

Unpopular Opinion April 2, 2023

Abundant Life in a Broken World

We believe the Bible is our foundation, absolute truth; that Jesus is Truth

John 14:1 TPT “Don’t worry or surrender to your fear. For you’ve believed in God, now trust & believe in Me also. 2 My Father’s house has many dwelling places. If it were otherwise, I would tell you plainly, because I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And when everything is ready, I’ll come back & take you to Myself so that you’ll be where I am. 4 And you already know the way to the place where I’m going.” 5 Thomas said to Him, “Master, we don’t know where you’re going, so how could we know the way there?” 6 Jesus explained, “I am the Way, I am the Truth & I am the Life. **No one** comes next to the Father except through *union w/ me...*”

God’s Word is His perfect, ultimate, external authority; absolute Truth.

God is who He is. He’s not who you want Him to be.

When we lose sight of Truth, we lose sight of God. Feelings, being nice & sweet, not offending, & tolerance becomes the priority.

GOD’S VISION OF BIBLICAL FAMILY LEGACY

Deuteronomy 6:1 These are the commands, decrees, & regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you’re about to enter & occupy, 2 & you & your children & grand-children must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all His decrees & commands, you’ll enjoy a long life. 3 Listen closely, Israel, & be careful to obey. Then all will go well w/ you, & you will have many children in the land flowing w/ milk & honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. 4 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You must love the Lord your God w/ all your heart, all your soul & all your strength 6 You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I’m giving you today. 7 Repeat them again & again to your children. Talk about them when you’re at **home** & when you are on the road, when you’re going to bed & when you’re getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands & wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your **house** & on your gates.

These instructions were not given to the church. They were given to parents; to families; this is our individual responsibility!

Many families are broken, hurt, fearful, lost, empty, restless, aimless, hopeless...Families must be built on the absolute Truth of Jesus & His Word

Joshua 24:15b *...But as for me & my family, we will serve the Lord.*

Matthew 7:24 “Anyone who listens to My teaching & follows it (*does it*) is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the **rain** comes in torrents & the **floodwaters** rise & the **winds beat** against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock (*founded on the Rock*).”

***God doesn't build you up to tear you down.
When God builds your house, it is built to last for a long time.***

Proverbs 24:3 A house is built by wisdom & becomes strong through good sense. 4 Through knowledge its rooms are filled w/ all sorts of precious riches & valuables.

Generational Thinking - Bigger than just our children or grandchildren, God wants generations who will serve Him!

Proverbs 13:22a NASB A good person leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren (**MSG - A good life** gets passed on to the grandchildren)

A legacy is something that is passed down, it's your mark. The life you live will determine the legacy you leave. Be on purpose/intentional!

Psalm 78:3 TPT We've heard true stories from our fathers about our rich heritage. We will continue to tell our children & not hide from the rising generation the great marvels of our God- His miracles & power that have brought us all this far. 5 The story of Israel is a lesson in God's ways. He established decrees for Jacob & established the law in Israel, & He commanded our forefathers to teach them to their children. 6 For **perpetuity** (*all time*) God's ways will be passed down from one generation to the next, even to those not yet born. 7 In this way, *every generation* will set its hope in God & not forget His *wonderful* works but keep His commandments. 8 By following His ways they will break the past bondage of their fickle fathers, who were a stubborn, rebellious generation & whose spirits strayed from the eternal God. They refused to love Him w/ all their hearts.

Don't waste any more years of your life! You're leaving a legacy, one way or another! Stop repeating generational bad habits, traditions, cultures, curses and start living for a Kingdom legacy today. It's time to break free from your past & think Kingdom, think big & long term!

Psalm 44:1 MSG We've been hearing about this, God, all our lives. Our fathers told us the stories their fathers told them...

Psalm 71:17 TPT From my childhood You've been my teacher, & I'm still telling everyone of Your miracle-wonders! 18 God, now that I'm old & gray, don't walk away. Give me grace to demonstrate to the next generation all Your mighty miracles & Your excitement, to show them Your magnificent power!

***Start building your life and legacy now.
Legacy is built now, but experienced later.***

Psalm 112: 1 TPT Shout in celebration of praise to the Lord! Everyone who loves the Lord & delights in Him will cherish His words & be blessed beyond expectation. 2 Their descendants will be prosperous & influential. Every generation of the righteous will experience His favor. 3 Great blessing & wealth fills the house *of the wise*, for their integrity endures forever. 4 Even if darkness overtakes them, sunrise-brilliance will come bursting through...

9 Never stingy & always generous to those in need, they lived lives of influence & honor that will never be forgotten, for they were full of good deeds...

We've all got a past, we all have a story of our home life...

We all have past hurts, abuses, and pains – maybe you had divorce, anger, drugs, adultery, physical abuse, sexual abuse, silence, depression, unforgiveness, bitterness, and resentment, etc.

2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Leave your negative past, negative parents, negative relationships, worldly expectations, selfish ambitions, bad habits...

Wipe the slate clean, many of us need to start a new family tree.

“Get over it” “Find your inner child and spank him!”

People around you are going to be blessed because you're breaking free from your past and thinking Kingdom minded.

Everything you do from now on is going to make a major, positive, spiritual impact for generations to come.

Remember how you started, but focus on how you finish!

What does your family look like in 2030?

****Get a new VISION/DREAM for your family** (maybe only in one area)

*Stir up a dream, a desire, a what if, a wish, a hope...dare to dream!

*Phil. 4:13 you can change! You can do all things through Christ...

*If you're gonna HAVE something different, you're gonna have to DO something different. You can do it!

*Make a family legacy more important than anything except Jesus.

*Create a spiritual environment in your home and keep it fun.

*The presence of the Lord must be a part of the atmosphere.

*Daily prayer, praise and Godly discussion, keep the Lord in your home.

*Changing is hard work! You can do it!

*It takes a lot of time, energy, sometimes money, etc.

*You have to invest in your life – education, books, CDs, DVDs, websites, seminars, conferences, classes, counseling, friends, etc.

YOU are responsible to create a spiritual home, a family legacy.

The church is here to help reinforce what you're already doing at home.

Let's normalize faithful marriage & the sanctity of the family unit.

Be part of the solution, & make a difference.

Men, go home and make some memories with your wife and kids.

God doesn't want you to live to work but work to live.

Malachi 2:15 MSG God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage w/in you. Don't cheat on your spouse. 16 "I hate divorce," says the God of Israel.

He seeks Godly offspring. Raise our children to live a vibrant faith, a life changing faith. Raise disciples of Christ.

Christians are called to be more than just lazy consumers.

Fight to make our homes a place of growth & production, not just consumption & entertainment.

Busy w/ activities, entertainment vs. time given to Biblical spirituality.

Psalm 127:3 MSG Don't you see that children are God's best gift, the fruit of the womb, His generous legacy? 4 Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. 5 Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don't stand a chance against you; you'll sweep them right off your doorstep.

Psalm 128: 3 MSG Your wife will bear children as a vine bears grapes, your household lush as a vineyard, the children around your table as fresh & promising as young olive shoots. 4 Stand in awe of God's Yes. Oh, how He blesses the one who fears God! 5 Enjoy the good life in Jerusalem every day of your life. 6 And enjoy your grandchildren...