

EACH GENERATION OWES THE NEXT

Genesis 1:24-29; Psalm 145:4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: God made the angels and they don't reproduce but all other creatures, including mankind reproduce after their own likeness. One generation gives birth to another, passing on human characteristics, personality traits, and beliefs, etc. Also included in what one human generation passes off to the next human generation is a sinful nature. Some things passed on are natural, some things learned. What do YOU have that you learned from your parents? From their generation? How has their generation affected you? Each generation learns from the previous generation and each generation has the "duty" to pass on things to the next generation. Of the things WE need to pass on to the generation that will replace us is the things of God.

I. WE NEED TO MAKE KNOWN THE WORKS OF GOD

1. We need to tell the next generation how God created all things.

- They need to know the Genesis account of how God created the heavens and the earth and all that is on the earth.
- They need to know how angels came to be and how animals and people got here.

2. We need to tell the next generation of God's involvement in all things.

- They need to know that God preserves and governs everything which He made.
- They need to know that God's hand is in everything and that He is the source of all blessings.

3. We need to tell the next generation about God's work of redemption for mankind.

- They need to know about the greatest of all God's works - redemption.
- They need to know that every single person of every generation is known and loved by God.
- They need to know how God prepared everything before sending His Son, Jesus to earth.
- They need to know that what Jesus did when here was for mankind's redemption.
- They need to know that although men gave us the pages of scripture, it was God who held their pens and moved them to write what they wrote.

4. How are we to tell all these things to the next generation?

- They are to be told as any other thing is told to another.
 - By personally teaching, hiring others to teach.
 - By reading books.
 - By casual conversations
 - By professional religious teachers
- By one way or the other, knowledge of God must be passed on to the next generation.

5. By praising God's works to one another, the next generation will learn of God.

- When WE speak of God's wisdom, power, goodness and love to one another, others will hear.
- When WE express admiration, gratitude, love and joy to one another about God, others will hear.
- When WE praise God openly the next generation will hear and see.
- We must convince the next generation that we regard God with the utmost admiration, reverence, gratitude and love.

II. WHY SHOULD WE TRY TO SHOW GOD TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

1. We are naturally related to the next generation.

- The next generation owes its existence to US.
- The next generation will be our descendants, our children.
- We are the next generation's guardians, instructors and guides.
- We are to train their bodies, their minds and their hearts.
- They have the natural right to look to US for instruction and to expect us to teach them everything that is necessary for them to know.
- They look to US for instruction upon what is of value and what is not.

2. The next generation inherits all that the previous (US) generation has.

- Material possessions pass on to the heirs when one generation passes on (land, houses, goods, etc)
- It is only right that they should inherit OUR knowledge of God and all His works.
- How cruel it would be to give/leave them all OUR material possessions but withhold from them OUR knowledge of God.

3. WE are indebted to the generation before us.

- What do you have that you inherited from your parents/relatives/friends when they passed on?
- What do you have that you received from someone of past generations?
 - What about your Bible?
 - What about other books?
 - What about YOUR religious instructions?
- What you know about God and salvation has been passed from generation to generation to the present. Should it stop with US?
- What if all the religious knowledge transmitted through the centuries stopped with US?
- Of all the people in the world, WE are the most deeply indebted for the knowledge of God that WE have.
- Shall we not pass on to those who follow US, our knowledge of God and Salvation?

4. WE pass on to the next generation OUR sinful nature.

- Each generation is an exact replica of the generation before it in sinful nature.
 - There is the same natural lack of interest, neglect and disobedience of God.
- OUR children are replicas of OUR own selves in many ways.
 - They have similar physical characteristics, speak the same way, etc.
- Each generation inherits sinful passions, evils and separation from God.
- Therefore WE should train up our children the way they should go, and when they grow up, they will not depart from those ways.
- What have YOU imparted to YOUR children?
 - Is it not YOUR own corrupt, sinful nature which YOU received from YOUR parents?
 - IF they do not know of God and the Salvation that comes through His Son, Jesus, they will perish.
- Let your children see that YOU care about the things of God and for their spiritual welfare.
- Give to the next generation a knowledge of God and His works and the appearance that you think highly of Him, love Him, and admire His works, preferring Him over all others.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. It is OUR duty to let the next generation know of God's works and to proclaim His praises.**
 - To tell the next generation of God, one must know God personally.
 - One who does not know God cannot praise Him and is totally unqualified to even try.
 - ARE YOU QUALIFIED?

- 2. It is OUR duty to declare and praise God's works to one another.**
 - What have YOU done to publicly express knowledge of God and His works so others might know that YOU know God and His Son, Jesus, personally?
 - Many have not done so, not even with their children.
 - Have YOU done everything which you could for the religious education of your own children?
 - If YOU were to die today, what would you leave behind for them to remember about you?

- 3. What would happen to this world if EVERY generation would declare the things of God to the next?**
 - This world would be wonderfully changed after two or three generations.

- 4. What would happen to this world if just ONE generation did not declare the things of God to the next?**
 - This world would be more sinful and wicked than ever.

- 5. It is OUR duty to pass on to the next generation all WE know about God.**
 - What do you know about God?