Legacy Passed Down Through the Generations

**Legacy** - Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. *Legacy is rooted in the past and based in conviction and heritage. It connects the future with the past in values, beliefs, even character. Legacy requires work to be passed on to the next generation to maintain its accuracy and relevance.*

We all inherited a legacy of some kind. It came to us through our parents and their parents and grandparents.

1. What legacy were you given? What got passed down to you from your parents?
2. What did you get from your grandparents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Security</th>
<th>Financial Debt</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith in Christ</td>
<td>Disbelief in Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong Work Ethic</td>
<td>Weak Work Ethic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tolerance and Understanding</td>
<td>Intolerance and Rigid Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of Education</td>
<td>Education is a Waste of Time</td>
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**The Legacy Pipeline:**

Grandparents ➔ Parents ➔ You ➔ Kids ➔ Grandkids

**Deut. 6:1&2 (NLT)** “These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.”

Moses was training the nation in God’s how to’s of legacy building. He was explaining in the land you are about to enter and occupy how to hand off, or that it was their responsibility.

**But it broke down** – How does the successful transfer of my relationship with God to others, including my family, break down?

**Dealing with Roadblocks in order to restore the Pipeline to Christian Legacy.**

**Roadblock #1** – The wrong truths and values are coming through the pipeline. I didn’t receive a Christian legacy form anyone.

- Nobody knew how to hand off, or that it was their responsibility.
- What was handed to me was not from Christ. It is hard to build on a foundation that does not exist. Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)

**Solution** - Emphasizing the truth and values of Christ and being in an accurate relationship with Him.

1. Fear Him – Deut. 6:2 (NLT)
2. Loving Him – Deut. 6:5 (NLT)
3. Obeying Him – Deut. 6:2&3 (NLT)

**Roadblock #2** – Or… the pipeline itself is broken. Relationships become damaged or disconnected

- By distance – Families are spread all over the country, and too busy to connect. Facebook? “That’s how I stay connected to my grandchildren.” Dan Lynch
- By disrespect - Parents don’t get it. Grandparents are “out of touch.” Kids are too “hip to be square.”
- By un-forgiveness – Unresolved conflict creates a barrier to communication and relationship.

**Solution** - Fixing the pipeline of relationship

**Younger Christians** – What can younger people do to tear down Legacy Roadblocks?

1. Start by honoring older people – Life value experience other than your own. Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 13:1(NLT)
2. Seek out older advice and input – In your family tree. In your church family. Proverbs 1:4&5 (NLT)
3. God is faithful – He provides a mentor mosaic of bits and pieces of more than one spiritual mentor in the church family. Matthew 12:46-50 (NLT)
4. Let go of the excuse that, “No one is investing in me – often it starts with you and your diligence.”

**Older Christians** – What can older people do to tear down Legacy Roadblocks?

1. Shift your focus away from your discomfort and doubt and onto Christ’s Kingdom and the families that are beginning the journey. Philippians 2:14-18 (NLT)
2. Lead by entering into the next generation’s world, before you expect them to come into yours. John 1:14 (NLT)
3. Earn the rite to be heard – Earn access into younger people’s lives
4. Avoid, “been there done that,” thinking. Accept the benefit that comes from relationships with younger Christians.
5. Put you’re yourself in the position to be asked, stop using “nobody is asking” as an excuse.
6. Don’t lecture and reminisce, but instead listen to their need and advise appropriately.

What do you do when you are the first Christian?

- Start with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who is the road to true legacy. Hebrews 12:1&2 (NLT) – Focus on Jesus
- The journey of legacy begins with you. Start the journey today; this Christmas can be the birth of your new journey, the beginning of a new lasting legacy. Joshua 24:14-17 (NLT)

1. What truths from the Bible are challenging you?
2. What are intentional ways you could use to pass the legacy of Christ to your immediate family? Your extended family? In your Church family?
3. What if your family is not interested or rejects Christ? How do you build bridges of relationship to family members who are not interested in Jesus?
4. How will you include both younger & older generations in your Christmas celebration?

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