

Leaving a Legacy

May 17, 2008

Introduction

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.....so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

(Psalm 78:4,6-7)

“One of the biggest and most significant tasks facing the church today is to raise the next generation of strong believers. Is there a more pressing task than for us to leave behind an army of theologians—our own daughters and sons—stronger than we proved to be?” Carolyn James

“Legacy” - A gift ...something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past ... denotes something immaterial

“Giving birth and nurturing are two of the most profound and noble ways God enables women to glorify Him. Not every woman can give biological birth, but every Christian woman can enter the high calling of spiritual reproduction and motherhood.” Susan Hunt

I. The Mandate

Titus 2:1-5 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Titus 2 is “a passage for all seasons, speaking to women at every stage of life, from the very young all the way up to grandmothers....none of these things are cultural...they are timeless principles, wise priorities and precepts for living.”

Mary Farrar

A. "Spiritual Mothering": When a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory.

B. In Titus 2 there are two categories of women: older and younger. All of us fit into one of those categories. There will always be someone older than us that we can draw from and younger that we can help and encourage.

C. Our life purpose and reference point for all we do in our relationships should always be to glorify God. What does that mean?

> God is the reference point for all life.

> God's glory is the over-arching goal for all of life.

D. The command in Titus 2 to teach sound doctrine provides the foundation from which we can train younger women. Sound doctrine is essential for right thinking. Sound doctrine will produce the stability that is essential for spiritual mothering. This doesn't require theological experts or super saints, just women willing to be obedient to the command to model godly lives.

II. The Model

A. Establishing a nurturing relationship with someone

> Nurturing relationships don't just happen, they require hard work and wisdom.

"We all look for strategies or techniques that will free us from the pain of relationships and the hard work good relationships demand. If you want to enjoy any progress or blessing in your relationships it will require you to admit your sin humbly and commit yourself to the work they require." Paul Tripp

"God keeps us in messy relationships for his redemptive purpose. What happens in the messiness of relationships is that our hearts

are revealed, our weaknesses are exposed, and we start coming to the end of ourselves. Only when this happens do we reach out for the help God alone can provide. Weak and needy people finding their hope in Christ's grace are what mark a mature relationship"
Paul Tripp

"When two women join together in the study of God's Word, prayer, and praise, they enjoy an eternal bond that is possible only because of God's grace." Susan Hunt

- > Older women must be willing to let younger women look into their lives and learn from them. They must allow the young women a close-up view of God's grace in them and His faithfulness to them.

- > Younger women need to follow Mary's example and seek out older women who display evidences of God's grace and ask for their help to live for God's glory.

- > Older women should cultivate these relationships and make themselves available; reaching out to those they see are in need. But younger women need to take initiative and draw others out; resisting the temptation of pride to think that older women don't have anything to offer.

B. A nurturing relationship involves serving

- > Our purpose should not be our convenience, but God's glory.

- > Because of our sin nature, we are incapable of living anything other than a self-centered life apart from grace.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature

God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant... Philipians 2:3-7

III. The Method

A. We must have a Biblical world view

> When we have a biblical world view, our approach changes from “Come into my world Lord and make me happy” to “Father, show me how to go out into Your world and glorify You.”

“We must not allow the voices of the world to set the agenda for this decade, nor must we allow those voices to teach women how to be women.” Susan Hunt

“From all that I had read of history and government of human life and manners, I had drawn this conclusion, that the manners of women were the most infallible barometer to ascertain the degree of morality and virtue of a nation. The Jews, the Greeks, the Romans, the Swiss, the Dutch, all lost their public spirit and their republican forms of government when they lost the modesty and domestic virtues of their women.” John Adams

B. Humility must characterize our lives

“Humility is the displacement of self by the enthronement of God” Andrew Murray

“Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to be saying to us, “I am here Because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am drying. Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross that we shrink to our true size.” John Stott

> Humility is rugged obedience

“When we don’t take time to dwell on the power, beauty, holiness, awesomeness, and majesty of God, humility becomes a stranger, and pride becomes a raging force.” Gary Thomas

- A teachable spirit is an evidence of humility

*“Humility doesn’t demand mathematical precision from another’s input; humility postures itself to receive God’s grace from any avenue possible.”
C.J. Mahaney*

C. Encourage one another

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Encouragement: To inspire to continue on a chosen course; impart courage or confidence to; embolden; hearten. To give support to.

- > Encouraging and equipping are necessary for effectual spiritual mothering.

*“We mortify pride and cultivate humility by identifying evidences of grace in those around us. Only those who are humble can consistently identify evidences of grace in others who need adjustment. It’s something the proud and self-righteous are incapable of.”
C.J. Mahaney*

- > Encouragement is the context in which equipping can take place.
- > The foundation of the ministry of encouragement is the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.