

INTENTIONAL LEGACY – Part 1



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Homework Assignment

Explain the difference between Mantel and Legacy?

What does pass the mantle mean?

The mantle was originally a cape worn simply to ward off the cold. **The mantle** was first mentioned in the Old Testament, as a garment worn by several prophets including Elijah and Elisha. In **2 Kings 2:11–14**, the **mantle** passing from Elijah the prophet, to Elisha, his successor, symbolizes the passing of prophetic authority: And it came to **pass**, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold ...

1. Money or property given to another by will.
2. Something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past: *a legacy of religious freedom*. See Synonyms at **heritage**.

*“Pray that God will use you to accomplish His purpose. **1 Chronicles 4:18** NKJV. Jabez wanted to be pain free for his name means pain.” – JFK*

Leaving a legacy for others to follow is part of what drives me. I followed others who went before me; they left a legacy for me. Now, I am making sure that those who come after me will have a trail to follow as well. You see, leaving a legacy is important.

Think about those who left a legacy for us to follow and for you specifically:

- Your parents
- Your grandparents
- Your aunts and uncles
- Your schoolteachers
- Your coaches
- Your neighbors where you grew up
- The founding fathers with their dream of a place of self-determination
- Abraham Lincoln, who freed the slaves
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who saw us through the Great Depression
- The many men and women who defend our liberties so that we can live in freedom and safety
- John F. Kennedy, who called us to explore space and set us on course to have a man walk on the moon
- Martin Luther King Jr., who left us a legacy to pursue the dream of racial equality

There are literally thousands of men and women who lived in a way that **affects our lives** today. And, yes, the list goes on from there. These are the people we knew, the people we lived with and who shaped us deeply, for better and sometimes for worse.

You see, a legacy can be anywhere on the continuum, from very bad to very good—it all depends on **how we live our lives**. How we live our lives is critically important. I want to challenge you to take a look at how you live. I want to challenge you to think deeply about the major areas of your life where you can and should leave a lasting legacy.

Why is leaving a legacy important? Here are a few reasons:

1. It is part of the ongoing foundation of life.

Those who came before leave us the world we live in. Those who come after will have only what we leave them. We are stewards of this world, and we have a calling on our lives to leave it better than how we found it, even if it seems like only a small part.

2. It has the raw power for good and for bad.

There are people who have changed the world for good, people who have opened up new worlds for millions of others, people who have spurred others on to new heights. And, conversely, there are people who have caused massive destruction for countless millions, people who left a wake of pain behind them wherever they went. There are parents who have blessed their children with greatness and parents who have ruined their children's fragile minds and hearts. What we do affects others. Our lives have the power to create good or purvey evil. It is important that we choose to do good.

3. It is an act of responsibility to leave a legacy.

Because of the power of our lives and the legacies we leave, it is a great responsibility to choose to leave a positive legacy. All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine. I truly believe that part of what makes us good and honorable people is having a foundational part of our lives based on the goal of leaving a legacy.

4. It breaks the downward pull of selfishness that can be inherent in us all.

When we strive to leave a legacy, we are acting with a selflessness that can only be beneficial for everyone. Yes, I suppose someone could work hard to earn money so that when he or she dies a building is named after them, but that is not the kind of legacy we are talking about. We are talking about legacies that make life better for those who come after us, not about our own fame or recognition, but about helping

others. After all, we won't be around to watch our legacy. To build that which will last beyond us is selfless and living with that in mind breaks the power of selfishness that tries so desperately to engrain itself in our lives.

5. It keeps us focused on the big picture.

Legacy building is part of the “big picture.” It keeps us focused on the long term and gives us values that we can judge our actions by. When we are acting based on selfishness, personal expediency, and the like, we are focusing on the “small picture”—whatever is pragmatic right now. When we are building a life that will give for many years, we are thinking “big picture.” Ask yourself: *How does this action affect my overall goals? How will this affect people in the years to come?*

Yes, your legacy is very important. Reflect on how you are going to use the lessons, information, and skills from those before you to build a life that leaves a tremendous legacy!

Leaving a Legacy

What does it mean to leave a legacy for Christ?

It is not necessarily the length of our life that determines our legacy, it is more the length of the shadow of our influence that defines what legacy we leave behind. So, if my being is branded by love for God and people, then I am positioned to build my life on an enduring platform with eternal significance. Leaving a legacy for Christ is about first becoming a contented child of God, growing into a faithful friend of God, to a diligent seeker of God's heart, and in time, an intimate lover who enjoys oneness with God.

Four Ways to Leave a Legacy for Christ

1. A Contented Child of God

“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him” (**Luke 2:40**).

At salvation we embrace a childlike faith of 100% trust and dependence on Jesus Christ. As we grow and become spiritually strong, we grow in grace and wisdom while maintaining a simple childlike belief that God is good, sin is bad, heaven is glorious, and hell is notorious. We put away childish attitudes of disobedience, dishonesty, and disrespect, while replacing them with faithfulness, truthfulness, and honor for others. Leaving a legacy for Christ celebrates the joy of salvation, is grateful for God's work of grace, and leans into the love of our heavenly Father.

2. A Faithful Friend of God

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend” (**James 2:23**).

Friendship with God is a lifetime journey full of adventure, sorrow, success, failure, and tests of faith. God is a forever friend, who longs to draw us close to His heart. The Lord looks for companionship with those with whom He can commune, confide, and confer the riches of His wisdom. Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, warns against foolish endeavors, walks hand in hand through the valley of the shadow of death, comforts pain, heals hurt and defeats the devil. God has the back of His faithful friends—He rewards faithfulness. Leaving a legacy for Christ learns the lessons of loyal friendship with God during good times.

3. A Seeker of God's Heart

“I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do” (**Acts 13:22**).

The pursuit of God should never plateau, only progress in its passionate desire to know God and be known by Him. We typically become what we pursue with earnest. So, to be in constant pursuit of the Lord is to become more and more like the Lord: to love more extravagantly, to bear more burdens with patient forbearance, to extend kindness

that leads to repentance, to forgive liberally and to give generously. Godly pursuits require intentional prayer, relational investment, financial support, and emotional engagement. Far beyond Sunday church attendance, we become consumed with prayer without ceasing so we can discern God's best while caring for the least of these. We leave a legacy for Christ when we follow hard after God—we persevere through hard times and seek to comfort others with the comfort we have received.

4. An Intimate Lover of God

“And Mary said, ‘My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name’” (**Luke 1:46-49**).

Our Creator, Almighty God—reached down into our humble state and chose to initiate a relationship with us, His servants—the pinnacle of His creation. We are only able to love deeply because we are loved deeply by Him. Like Mary who experienced the unimaginable—the Holy Spirit desires to conceive in us a heart of pure love. And the deeper our love for God the more we truly love well what He loves: people, His Word, prayer, the gospel, His bride the church, our enemies, and our joyful obedience. We leave a legacy for Christ when we prove our love by keeping His commands and loving those deserving *and* undeserving of our love. Love is utmost to God!

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints” (**Philemon 1:4-7**).

Pray this Prayer-

Dear Lord, give me the courage and grace to leave a legacy of faithfulness to You.

Talk about Inheritance

What is the definition of inheritance?

1. The action of inheriting something: the inheritance of property from a relative. b. Something inherited or to be inherited: Her inheritance included a large estate.
2. Something regarded as a heritage: the cultural inheritance of People of Color.

What is the biblical definition of inheritance?

The concept of inheritance is very important in the Bible and refers not only to the passing on of land and possessions from one generation to another, but also to the earthly and spiritual gifts which God plans to give to those who are his 'children'.

It is not necessarily the length of our life that determines our legacy, it is more the length of the shadow of our influence that defines what legacy we leave behind.

A legacy is not a resume or list of accomplishments. **A legacy is the imprint you leave on the future.** As a result, we all have a legacy. And we will leave our legacy either by default or design.

12 Steps To Leaving A Godly Legacy To The Next Generation from I Chronicles 28 and 29

Placed in the middle of these two chapters of vision casting, leadership development, inspiration, project management, sacrifice and celebration, is King David who nearing death looks at his son, the soon-to-be-king Solomon and says, **“As for you, my son Solomon.”** And then begins to unpack and model how to leave a Godly legacy for the next generation.

It is a beautiful picture **a father talking to his son just before death**, a king to his son the would-be king, the patriarch of a family handing the baton to the next in line. It is the picture of how to leave a Godly legacy.

The following are **12 Steps To Leaving A Godly Legacy To The Next Generation** as modeled by King David to his son Solomon:

- 1. You Must Disciple Them** – Instruct them. Teach them. In **28:9** David says, *“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father.”* Leaving a Godly legacy means constantly telling the stories of God’s goodness and faithfulness in your life. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** says, *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise!”*
- 2. Must Encourage Them** – The next generation is dying for inspiration. Too often older people tell the next generation everything they are doing wrong. David says in verse **10**, *“for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.”*
- 3. You Must Equip Them** – You must give the next generation your plans, expertise, experience, and energy. This is what David does in **verses 11** and **12** of chapter **28**.
- 4. You Must Resource Them** – Throughout **verses 13-19**, David provides and itemized list of the money and possessions he has left Solomon to complete the temple’s construction. He also gives him people and their support in **verse 21**.
- 5. You Must Empower Them** – People are naturally insecure. It is vital they know you support them. David tells Solomon in **verse 20**, *“Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed for the Lord God – my God – will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.”*
- 6. You Must Position Them For Success** – With the start of **chapter 29**, we see David shifting his communication to the

Jewish people. It says in **verse 1**, “*King David said to all the assembly.*” In addition to giving the next generation plans and resources, you must also give them your platform.

- 7. You Must Publicly Reaffirm Them** – Leaving a Godly legacy to the next generation means loaning them your influence. Point to them and tell others God’s hand is on their life. King David referred to his son as “*My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen.*”
- 8. You Must Remind Them There Is Work Left For Them To Do** – Transparency and authenticity are attractive qualities to the next generation. Be honest with them. Struggle is necessary for developing strength. Do not downplay the challenges of the coming adult days. King David continues, “*(Solomon) is young and inexperienced, and the work is great.*”
- 9. You Must Point Them To Jesus** – David was about to remind his son all of this wealth and activity was not merely for his personal enjoyment. This is not sustainable. There must be a higher purpose, a higher calling in mind. He said in **verse 1** of **chapter 29**, “*the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God.*”
- 10. You Must Reassure Them** – It is a humbling and daunting task to be thrust into significant positions of responsibility. But King David reminded Solomon he had been setup for success. The temple’s completion was doable. In **verses 2 and 3**, King David lists everything which had already been prepared. The project was well underway.
- 11. You Must Release Them** – This is the day parents have worked years for but dread to see coming. The time comes for the next generation to leave home and plant their own stake in the world. In verse 5, King David asks the people, “Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?”
- 12. You Must Rejoice With Them** – Upon releasing them, celebrate their success. After an offering of biblical proportions, **verse 9** says, “*Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.*”

King David left a Godly legacy and an imprint on the future which we still benefit from today. You too can send people forth into a time we cannot see with positive effects. Which one of these 12 steps you can begin implementing today?

-Brian Dodd

AMEN