

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS #9

Restoring Generational Connections Part 2

Introduction

I want to continue our teaching on “Ask for the Old Paths” with Part 2 of our message on “Restoring Generational Connections”.

What do I mean by ‘Restoring Generational Connections’?

Restoring “Generational Connections” is the task of recovering spiritual continuity between the generations. In a godly nation, it applies to the State as well as the Church.

We hope to show you how...

Most of our problems today, in the Church and in the Nation, are the result of generational disconnection!

Why has the Church had so little impact on the culture and our country is in crisis? The Bible tells us no curse comes without a cause.

The curse has come upon us because of the disconnection between this generation and the generations gone before us.

Many of our modern American churches have disconnected from the faith of our fathers and the rich legacy from the pulpits of the past.

We have a new generation of ‘woke’ politicians who have totally disconnected themselves from our founding fathers and the biblical principles in our founding documents. The bad news is that these generational disconnections have brought a curse.

The good news is that God Himself has promised to perform this very thing before the 2nd coming of Christ...

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the

children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Vine's Expository Dictionary

"Turn"

To return or go back; to bring back; to move back to the point of departure; to return along a path already traveled.

Review

There are 7 things we need to know about Restoring Generational Connections. We covered 4 of the 7 points last week.

7 Point Preview

- **God acts and thinks generationally/covenantally**
 - **Generational disconnection bring God's curse**
 - **Generational connection brings God's blessings**
- **Generational connections depend upon remembering our history**

Tonight I want to take our entire time just to cover Point #5...

Theme for Tonight

Generational Connections can only succeed where there is honor and will always fail where there is dishonor.

Dishonor or lack of honoring brings a break in generational connections. So restoring honor is the key to restoring our generational connections.

I. Generational Connections Succeed By Honor And Fail Because of Dishonor

A. What is 'Honor'?

1. We need to begin with a definition of 'honor'.

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

Honor is a biblical term for respect, esteem, or high regard. It appears nearly 150 times in the English Bibles.

a. 150 times??? The fact that pastors never preach on proves why we have a problem in the culture. Much of the Church has no clue about the biblical importance and meaning of honor.

2. The Hebrew root word for honor is...

Honor (Kabhod)

**To be heavy; to give weight to or give glory to.
Easton's Bible Dictionary**

a. Example: My phone rings but I'm in a meeting so I might let it go to voicemail; but when I see it's Elizabeth, I always answer because I honor her call above all others. I feel a heavy responsibility to honor her call.

b. The same is true of voices; I hear many voices but I honor God's voice above all other voices. His voice is 'heavy' and 'weighty' to me.

c. God commands us to honor Him with our money...

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

(When payday comes, there are many voices making a demand on my money; whose voice is 'heaviest' is determined by whom I honor most)

3. Notice that another English word for 'kabhod' is 'GLORY'. To honor God is to give glory to God. Honor and glory are connected!

a. Everybody wants the glory to fall on the church; but God's glory won't fall on a church that dishonors its fathers and the faith once delivered to the saints.

b. Everybody wants the glory to fall on America; but God's glory won't fall on a nation that dishonors the faith of its founding fathers.

c. Honor is underrated today.

The Biblical Illustrator

The Hebrew word for 'honor' is a very strong word that means 'to load with honor' and is often used in reference to God. The most practical expression of honor is obedience, but 'kabod' strikes deeper than mere obedience -- it touches the heart and the affections, a reverence inwoven in one's very nature.

4. Honor is a revelation in our hearts that goes beyond lip service.

Isaiah 29:13 NLT

Therefore the Lord said: "These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me..."

5. We have plenty of people in the church honor God with their lips but have no heart for His Lordship; we have plenty of people in Washington who honor America with their lips but have set their hearts to overthrow her.

6. Honor is a matter of the heart and it does not come to us naturally. Honor must be taught. Honor must be learned. And it begins in the Christian home.

B. Honoring the Previous Generation Begins In The Home

1. Let's look at the 5th of the 10 commandments...

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

2. The late great Bible scholar Arthur Pink points out why this is the 5th of the 10 commandments:

Arthur W. Pink

"The order of the Commandments is most significant. The first 4 (commandments) concern human responsibility toward God; the last 6 (commandments) concern our obligations toward man. The 5th bridges the two, for in a certain sense, parents occupy the place of God to their children."

a. God gave Moses the 10 commandments on 2 tablets.

- b. The first 4 commandments are our obligations toward God
- c. The last 6 commandments are our obligations toward men
- d. The 1st commandment in each of the 2 tables is about HONOR!

- You shall have no other Gods before Me is to honor God above all gods
 - Honor your father and mother

3. The cornerstone of all the commandments is the 1st commandment; break that one, it's all over! But the same thing could be said of the 5th commandment; if you don't learn in the home to 'honor your father and mother', you won't learn to honor others!

- You will lie to them; you will steal from them; you will covet what they have for yourself; you might even kill them.

4. Most parents, even many *Christian* parents, fail to see themselves as God sees them; as the very representative of God Himself to their children!

Arthur Pink

In a certain sense, parents occupy the place of God to their children.

a. I'm not saying they are God! But they are the 1st expression of God children have. Listen to the wise words of our Puritan forefathers...

The Biblical Illustrator

The relationship in which we stand to our parents is a relationship based upon the fact that *we owe our existence to them, that we are made in their image, that for so long a time we depend on them for the actual maintenance of life, and that, as the necessary result of all this, we are completely under their authority during childhood.* This relationship is naturally made the highest symbol of our relationship to God Himself.

The Biblical Illustrator

The parent is God's means by which God imparts life, the human channel through which Divine life creates. The parent is the shrine of Divine power working creatively. The parent, therefore, as the secondary author of life, is to

the child a representative of God. In the mysterious law of life, the link between the child and God is the parent.

5. When a baby is born, the first face it sees are father and mother's. Long before they can come to know God, they know their father and mother; and before a child can come to honor God, it must learn to honor father and mother!

6. If Christian parents could see themselves this way, much would change.

Adam Clarke

For a considerable time parents stand *as if in the place of God* to their children, and therefore rebellion against their lawful commands has been considered as rebellion against God.

7. These may sound like strong words in a permissive culture where parents have increasingly tolerated rebellion and insubordination and allow themselves to be dishonored by their children.

- The Romans equated honoring parents with honoring the Law. How a child relates to the parents determines how the child will relate to the laws of the land.

a. Whatever we see in our culture is an *extrapolation* of what is being taught in our homes. Rebellion against authority and the dishonoring of parents *begins* in the home. But it does not *stay* in the home.

The Biblical Illustrator

When the corruption of man's manners moves from personal to universal, so as to diffuse and spread itself over a whole community, it naturally and directly leads to the ruin and subversion of the government wherever it prevails.

The Biblical Illustrator

Children are not our own. They are a stewardship given us by God. Children are the future inhabitants of the world. Hence the world will be, to a certain extent, what we make the children.

8. We're not living in a lawless culture for nothing; the looters have no respect for the law and the police because they never learned to honor and respect their parents.

C. Training In Honor is Our Obligation to the Younger Generation

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

1. Notice that parents are commanded to *train* their children.

The Biblical Illustrator

It is implied in the text that there is no tendency in a child to walk in the right way, and if we leave him to himself he will be sure to walk in the wrong. Almost from the moment of the child's birth parents discover in the infant the elements of pride, revenge, and self-will.

2. New born babies seems so innocent! But left to grow on their own they soon exhibit behaviors that confirm the Bible's teaching on the nature of the flesh.

The Biblical Illustrator

The whole human family has descended from the loins of Adam and is tainted with his impurity. We are all born under the power of sin. The tendency to sin is often exhibited in the child because it is constitutionally a sinner, and the uninterrupted development of its nature will necessarily be a growth in sin.

3. The 5th Commandment implies that a child's greatest sin is to dishonor its parents; through Disobedience, Back talk, Rebellion

4. Left to themselves, dishonoring parents will come naturally to a child; and even the world knows that honor must be taught to a child.

Dr. William R. Klemm, Psychology Today, 9/13/17

No one is born honorable. Children are naturally dishonorable. Honor needs to be taught early in a child's life.

5. But notice that we are commanded to 'train up' our children, not just teach them. There is a difference between teaching and training.

a. There can be teaching without training, which means you must put into action the things you are teaching.

b. When you go into the military you go to Basic Training, not Basic teaching; when you try to learn a job you need On The Job *Training*, not on the Job *teaching*. And the oldest training school is still the best—the school at home.

c. God has ordered the home as the foundation of everything.

6. Testimony: I have tried to help pastor people through many problems over many years; but the hardest problems are in the home.

Dallin H. Oaks

We sense the importance of these relationships when we realize that our greatest experiences of joy or pain in this life come from the members of our own families.

7. There is no greater joy to a parent than an obedient child who honors and obeys them. But one rebellious teenager can hold a whole family hostage.

8. Many parents seem to feel helpless in some situations; they don't realize that God has given them the power to train their children.

The Biblical Illustrator

I would say not to little children, “Be obedient to your parents,” but rather to parents, “Make your children obedient.” It is all in your power. If you indulge your little ones in little irreverence's and little disobediences because it looks 'so wise' to your foolish friends, then you will have your little disobedient children grow to be big disobedient children, and they will bring down your grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

9. I would insert a personal opinion here; many American parents overindulge their children with privileges they have not earned through consistently honoring and obeying their parents. Today...

- Children in grade school demand smart phones because everyone has one
- Children demand driver's licenses as soon as they're legally old enough

The Biblical Illustrator

Beware, how in your anxiety to have your boy a man before the time, you consent to his consequential swagger at sixteen, and furnish him with a night-key as a help to independence. But you may be destroying the bonds of dutiful humility and respectful submission with which God bound him to you to preserve.

10. Overindulging children before they have consistently demonstrated obedience and honor for their parents produces what I call an “unappreciative” generation.

Unappreciative

**To have a lack of appreciation for the quality or value of something.
To be thankless. To take for granted. To be unhonoring.
Collins English Dictionary**

11. An unappreciative generation fails to value its heritage or the generations gone before.

a. This is what I see when professional football players, who make millions of dollars, refuse to stand for the national anthem of the only nation on earth where they could be who they are. Like...

Olympian Gwen Berry

“The National Anthem doesn’t speak for me. It never has.”

b. I thought, “Well, if you’re not in the Olympics for love of country, you must be there just for the love of yourself!”

c. These pathetic people tell us they are protesting for justice. But actually they’re cursing the country that gave them birth because they see themselves as morally superior.

Proverbs 30:11-12

**There is a generation that curses its father and does not bless its mother.
There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes yet is not washed from its
filthiness.**

12. Let me come at this another way; If you won't train up a child into honor and obedience for the peace and sanity of your own home, for your sake, do it for the child's sake. If we fail to train up a child into honor, they will end up bringing curses upon themselves!

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocks his father and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pluck it out and the young eagles shall eat it.

a. If this sounds harsh, you need to know that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself confirms the curse on those who dishonor their parents.

Matthew 15:4

For God commanded, 'Honor your father and mother, and he who curses father or mother, let him be put to death'.

13. Dishonoring parents disconnects the generations and brings a curse; on the other side, honor brings a blessing.

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother. Then you will live a long, full life *in the land* which the Lord your God is giving you.

a. Notice that the promise attached to the Commandment is a promise of prolonged national stability. If reverence for parents is blotted out, life neither at the beginning nor the end is safe. What is the true wealth of a nation? Is it not patriotic men and virtuous women? But family life alone can produce these; the family life which is overshadowed by a sense of God.

The Biblical Illustrator

Obedience at home is the spirit which expands into the fine feeling for the sanctity of law. Parental honor develops into loyalty to the Queen and reverence for the constitution. The love of home and its dear ones grows big with the love of country and with the self-sacrificing energies of patriotism.

The Biblical Illustrator

But so it is also that the decline of home life, the loss of parental feeling and respect, is the sure precursor of national decline. Loyalty, reverence, faith -- lose these, and the soul is lost out of the body politic. Its very heart and strength are gone when these are gone. Such are the fruits of the home.

b. President Donald Trump understood the connection between honor-training in the home and patriotism.

President Donald Trump

We believe that children should be taught to love our country and honor our history, and always respect our great American flag.

14. The task of training the next generation is upon the present generation.

III. Close

Theme for Tonight

Generational Connections can only succeed where there is honor and will always fail where there is dishonor.

A. God Will Send An Elijah Ministry To Restore Generational Connections

1. God is calling us to bring a generation back to the old paths!

Isaiah 58:12 NASB

And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.

2. The gauntlet is on the ground-God is looking for those who will pick it up!

Dutch Sheets

Let it be said of our generation that when our nation teetered on the edge of destruction, having lost the ancient path of truth, that we answered the Divine call to war for its restoration.

Closing Prayer/Title

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Reconnecting with our Christian roots will block the Socialist movement

Curtis Bowers, interviewed by Jim Garlow on World Prayer Network 10/29/2021

“The obstacle for those desiring to shift America to a socialist nation, has been its Christian roots. America’s moral structure, as a result of its Judeo-Christian foundation, has made it very challenging to shift. Lovers of God know we have freedom in Christ as we live to please Him. Living morally for Him has led to a very blessed nation—and the whole world has known it.”

God trusts parents who command their children to keep the way of the Lord.

Genesis 18:17-19

And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

I thank God my parents taught me HONOR early.

EXPRESSIONS OF HONOR

- **Obedience-The highest form of honor is obedience; if I honor God, I obey God; if I honor my parents I obey my parents; if I honor my employer I play by the rules. (But there are other expressions of honor)**
- **Listening/Paying attention/Punctuality**
 - **Using titles, (Mr., Mrs., ‘Yes sir’, ‘Yes, ma’am’; ‘Your honor’), known as ‘honorifics’**

This message on honor runs deep in my soul.