

Subject: Legacy - My Heroes

Text: Ephesians 6.1-4

Introduction

Legacy

Something handed down from an ancestor or predecessor or the past

Legacies

- **Repositories of stories, events, rituals, ceremonies and relationships that reveal how life was embraced.**
- **What strategies were employed for living, to cope with struggles.**
- **How priorities of time and love were appropriated**

Legacies Provide a Frame of Reference

- **Identity formation**
- **Connectedness**
- **Role models to emulate or avoid**
- **Life's Perspective**

Transition

There are so many times in my life in the ministry that I have to reach back to legacy, to my heritage for strength. You did not have the privilege of knowing my father. But I want you to know that he is my legacy. He is the gift of heritage to my life. I cannot count the number of times that I have had to reach back and take a chunk of that legacy to process decisions in my ministry. I think of my father as I stand here this Father's Day and think of how valuable that legacy has been to me.

Illustrate - Brother's Anniversary Sermon (All 3 for Dad)

A household in which moral
chaos rules is tragedy for the
child.

Mom + Dad in penitential prayer

Parental misuse of power - corrupt

Discipline dictated by selfish adults
Whom or even violence, or exploitation
of juvenile for parental gain,

Provoking anger (child discerns injustice)

Cruelty

Neglect

Sporting child for one's own convenience

list of parental M. ego's
But

Nurture in the discipline I must

nurture & admonition of the hard

defines the spirit in which parental discipline
be administered - not with harshness or unfairness

Principles of
Faith
Pattern for
behavior
should

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

Keep Reading

Parents, (Fathers) do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction.

Fathers

- Produce a Godly atmosphere, a greenhouse for these tender children, plants, to be born along to bear fruit.
- Do not bring them up hopeless and angry at the world - A child has a vivid sense of justice - A child expects maturity - a child is an amateur adult always pushing borders
- Bring them up in the discipline and instruction, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Teach/ otherwise they will be wanderers in the deserts of unbelief and loneliness of soul - left cursing their parents generation for not having filled in the blanks.
- Bring them up in the same environment that God would bring up all of His creation. Yes, provide them with the stones for building worldly success but do not neglect providing connecting them to the Bread of Life. Prison rates ages 20-31 NY Times 4/7/03 12% (28%) of Black men will be sent to prison..

THE ISSUE

Not whether we will build a LEGACY but what KIND OF LEGACY this applies to Grandparents and relatives .

I. The Pattern for Building a Godly Legacy

Step One - Building a godly legacy does not start with the kind of parent I am, it begins with

the person I am. Parenthood begins with PERSONHOOD. Personhood must be controlled by 'the spirit of God' that will determine who I am and how I relate to others. Ephesians 5.18

1. Emotions
2. Intellect
3. Bodies as Temple
4. Spirit

“Be filled with the Spirit”

The issue of life is not Credentials!

The issue of life is Character!

Personhood will then be poured into

- Partnership
- Partnership is poured into parenting

**Step Two Building a Godly Legacy – Family
Children – Obey**

Honor

Benefits (paybacks)

Parents

Provoke not

Nurture

Discipline

Teach

II. Godly Legacies Produce Heroes

- Think about the big heroes which flashed across the TV
- The Mayor of NY responding to 9-11
- President Cowboy Bush going after the “bad guys and make them pay for it.
- Sports”

But Where Do You Turn when the well runs dry? Do you know what many do as stated in the son? “I’m going to set right down and cry”

What do you Pull On when you come to the end of your rope? Where do you go? God sometimes forces us to our knees and to prayer. Some of us can go right to the Bible if we have been taught and can appropriate the words of comfort.

Some of us can reachback to LEGACY - HERITAGE.

- Reach back to take a chunk of that legacy and remember
- Reach back and learned to laugh

III. I Don't Have Much of a LEGACY

- You do in Heaven
- Our Father which Art in Heaven

God provided for all of us a
 Fathers, Father have 9
 Father,
 Father have heroes
 ✓ My Father watch over me
 ✓ One Father which art in Heaven
 ✓ Father remove this bitter
 cup

**PAGE(S)
MISSING**

OUR CHALLENGE TODAY

EACH of us is an inheritor of legacies.

**EACH of us is an investor in ON-COMING generations.
We are building a legacy that someone else might draw upon.**

Ephesians 6.1-4 (TEV) Today's English Version

Children, it is your Christian duty to **obey** your parents for this is the right thing to do.

"Respect (Honor) your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise added:

"So that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land.

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

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**Step Two Building a Godly Legacy – Family
Children – Obey
 Honor
 Benefits (paybacks)**

**Parents Provoke not
 Nurture
 Discipline
 Teach**

II. Godly Legacies

Produce Heroes

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