

The saving message may be foolishness to others but it will definitely save mankind (I Corinthians 1:18, 23-25). Those who will take it and live by it would surely find peace and prosperity but those who reject it will be very miserable and sad. Why? Because God will only save those who obey him (Mark 16:15-16). Let us try to save our own house, including others and ourselves and pass on the gospel to the next generation. (I Timothy 4:16). Though many would refuse to hear the gospel today, it would be better for us to continue to teach and preach to our children, friends and loved ones in order to save as many as we can, then they would have the gospel at heart and pass it on to others (II Timothy 2:2).

3. Let Us Leave Good Ethical and Moral Principles for the Next Generation.

The ethical and moral principles of our day are distorted and corrupted. If all men will follow the ethics of Jesus, there will be peace, love and joy among men. The ethics of Jesus are not different from his religion. His ethics have been classified as the ethics of duty and ends. Carl Henry said, "He was more than a great teacher of ethics. The tracks of his footprints are seen. There is a standard of authority." Jesus taught his followers to have positive attitudes about living, to have good influence in the world and to live a life that is acceptable in the sight of God.

We should teach our children good morals. Many people in our society today have no good morals. Women are dressing immodestly in the name of modern fashion. Others look and lust after them. The Bible condemns this behavior because it causes others to sin. (Luke 17: 1-2; Matthew 5:27-28). A great number of assaults on women and girls today are because of the suggestive manner in which they dress or present themselves.

The generation to come needs to know about the dangers of gambling. Gambling violates the biblical principles of/about work (Genesis 2:15, 3:19; Ephesians 4:28; II Thessalonians 3:10). It is wrong because it is addictive; it promotes materialism and goes against the principles of stewardship. Gambling has broken many homes and hurt many people and we should help others to overcome this behavior, especially the generation to come.

We should warn the coming generation about the dangers of pornography. The media has been good in spreading this. Media presentations that implicitly or explicitly present language or actions with the intent of producing a sexual response from the audience is wrong (Ephesians 5:3-4; Romans 1:29).

Concerning homosexuality and lesbianism, we ought to teach the coming generation that it is wrong and sinful in the sight of God.

It is an abomination (Leviticus 18:22-30). These sins were part of the reason why God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:13; 18:20, 32). Those who practiced homosexuality were to be put to death according to Leviticus 20:13. They are worthy of death (Romans 1:18-32). It might seem right to man but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12).

The coming generation ought to know that abortion is killing (Exodus 20:13). God said man should replenish the earth (Genesis 1:27-28). The sanctity of marriage should be taught in homes, schools and in society. Parents ought to educate their children to wait until they are married before they have sex. There is a better way out of an unwanted pregnancy. Abortion is not the only solution or answer.

The abuse of alcohol and drugs must be dealt with if we want the next generation to last. We ought to teach them about the consequences of the abuse of alcohol. (Genesis 9:20-23; 19:20-38; II Samuel 11:13; 13:23-29). We should educate them to flee from the silly excuses about Paul's instruction to Timothy to drink a little wine, Christ making wine at the wedding feast, and how the Bible did not give a specific commandment "Thou Shall Not Drink". Drunkenness is condemned in the scriptures (Isaiah 28:1,7-8; 5:11, 22; 22:13,15:12; Proverbs 20:1; 23:25-29; 31:4-7; Hosea 4:11,7:5; Ezekiel 44:21; Leviticus 10:9). If we teach the coming generation to be responsible, live soberly, honestly, righteously and godly all will be well with them. What morals, ethics and principles are we leaving behind for the next generation?

You and I have a responsibility to leave behind something precious. Let us leave godliness and righteousness for the coming generation; let us not fail to leave the gospel for the generation to come and let us leave behind good morals and the ethics of Christ.

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What Are We Leaving For The Next Generation?



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WHAT ARE WE LEAVING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

Supposing someone asks you, "what are you leaving for the next generation?" That is your children, friends, and loved ones. What will be your response? I do believe that some will say, money in the bank, building, car, clothing and all sorts of things.

Our generation has seen its share of failures and successes; evil and goodness; pain and joy; hatred and love; poverty and richness; fighting and peace; and so forth. Out of all these things, we have learned a great deal of lessons that we need to pass on to our children, friends and loved ones. The past lessons cannot be forgotten. Anyone who fails to learn from their past mistakes and experience would ultimately fail to teach the generation to come.

Our ancestors and loved ones who preceded us passed on some things which are good to us and if the Lord delays to return during our time, we have the obligation to pass on all those good things we have heard, seen, learned and known to the children of the next generation. We ought to also warn the next generation about the dangers in this life, the fear of the Lord, and the consequences of sin. We should also remember that whatever we pass on to the next generation, whether it is good or bad, will reflect on our children. It will play a role in our children's life, be a guideline for them, dictate their lifestyle and define their principles. Whatever the future holds for the generations to come, will depend on what we are impacting on them, instilling in them and inspiring them to do. We can make a difference in the lives of the coming generation by our lifestyle, teachings, behavior, attitude and principles. What would you leave for the next generation? The following are a few suggestions that will be of help to you:

1. Let Us Leave Godliness and Righteousness for the Next Generation.

We ought to leave the knowledge of God for our children. It is our duty to teach our children, and those around us, the nature, character and attributes of God. We ought to instill in them that God is the Father of us all. He is the only one who can protect, provide, and prepare them for every struggle in this life and lead them unto perfection.

If we fail to let the next generation know our God, they would be like the generation that Paul described in Romans 1:18-32. These people did not glorify God, neither were they thankful, but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man. Because of their attitude towards God, God gave them up unto uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: they changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped the creature more than the creator. God also gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature (Lesbianism). And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (Homosexuality). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, and unmerciful. Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

We are not saying all these acts and attitudes cannot be seen in our generation, but we are saying we should teach the coming generation to retain the knowledge of God and to live for God. God will not give the coming generation up to uncleanness, vile affections or give them over to a reprobate mind if they retain God in their knowledge and do His will. The next generation must have the fear of the Lord. The Scriptures say, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). The coming generation should know the Lord through us. This, then, can help them to overcome the corruption, shameful and indecent acts of our day. They can live longer and do what is right before the Lord.

Even if we happen to be on our sick bed, and we are at the point of death, at the sigh of our last breath, we should remember to tell our children and loved ones to serve the Lord. Let us commit them into the care of God. God has the power to take care of them and He will surely be there for them.

Take a closer look at Judges 2:7-14. What happened to the generations of Joshua, the one that preceded him and the one that followed him? Some people refuse to teach their children the truth about God and look at the outcome of their negligence. First, there was Spiritual illiteracy. They knew not the Lord (Judges 2:10). Second, they forsook the Lord. And they forsook

the Lord God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt (Judges 2:12). Third, they served other gods. They followed the gods of the people that were around them. (Judges 2:12). Fourth, they angered the Lord, and fifth, every man did what was right in his own eyes. God punished them. He was against them and he delivered them into the hands of the spoilers and the enemies (2: 14). We must not fail our children. We should help them to fear God and to retain the knowledge of God. We should educate them to keep the laws and principles of the Lord and live a meaningful life, so that they will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8) It should not be said of the next generation that they knew not the Lord, but rather they served the Lord and lived for Him. Better for us to continue to preach to our children, friends and loved ones in order to save as many as we can, then they would have the gospel at heart and pass it on to others (II Timothy 2:2).

2. Let Us Leave the Gospel (Good News) that Saves for the Next Generation.

This same gospel (good news) will live on. Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away (Mark 13:31). The truth will remain the same to the coming generation. The gospel will lead the next generation unto salvation. The words of the Lord will be of help to the next generation if the Lord does not return in our time. The same message, which was preached to us, should be preached to the next generation without any alteration (I Corinthians 15:1-5). The death, burial and resurrection of Christ should be preached till Christ comes again (Acts 5:30, 42; 2:22-38; 4:2,10; 13:30-37,26:22-23). The apostle Paul delivered the same message he received to the people of Corinth (15:3). He did not change it. We should not change it, polish it, add to it or subtract from the gospel. There would be some that will pervert the gospel of Christ. The apostle Paul speaking concerning the truthfulness and genuineness of the gospel of Christ said, "Though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:6-9).

Paul left Timothy very good advice concerning the word: "I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." (II Timothy 4:1-4; I Timothy 4:1-4)