



Outlive Your Life

“Outlive your life.” I still remember the first time I heard this advice from one of my mentors when I first started ministry. The seasoned minister that sat across from me poured out his wisdom into my life that day as he introduced me to a principle called “**The Law of Legacy.**” As I sat there, I listened to every word as he began to paint a portrait of a life that could make an eternal difference and shape the lives of future generations in a significant way.

The Law of Legacy reminds us that it is not the length of our days in this life that determines our success, it is choosing to live a life that honors the Lord in our walk and talk. Living life in pursuit of the Law of Legacy helps us live with more clarity and focus than ever before as we learn to live a life that influences others for the glory of God.

Why is the Law of Legacy important today? It is simple, Legacy focuses your life on what will endure for all time not just meeting a need for a moment. It’s about passing on things of lasting value to those who will live on after us. Legacy involves living intentionally and aiming to build up the next generation with an understanding of how to live a life of success in the eyes of the Lord.

The Law of Legacy is a critical principle in the life of a Christian as you seek to pass on the right values and beliefs from one generation to another. As you look through the pages of Scripture, you see one example after another of how this principle is applied.

QUESTIONS

What kind of Legacy do you want to leave for family and friends?

Why is the “Law of Legacy” important in the life of a Christian?

Joshua 4:21-22 – And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’”

Psalms 145:4 – One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

2 Timothy 2:2 – And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The ABC’s of the “Law of Legacy”

Today, you can apply the Law of Legacy by following the example of faithful followers of the Lord from the past. If you don’t know where to start, simply apply the ABC’s of the Law of Legacy.

Be Alert

Leaving the right legacy starts with being alert in two ways. The New Testament word for “alert” means “to stay awake and be watchful.” First, you must be watchful for the opportunities God has given you to teach and train others regarding the basics of faithfulness. The Apostle Paul summed it up this way,

1 Timothy 4:7(ESV) – Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness...

Second, you need to be watchful for the pitfalls in life that might hurt or hinder your legacy. You must choose to guard your hearts and minds to stay focused on what really matters.

Proverbs 4:23(NLT) - Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Q U E S T I O N S

How does the principle of “Being Alert” help you leave the right legacy?

What pitfalls stand in the way of leaving the right legacy?

Be Bold

Leaving the right legacy means that you must be bold and courageous in the way you live your life. You must teach and train others with your words and example helping them see how to live for the glory of God.

Psalms 27:14 (ESV) – Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Q U E S T I O N

Why does it take courage to leave the right legacy?

Be Consistent

Leaving the right legacy means you must be consistent in what you believe, how you live, and what you do for the glory of God. Consistency of your words and actions will speak volumes to the coming generations.

Galatians 6:9 – And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Q U E S T I O N

How does the principle of “consistency” help you leave the right legacy?

Imagine for a moment a leaky faucet. One drop at a time may not seem to make much of a difference at first. But put in the right environment and given enough time, that same dripping with that same consistency, can have an immense amount of power.

That’s how canyons are made. Not all at once, but through the power of consistency. Dripping isn’t that exciting, but what it lacks in flash it makes up for in effectiveness. There’s a lot to be said for the power of consistency. Be consistent in your walk and you will impact many for generations to come.

Be Deliberate in your Pursuit of the Prize

Leaving the right legacy means that you must be deliberate in your pursuit of the Lord and His prize because our days are limited. Harvey Mackay once observed, “Time is free, but it’s priceless. You can’t own it, but you can use it. You can’t keep it, but you can spend it. Once you’ve lost it you can never get it back.”

The people who accomplish the most good in this world are the ones who think most about the prize that awaits them at the finish of the race. This is one reason why the Psalmist reminds us to number our days,

Psalm 90:12 (ESV) – So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

It is never too late to begin leaving the right legacy, start today. Be deliberate in your pursuit of the Lord. Be deliberate in growing in your faith. Be deliberate about praying more and sinning less. Be deliberate in finishing faithfully. Be deliberate in living your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel.

Q U E S T I O N

What does it look like for you to be deliberate in leaving the right legacy?

Philippians 1:27a (ESV) – Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...

Conclusion

The Law of Legacy will change your life and influence others for years to come if you choose to apply these principles today. Leaving the right legacy will impact generations for the glory of God and helps you impact the future for the Kingdom of God. Begin applying the “ABC’s of the Law of Legacy” right away...Live it, love it, and Apply it today!