

**"We're Criticized Because of Our Gifts to the Grandkids!"**

**Q. It has been 2 1/2 years since my son told us off on the phone on Christmas Eve (after they got home) because he and his wife thought the gifts we gave our 4-year-old granddaughter were too young for her.**

**My husband and I were speechless. Accusations went back and forth for about a year, and there is no communication now. I sent my son a nice card a month ago, and he returned it unopened. I have called him two times in the last year, and asked if we could see the girls, and he said he would talk to his wife and call me back. He never called me back.**

**We went to our psychologist for about a year, but he said there wasn't much we could do at this point.**

**Anyway, my question is: Should we keep sending presents to our 2 granddaughters (now ages 7 and 9) even though we don't get a response or a thank you?**

**We don't send any more gifts to my son and daughter-in-law, and they don't send anything to us.**

**Do you think there is ever going to be reconciliation? Will I ever see my son again? We always were so close until this happened. His wife is very domineering and she told him it was her or us!! He said this in an email to my daughter. He had to make a choice!"**

**ANSWER: I guess it's a sign of the times that an adult child feels like he has the right to yell at his parents because he thinks the gifts that were given were too young for his child. This is a classic case of the child feeling like they have to choose between the parents and the spouse. Since he said he would talk to his wife, I would continue to reach out by phone and see if you can make any headway in that direction.**

**In general, parents should pursue whatever avenue of entry has worked in past, so if he has taken your call, then perhaps phone is the best method. I would empathize with him about his dilemma; let him**

know you don't want him to be in the middle and ask if there's anything you can do to reach out to his wife. If you haven't yet written some kind of letter of appeasement to the wife, I would do that too. Something like "We must have hurt you very badly for you not to want to see us. We are so sorry and really do want a closer relationship with you..." It can be a little nauseating for many parents, but you may have to do it if you want to see your kid and grandkids.