

## **#1 - INTRODUCTION**

### **I. Recap**

1. The Mandate to Image Bear
2. The Mandate to not be alone
  - i. Gift of singleness...but are still parents in the church.
  - ii. Which makes Legacy a series for everyone here this morning.
3. The Mandate to be fruitful & multiply

### **II. Our Parenting is Shaped**

1. Youth Ministry perspective
2. I read a story this week, that reminded me of my own experience with a former student: Robin
  - i. Gender Reassignment is really about Identity Reassignment
  - ii. But this is not the only way identity reassignment can happen.
  - iii. Because parenting is always shaped by identity

➔ **BIG IDEA:** If you are not resting in your Legacy in Jesus, you will make your children your Legacy. And that is a life-taking legacy.



## #2 - WHY A LEGACY OF IDENTITY MATTERS

### I. Mandating a Legacy of Identity

#### 1. Blessings & Curses

(1) Two legacy principles this morning:

**Deu. 11:1-2a, 13b, 16:** *"You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it)...to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul...take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them..."*

- i. Covenant keeping is about identity: worship
- ii. Covenant keeping has implication beyond yourselves: legacy

**Deu. 11:18-19a:** *"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children..."*

(2) **Image:** Sign on your hand and Frontlets between your eyes

- i. **Eyes:** what is your vision for your kids. what do you dream about for them? If this has to do w/ the eyes...what is hanging around your house? Trophies, images, etc. These are clues to your children about what matters in this house and they are building an identity around it.
- ii. **Hands:** what do you want your kids doing? What activities and academics to you intend to enroll them in? What priority will they fill in your calendar?

(3) This exercise can give you clues about where you find your identity and where you want your kids to find their identity.

- i. Do not make the mistake of thinking that you can just pray or hope your identity reassignment issues will skip a generation, unconflicted and un-dealt with.

**Deu. 11:26-28:** *"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known..."*

(4) Your legacy will be a blessing or a curse.

- i. It will be a blessing because you gave them the Gospel
- ii. Or a curse, because you gave them a moving target

**Heb. 13:8:** *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

### II. Mistaking a Legacy of Identity

#### 1. Ineffective and Unfruitful Legacy

(1) What is the biggest threat to your leaving a legacy that's blessing to those that come after us, rather than curse?

- i. Identity!

**2 Peter 1:8-9:** *"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective** or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."*

(2) A Christian can become ineffective and unfruitful because they forgot who they are and what you have been given.

- i. Implication: Ineffective or unfruitful parenting are the results of identity reassignment.

- ii. Why? Because identity amnesia (forgetting) will always result in identity replacement (your kids)?

## 2. Three Things About This

- (1) This is natural to do, hard to fight
- (2) Parenting is a miserable place to look for identity
- (3) It is crushing burden for your children or those who come after you

## 3. Three Ways We Do This

- (1) Reliving past successes
- (2) Recovering past failures
- (3) Recycling past curses
  - i. Remember what I said last week: there are things you are doing, saying and teaching to your kids right now...they you believe without a doubt are a blessing to be received...when in fact they are a curse to be repented of.
  - ii. The people who struggle w/ their parents the most, end up just like them more often than not.
  - iii. Why? Because starting from a place of "aversion" is not a strong enough foundation for change: "What I don't want to be".
  - iv. Parents who hurt you that you are over-compensating in your kids with. And everyone is telling you how good your kids are and how amazing your parenting is...but you know you're over-compensating, and maybe not now, but someday that little angel of yours is going to say "enough"!
  - v. Even w/ good and Godly parents, they undoubtedly passed down things they didn't intend to that you're recycling.

**Deu. 5:9:** *"You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me..."*

**2 Corinthians 10:5:** *"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..."*

- vi. We need to destroy every argument and every lofty opinion: every philosophy, worldview, parenting expert...and yes...even things our parents handed down to us that seem wise and good...if any of it raises itself against the knowledge of God and living from an identity that finds its living and being in Jesus alone.

## III. Recovering A Legacy of Identity

### 1. The Power To Recover

- (1) Right now...everyone in this room needs to commit to the daily work of knowing the Gospel, preaching the gospel, and living from the Gospel...not just for our sake, but those who come after us.
  - i. We need to pray for the power to do this.

**2 Peter 1:3-4:** *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."*

- (2) Peter is not talking about salvation past or future; but the work of God for you right here, right now.



- i. Not matter what has happened, will happen or is happening to your kids, right now...you can wake up every day and know that you are deeply and faithfully loved by the most important person in the universe.
  - ii. He will never forsake you in your struggle as a parent.
- (3) We need to ask right now, right here...and everyday hereafter, for the power to identify the signs of identity reassignment to our children.

### #3 - SIGNS OF PARENTAL IDENTITY REASSIGNMENT

#### I. Too Much Focus On Success

1. We all want our children to succeed and do well in life.
  - i. To achieve and be respected
2. All parents want their children to try harder and accomplish more
3. But could it be that you want your children to succeed because you need your children to succeed.
  - i. not just kids, those that come after us: ex. Lead Deacons
4. Sometime the resistance we get from our kids is not that they're rebellious and lazy...but because we're asking too much of them.
5. What would it look like to pay less attention to their achievements, and more attention to their hearts?
  - i. Grades example: Coleman's
6. We have to be careful, because a focus on success can be very spiritually unhealthy because this focus is rooted in asking those that come after us to give us a satisfaction of heart that they will never be able to give.

#### II. Too Much Concern About Reputation

1. Trophy wives. What about trophy kids?
2. Write this down...tape it to your mirror:
  - i. God didn't give you your children to build your reputation, but to publicly proclaim His.
3. Identity reassignment leaves us all too worried about what others think about us and what we are doing.
4. It makes us want to present our children to the world as more perfect than we really are:
  - i. Why doesn't anyone take an Instagram photo of their kids throwing a tantrum? Disobeying? Punching their sister?
  - ii. Maybe you're thinking: I don't struggle w/ that...what if you're causing others to?
5. When you are too concerned about your public face as a parent, you don't seek the help you need with your kids...because of two reasons:
  - i. Saving face/reputation
  - ii. Others are threat to your hope and dreams for your children
6. It never works to treat a child, who is still broken and needs to be daily rescued by grace, as your trophy.



### III. **Too Much Desire For Control**

1. Follow the logic: if you need your kids to succeed...and if you treat your kids as trophy...all because you have reassigned your identity to them...then you are going to need to control all the situations, locations, and people to ensure that end.
2. There is huge difference between proper parental authority and a desire to control their lives in such a way, that you can ensure you get from them what you think you need.
3. Under this system of control:
  - i. Kids don't have the freedom to make mistakes
  - ii. learn how to evaluate choices
  - iii. decide between options
  - iv. develop a reasonable schedule
  - v. discern whether they're overcommitted (more on that in a minute)
  - vi. learn how to leave time for a healthy relationship with God and others
  - vii. how to see their own identity reassignment (when they become you're identity, you become theirs).
  - viii. This come into play with their career decisions, dating decisions, who they choose to marry, how the wedding will be planned, when they should have kids, how to parent their own kids... the list is endless.
4. Could your control actually be in the way of your child's growth and development?
  - i. Bedtimes?
5. Could it be your anxiety as parent come from a failure to recognize you don't have the power to control the things you're trying to control?
6. Could it be your quest for parenting control has kept you from resting in the perfectly wise control of Jesus over you and your children?

### IV. **Too Much Emphasis On Activity (Doing), Rather Than Identity (Being)**

1. Follow the logic again: if you need your kids to succeed...and if you treat your kids as a trophy... you're going to exercise too much control...and therefore, emphasize activity over identity.
2. What your children need is not the glory of unmitigated busyness to keep them happy...because it's really about keeping you happy...what they need is freedom from bondage to self-glory so that you can enjoy the freedom of living for the glory of another's agenda....not their own.
  - i. Could it be the focus on physical, social, and educational activities has prevented a life of shepherding and focusing on hearts?
  - ii. Could it be that your focus on what you want them to do has put you in the way of who God wants them to be?
  - iii. Could it be what you value for their time, is not what God values?

### V. **Too Much Temptation To Make It Personal**

1. When you need your children to succeed...when you treat them as your trophies...when you desire to begin control...when you focus too much on activity...finally, you will personalize what is not personal.
2. What this means is, the concern subtly shifts from how their behavior is reflective of an identity problem...to how their behavior affects you.



- i. "How could you they do this to me?"
- 3. It simply devastates a relationship to make something personal, that is not personal.
  - i. Forming narratives
  - ii. e.g. kitchen mess "after all I do for you, this is how you leave the kitchen". follow the logic.
  - iii. Causes us to accuse those we love of intentions they didn't really have.
- 4. Could it be that tension ha been cause in your relationships because you tend to personalize what is not personal?
- 5. Could it be that your desire to get things from your children has caused you to take personal offense at things that are not personal?
- 6. Could it be that in important parenting moments your tendency to take offense has causes you to stand against your children in certain circumstances than stand with them in the decisions or sin?
- 7. Could it be that taking personal offense has cause you to respond with anger to what God is calling you to meet with grace?

## #4 - CONCLUSION

### I. Leaving a Legacy Worth Leaving: Identity

1. We begin with a legacy of identity, because everything else in this series flows from that.

### II. Final Gospel Questions:

1. Close your eyes:
  - i. Isn't good to know that God's presence with us and provision for us are so full, faithful, and complete that we really do come to our rental calling with everything we need to be what he's called us to be and to do what he's called us to do?
  - ii. Isn't it good to know that because Jesus gives us life overflowing, we are freed from looking for life from our children or anywhere else?
  - iii. Isn't it good to know that because we are the children of God, we have reason to continue even on our worst, most disastrous parenting day?
  - iv. Isn't it good to know that as Jesus fully satisfies your heart, you don't have to ask your kids to provide that satisfaction?
2. It really is the completeness of the work of Jesus, for you and through you, that frees you from coming to your parenting tasks needy, exhausted, and discouraged, asking your children to give you what they will never be able to give.
3. The question this morning is: "Are you experiencing that wonderful freedom as a parent?"

➔ **BIG IDEA:** If you are not resting in your Legacy in Jesus, you will make your children your Legacy. And that is a life-taking legacy.

