Like a Pharisee, he appeared to be loyal and loving on the outside, but inside his heart was opposed to his father’s values. Pharisees are alive and well today, and if we look close enough we might find one in our own families. We must do what we can to confront his or her “older brother attitude” with gentleness and grace.



Discovering the Way

1. A Disappointing Reaction to the Ministry of Jesus (Luke 5:27–32)

After Jesus feasted with “unholy degenerates,” the Pharisees scolded Him. Beware; if we hang around the self-righteous long enough, we’ll start thinking just like them.

2. A Penetrating Story in the Teaching of Jesus (Luke 15:25–32)

The disgraceful waste of the younger brother is met with abundant grace by the father and resentment by the older brother, who then receives grace as well.



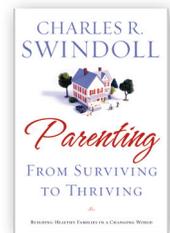
Starting Your Journey

The three roles in the story offer three timeless principles.

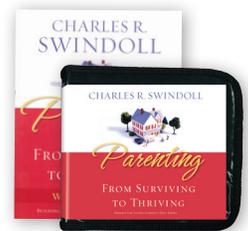
1. We all have enough of the younger brother’s rebellion that we should keep from judging and criticizing anybody.
2. We all have so much of the older brother’s pride in us that we are by nature mean-spirited and hypocritical.
3. We need more of the Father’s grace in us.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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



Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover workbook and CD series



Top Temptations Fathers Face
by Charles R. Swindoll
booklet

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