

The Lasting Legacy of a Godly Grandparent

Psalm 78:1-8

As we have seen in our series on the family, today's culture presents a vastly different perspective on the family than does Scripture. This is certainly evident when it comes to the subject of grandparents. American culture presents four predominant themes about life and seniors which are contrary to Scripture:

1. Life is private and personal—what you do doesn't affect anyone else.
2. Live your life independent of your family—don't interfere, don't overstep, don't be a burden.
3. Be a companion and playmate to your grandchildren—spoil the grandkids.
4. You've worked hard, now it's time to enjoy yourself—live a life of indulgence – rest, travel, play.

Psalm 78:1-8 explains that *the task of every generation is to raise up a godly witness in the next generation*. A godly person can have a lasting impact not only on their children, but on their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A godly grandparent can leave a lasting legacy.

- God has spoken and revealed his plans (5a)
- Truth is to be shared (1-4)
 - Take what you have heard and known (3)
 - Who God is and what he has done (4b)
 - Don't hide it, but tell it to others (4a)
 - That they might know the details (6a)
 - And in turn, tell it to others (6b)
- Maintain a vision of long-term impact (3-6)

Our fathers (3, 5b)

Their children (us) (3, 5b)

Coming generation / children yet unborn (grandchildren) (4a, 6)

Their children (great-grandchildren) (4b, 6b)

- The goal of instruction is changed lives (7-8)
 - Place hope in God (7a)
 - Not forget what God has done (7b)
 - Obey God's commands (7c-8)

- An illustration of what happens when the process breaks down
 - Ephraim forgot God and bailed out in the day of battle (9-11)
 - History of Israel from the Exodus to King David (12-72)

Principles to Practice

- Continue to grow deeper in your relationship with God
 - Deuteronomy 4:9; Psalm 92:14; Proverbs 16:31

- Live a godly life
 - Titus 2:1-3a

- Don't pass on your sins to the next generation
 - Exodus 34:6-7

- Teach and mentor the next generation
 - Psalm 78:5-6; Titus 2:3b-8

- Leave a legacy for your children and grandchildren
 - Financial – Proverbs 13:22
 - Blessing – Genesis 48
 - Godly example – 2 Timothy 1:5

“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”

Billy Graham