

# STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Sometimes we talk about stewardship in terms of resources, and sometimes we talk about stewarding relationships. Today, I find myself thinking more about the latter.

I don't know about you, but to me, it seems the tension in our society is at an all-time high. Regardless of the topic, we are quick to take sides and go on the attack against people with opposing views.

I see in myself the tendency to condemn other's behavior, with little regard for my own sinful thoughts and attitudes. I've been convicted of my own desire to defend rather than understand – to rebuke rather than listen.

In James 4:10 we read, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." So recently, I have been challenging myself and those I lead to take a position of humility and grace as much as possible.

One friend reminded me of the story of the stoning of Stephen, found in the seventh chapter of Acts. All of Stephen's opponents had their fists clenched around stones with great anger. Stephen, on the other hand, had his hands open, arms outstretched and his eyes pointed toward Heaven.

My friend asked me, "Are you taking a position more like Stephen – or of those stoning him?"

In this season, I believe my friend's question is an especially important one. As people of God, we are called to live in a humbled posture where our hands are open, our arms are outstretched, and our eyes remain ever-focused on Jesus.

Grateful to serve you,



James Bakke, J.D.  
Executive Director

## HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN

Sharing your values with your children oftentimes leads to difficult conversations. In these moments, we have the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of our values, or to harm the relationship.

Here are a few tips to help guide you in these crucial discussions...

- 1. Determine the values you are most concerned about passing to your children.** When we clearly know what's most important to us, we will then communicate and act accordingly. We can spend more time discussing and modeling our priority values, and learn to let go of what's not so critical. There was a couple who regularly asked each other a perspective-keeping question. "Is this a salvation issue?" It was their way of saying, "Is this really an issue that's worth the battle?"
- 2. Recognize the power of your words.** As adults, we recognize the lasting impact our parents' words had on us, for good or for bad. Remember, you now hold that same power. Carefully consider the words you use – and the spirit in which you say them – understanding those sentiments may live on in the hearts and minds of your children, long after the conversation is over.
- 3. Don't be so quick to defend.** Defending a position is seldom needed with adult children, especially in the middle of an emotionally charged conversation. They've seen your values and observed your personal stance for years. Let down your guard, and hear them out.
- 4. Listen to understand.** Frequently, our debates with others are really about methods and solutions, rather than about shared values. In listening closely to your children, you may be surprised to hear your own values communicated back to you, just expressed a little differently.

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## HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN

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- Remember the ultimate goal.** You want to deepen your relationship with your children. Use this and every conversation as an opportunity to model God's love and grace to them.

Difficult conversations are often inevitable when sharing values with the next generation. However, with love, grace and courage, these encounters can be a meaningful way to strengthen your parent-child bond. Parenthood is a gift, and it's in a healthy, loving relationship that your values will be caught rather than taught.

## ASK BARNABAS FOUNDATION

**Q: What are my options for an executor of my will or a trustee of my trust?**

**A.** You have a variety of options when it comes to making this important decision.

- Family member
- Trusted friend
- Trusted advisor
- Trust company or trust department at a bank
- In some states, a professional fiduciary

Each of these have advantages and disadvantages, but in any case, you should make sure your selected executor or trustee has the required expertise, integrity and time available. Additionally, consider whether there are family dynamics that would make the job more difficult. Using a non-relative can relieve a family of a lot of unnecessary stress and relational conflict.

## IS IT TIME TO REVIEW YOUR WILL?

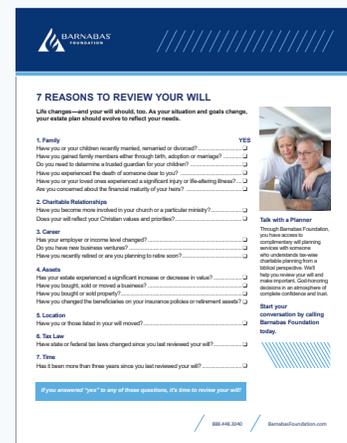
**“The only thing that is constant is change.”**

– Heraclitus, Greek philosopher

Life changes, and so should your will. In fact, we recommend taking a close look at your estate plan every three years to make sure it still fits your goals and situation.

Is it time to review your will?

To discuss your particular situation, or to request your free copy of “7 Reasons to Review Your Will,” call 888.448.3040 or email [info@BarnabasFoundation.com](mailto:info@BarnabasFoundation.com).



### The People In Your Plan

Your completed estate plan should include a variety of people who will act on your behalf or who will become the next stewards of your God-given resources.

Who should fill these roles? Request your free copy of “The People In Your Plan” by calling 888.448.3040 or email [info@BarnabasFoundation.com](mailto:info@BarnabasFoundation.com).



3801 Eagle Nest Drive, Suite B  
Crete, IL 60417-1993

[BarnabasFoundation.com](http://BarnabasFoundation.com)  
1.888.448.3040

