

A publication of  
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Disowning someone is a big step. Are you prepared to take it and the consequences that go with it?
- As far back as Old Testament days it's recorded in Genesis that Jacob stole the birthright from his twin,
- Through forgiveness on your part, you may be able to see a sinner repent and choose to follow God.

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# The Hard Questions

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## Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

### Dear Joy,

My brother drained our mother's bank account while she was alive. Then he wouldn't even attend her funeral. I resent him for this. Should I disown him?

(Please don't use my name as I am well known.)



Disowning someone is a big step. Are you prepared to take it and the consequences that go with it? Resentment is an emotion that is harder on the resenter than on the one resented. As you can see these are two separate issues that are intertwined.

I am neither a psychologist nor a psychiatrist but I can point you to scripture for an answer to this dilemma because as Christians that's where our answers should come from. But first let's look at the problem a little closer. Others have dealt with the same issue. I know a family with three sons. Two became productive citizens while the third and youngest racked up two children, a divorce and finally he and his children went to live with his parents, working only

sporadically. After his father died, he helped himself to some of his mother's money. I don't know his reasons; maybe he felt he deserved it. Before long he cleaned out her bank account and left her penniless. The other two brothers pitched in to give her a place to live and food to eat. They wanted her to press charges against him for stealing, but she demurred. After all, he was her baby boy.

This type of activity is not new or unusual. As far back as Old Testament days it's recorded in Genesis that Jacob stole the birthright from his twin, of all people, then he ran away. The birthright meant he was first in line to inherit all of his father's wealth at his death. It belonged to the first born but through deception and greed he took it from Esau. Their relationship was never the same again.

The New Testament records more than one instance of greed. One that stands out is Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. Different church members in that day voluntarily sold property as they were directed by God and gave the money to the church in order

to help those less fortunate. As it says in Acts 4:34 & 35, "they brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need". Their greed was against the family of God and interestingly enough they didn't have to lie about the amount of money they donated. But this twosome lied to Peter about how much they received for the property they sold and only donated part of the money. It was their money. They could have kept out however much they wanted and given the rest but they wanted to appear generous to the others—so they lied—and then died. God made them an example to the believers.

Disowning a family member means you cut off all contact with the person and act as though he is no longer a part of your family. You need to ask yourself what you intend to accomplish by doing this. Are you trying to hurt him as he has hurt you? Are you so full of hate toward him that you are willing to throw away any good memories of him and keep resentment and hatred in your heart towards him the rest of your life? Perhaps loving him



**“As we grow  
old...the beauty  
steals inward.”**

**-- Ralph Waldo  
Emerson**

would do more good than disowning him. The Bible says that it heaps coals of fire on his head. In other words your love will cause conviction to seize his heart and mind and make him uncomfortable until he turns to God. Isn't that what you want? I know, it's not easy.

Now about resentment. Resentment on the part of other family members never brings any good, only heartache to all those involved. Another way to handle greed in the family, but harder, is to forgive the greedy one and move on. Forgiveness never means you're okay with their sin but that you refuse to hold it against them and love them as before (I said it wouldn't be easy.) You accomplish two things with this attitude. Forgiveness always benefits the forgiver. **Unforgiveness, like cancer, eats away at us and creates anger, unhealthy attitudes and even ill health.**

Thus, through forgiveness on your part, you may be able to see a sinner repent and choose to follow God. I know this may seem farfetched when you're in the throes of resentment, but through prayer, forgiveness and love it can happen. Plus it helps to remember that Jesus said in Matthew 6:14 & 15 that we are forgiven in the same measure that we forgive others. Even a greedy brother who sins against his own mother.

## RESOURCES & INFO

### Web Sites:

[What Exactly IS Greed?](#)

[Elder Financial Abuse](#)

[Colorado Gerontological Society and-Senior Answers and Services](#)

### Books:

“Financial Abuse of the Elderly, A Detective's Case Files of Exploitation Crimes” by Joseph Roubicek

“Legal And Financial Exploitation Of Our Elders” by MA, LPC, NCC, Stephanie Siddall

“Is Your Parent in Good Hands?: Protecting Your Aging Parent from Financial Abuse and Neglect” by Edward J. Carnot

**BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE AN-  
OTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS  
IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU.**

**EPHESIANS 4:32**



## What does God say?

Christian care of older and elderly family members involves caring for each member as a person created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and as a person for whom Christ cares (Matthew 25:31-46).

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and with all propriety...” (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

“You are to rise in the presence of the elderly and honor the old... I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:32).

“Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old” (Proverbs 23:22).

“Now if anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8).

# Genuine Joy Ministries

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## Helping you find genuine joy!

Scripture quotations taken from the *New International Version*.  
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## Just for Fun

Thoughts on Christian life...

1. Don't let your worries get you, remember Moses started out as a basket case.
2. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
3. Forbidden fruits create many jams.
4. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
5. If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!
6. The task ahead of us is never as Great as the Power behind us.
7. We don't change the message, the message changes us.
8. Don't give God instructions... just report for duty!
9. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
10. God grades on the cross, not the curve.

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list.

Just send a quick email to: [info@genuinejoyministries.org](mailto:info@genuinejoyministries.org)

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

**You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.**

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

**Write us—Email us**



"The older you get, the more you tell it like it used to be."

-- Author Unknown

