

INHERITANCE CONUNDRUMS PARENTS FACE IN PLANNING

Of all the issues that affluent parents confront in planning, none consumes more time and emotional energy than that of inheritances—and for good reason. There is no area of planning that could be more devastating to a family than an ill-thought-out or ill-timed inheritance.

#1: The “Unready” Conundrum

Our children are not wise enough or mature enough to handle the inheritance we want them to have.

#2: The “Equal vs. Fair” Conundrum

We love our kids equally, so we want to treat them the same. However, some of our children really need more than others.

#3: The “Black Sheep” Conundrum

We have one child that is not living a lifestyle of which we approve. This significantly affects how we are able to plan for our “good” children.

#4: The “Family Dysfunction” Conundrum

Our children are extremely different and do not get along well. If we simply divide all our assets equally among them, serious family conflict will be inevitable.

#5: The “In-Laws/Out-Laws” Conundrum

Should we treat our in-laws the same as we do our own children? If they split up, we would not want our children to lose half of their inheritance to a divorce.

#6: The “Good Steward” Conundrum

We have tried to be good stewards of all the Lord has entrusted to us, but we are not sure that all our heirs will be good stewards of the Lord’s resources that we would like to pass on to them to manage for the Lord going forward.

#7: The “Generation Skipping” Conundrum

We would like to leave our grandchildren an inheritance, but we do not want to override the influence and control of their parents by giving an inheritance directly to them.

As you can see, these are all exceptionally complex issues and there are no quick fixes or boilerplate solutions. The good news is that everyone one of these conundrums can be very successfully addressed and overcome. However, to do so, it takes a commitment of time, prayer, and a number of very pointed, heart-to-heart conversations to enable you to come up with a well-thought-out, strategic, inheritance plan that will actually honor the Lord and bless your heirs.

A WORD FROM SOLOMON ABOUT INHERITANCES

*Wisdom along with an inheritance is good and an advantage to those who see the sun.
For wisdom is protection just as money is protection. (Ecclesiastes 7:11-12a).*

