

## Family Life... My grandson wrecked the car I gave him

### **S i t u a t i o n :**

Last year when we decided to buy a new car, my wife and I talked it over and decided to give our old car to our grandson. JJ was in his second year of college and we thought we'd help him out. Well, three weeks ago, after having the it for six months, he's totaled the car and is back to having no transportation.

It's making me sick dwelling on the fact that a reasonably good vehicle that only had 57,000 miles on it when we gave it to him, worth at least a few thousand dollars, is now a heap of junk. How could he do something like that? He's so irresponsible and ungrateful. What are we supposed to do, buy him another car?

### **A n s w e r :**

*I'll answer your last question first – No you're not responsible for supplying JJ with another car. Notice I didn't give any reasons. None are necessary. Because when we get into looking for reasons, we get into rights and wrongs, blaming other people and justifying our actions. You are not responsible for buying anyone a vehicle.*

*As I read your note another important thought came to mind: When we give a gift, it is no longer ours. If I give someone a used computer and two months later they decide to buy a new one and give the used machine to someone else or the junk man – it's none of my business. Period. If someone gives you something you can't use, don't want or don't care for, it is your possession to do what you want with. You are not obligated to keep it or preserve it forever.*

*Just because JJ totaled the car, doesn't necessarily mean that he wasn't grateful for your gift. More than likely he was thrilled and very grateful. And I'll lay odds that he didn't have the accident on purpose – just to make you angry. He's probably just as sad as you are that he doesn't have it any more. Perhaps you're a little annoyed that he's moved beyond the incident and gone on with his life and you're still stuck in brooding about it.*

*Remember – we can't completely control anything that's outside of us and your sense of well-being is worth a lot more than an automobile.*