

To All Generations: Becoming a Church That Passes on the Faith
May 8th, 2022
Greg Arthur, Pastor

Winning the Hearts of Daughters and Sons **(Psalm 23:26)**

Prov 23:26 (NASB) – ²⁶ My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Main Point: *Discipleship of the next generation also involves winning the hearts of the daughters and sons to ourselves, so that what is passed-down is received.*

1. Why Pass on the Faith?

It's the Prize of Life –

All Else is Passing Away –

So That They Should Set Their Hope in God –

Ps 78:1-7 (NASB) – ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ **so that they should set their hope in God** and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

2. What Are the Challenges?

Church Kids Walking Away –

Hearing About Jesus Isn't the Same as Trusting Your Life to Him –

Being a Disciple Ourselves Is Necessary, But Not Enough –

Teaching Diligently Is Necessary, But Not Enough –

Deut 6:6-7 (NASB) – ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk in the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

3. How Can We Win the Hearts of the Next Generation?

Phil 2:5-7 (NASB) – Christ Jesus ⁶ who as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

Matt 11:28-29 (NASB) – ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

a) Meet Them Where They Are –

b) Treat Them with Gentleness –

c) Be Their Safe Harbor –

d) Slay the Critical Heart –

e) Be Happy with Them –

4. How Do We Move Forward?

Phil 3:13-14 (NASB) – ¹³ But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind, and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Ultimately God's Grace Over All –

It's Instruction Not Condemnation –

Everything Is Skills to Get Better At, Not Tests to Fail –

Forgiveness of Each Other –

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Which of the ways of winning hearts comes most naturally to you? Which is most foreign? Which did you most appreciate as you came to faith? Which did you most lack as you came to faith?

Going Deeper:

3. When did someone older or over you meet you where you were? What lasting impression did that make? What does it take to 'meet them where they are?' What are some barriers to doing this? How does Christ help you? Any personal stories come to mind? Any scriptures?
4. When has someone treat you with gentleness? What lasting impression did that make? What does it take to 'treat them with gentleness?' What are some objections to doing this? How does Christ help you in this? Any personal stories come to mind? Any scriptures?
5. When has someone been your safe harbor? Did that leave a lasting impression? What does it take to 'be their safe harbor?' What are the barriers to doing this? How does Christ help you in this? Any personal stories come to mind? Any scriptures?
6. Have you been around someone who is NOT critical in heart? What is it like? How about being around someone who is constantly critical? So, how do you slay the critical heart? How does Christ do this in you? Any personal stories come to mind? Any scriptures?

7. What does 'be happy with them' mean to you? Have you been around someone who was genuinely happy with you, whether you did well or failed miserably? What does it take to "be happy with someone? What are some objections to this? How does Christ help you do this? Any personal stories come to mind? Any scriptures?

Application:

8. Why is this Biblical instruction and not condemnation? Why is it skills to get better at and not tests to fail?
9. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?