

The Christ-Honoring Family, Part 13: The Legacy Family: In Laws, Grandparents, and Everyone Else: S Swartz
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Various Scriptures

In Joshua 24, Joshua recounts the works of the Lord in the establishment of Israel in the land. He charged the nation to put away their idols and serve Yahweh.

- We must pass along the code, ethics, and practices of a Christian home to the next generation and create a family legacy that honors the Lord.

1) **Responsibilities of the Older Generation (Father-In-Law, Mother-in-Law, Grandparents):**

Remember Gen. 2:24 does not break the covenant with children and parents to honor them and listen to them, it doesn't command leaving the parents and treating them as now unnecessary. It is changing from one covenant to another. Parents still are commanded to speak into the lives of their children.

- a. Prov. 6:20: Observe the commandment of your father, and do not abandon the law of your mother.
 - b. Prov. 23:22: Listen to your father who begot you and do not despise your mother when she is old.
 - c. Prov. 10:1: A wise son makes a father glad; but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.
 - d. Prov. 20:20: The lamp goes out in the darkness to the son who curses his father.
 - e. Prov. 23:25: Let your father and mother be glad and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.
- It is a worldly lie to have to either love and honor your spouse OR your parents.
 - a. Prov. 16:31: Gray hair is a crown of beauty; it is found in the way of righteousness.
 - b. Prov. 20:29: The majesty of old men is their gray hair.
 - c. Prov. 17:6: Grandchildren are the crown of old men; the beauty of sons is their fathers.
 - Adult Children: are to honor their parents. Adult Children: are one flesh when married. Therefore: because of being one flesh, both spouses honor their parents and their father and mother in laws.
 - It is summed up in one word: Influence. Influence grandchildren towards the Gospel.

2) **Responsibility of the Younger Generation:** 1) Both married and those with children, are to honor their parents and ask for help and guidance for life's issues and for them to teach their grandchildren God's word. 2) Son and daughter in laws listen to both sets of parents.

- Examples of how the younger generation treated the older generation:

- a. Matt. 10:35-36, Micah 7:5-6: Jesus condemns the younger generation for forsaking the values and holding the older generation in contempt and not listening to them as the younger generation disobeys the Lord.
- b. Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:16-18, Ruth clings to Naomi to honor her and Yahweh instead of returning to Moab.
- c. Esau, Gen. 26:34-35, marries two Hittite women instead of daughters of their relatives as Jacob did. The daughter-in-laws brought bitterness to Isaac and Rebekah.
- d. Peter cared for his mother-in-law, Matt. 8:14. Peter cared for her in his home and sent for Jesus to heal her.
- e. Moses respected Jethro. Ex. 18:10-11, Jethro believes in Yahweh. Ex. 18:17-18, Jethro gives counsel to Moses to establish judges to judge small matters of the people and to handle only the larger issues lest he be worn out by the work.

- **What about responsibilities of grandchildren:** honor increases with age. Deut. 4:5-9, Moses passes on the commands of Yahweh to them. They in turn (V9) are to pass them on to their children and grandchildren. Grandchildren are to be told of God and His commands as their legacy of a faithful God that saved them and cares for them.

- **What about everyone else:** Mark 10:29-30, God is gracious to believers to give them a family in this age and the one to come to those who gave up their family for His sake and the gospel. God is faithful to give us a family to serve and serve us.

- **How to leave a legacy:**

- a. Start now,
- b. Make a plan,
- c. Be intentional to ensure you leave a legacy.

Further Discussion and Application

There are so many different examples of families within the church. How should we listen to our in-laws and grandparents? What advice should we accept and what advice do we just listen and consider? How do we show them honor for their place in our lives? What are the attributes of a godly man or woman? How can we strive to possess those attributes to honor Christ and our parents?

Family issues are real and sometimes difficult in our lives. What should we be looking for in a spouse? What are the godly attributes of Christians who take the word of God seriously? How can young people have confidence in a man or woman that their salvation and love for God is lasting and real? How would they demonstrate their changed life? How would they treat their parents and other authorities in their lives?

What is the legacy of the older generation? What can they pass down to their children and grandchildren? How can money be a tool to help pass down values? How can experiences and stories be used to help convey the ultimate glory of the Gospel and salvation? What should the older generation teach the younger one? What will/should your legacy be?

One biblical response to the older generation teaching the younger generation is found in Titus 2. Paul tells Titus what to teach and demand in the churches. Titus 1:1 starts out, "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine." We are to speak the things that we have learned that are sound doctrine. Paul tells Titus to reject worldly wisdom and myths (1:13-16) and to teach the Scriptures God has given. How might you prepare short lessons on biblical truths such as: soteriology, eschatology, pneumatology, theology, Christology, ecclesiology, etc. to be able to share with the younger generations? When and how might you share that with them?