

Grieving The Choices Our Children Make

By Fredda Jones on September 22, 2013 in When Grief Moves In



Some of the biggest burdens of grief come to us through our children and the choices they make in their lives. Obviously, if their poor choices come while they still live with us, we have no choice but to stand and fight for them. However, there are just times when there is not a lot we can do for our grown children as we stand by and watch them make the kind of choices that can very well ruin their lives and the lives of their own children.

That kind of grief is tough to handle, isn't it? I suppose it is because they come to us in such a sweet bundle, and we love them with everything that we have within us that is capable of feeling

love. At that point in our lives, it is completely impossible to picture that beautiful baby addicted to a substance, a law breaker, an inmate, an abusive father or mother, and the list of possibilities goes on and on. We just can't quite get our brains to move from that four-o'clock feeding to any of those horrible possibilities.

And then, almost overnight it seems, we wake to find that our sweet bundle is all grown up and free to make his own choices, no matter how we feel about it. Suddenly, we can feel completely adrift as we are forced to stand back and watch. I'm afraid I don't have any more answers to these situations than you do, especially once the purse strings are completely cut.

Do we support them no matter what?

Do we try the tough love angle?

Do we refuse to allow them in our homes as long as they are....whatever?

As for my own grown children, I'm never far from a prayer for them, their spouses, and their children. And I do know that whatever might come to them in their own lives, we have a God who is bigger than all of our worrying combined, and that is what parents have to hold to...if they know that God.

As I say so often, Hang In and Hang On, and if you need someone to help you kick the wall every now and then, I know people who are great at that very thing!