



Proverbs 13:22a – A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children...

Take a step back with me in time. I want you to travel back several generations to a time that was simpler, a time that was less busy, a time that was marked more by character than it was marred by compromise, a time where men and women understood the great importance the “**Law of Lasting Impact.**”

Recently, I sat down to work on a puzzle with my family. The puzzle had a picture that took you back to an older time where people were gathering on a train in the middle of a heavy snowfall. You could see the family and friends greeting one another, laughing, playing, and waving at one another with joy in their hearts. As we slowly put each piece of the puzzle in place and began to see the bigger picture, it spurred on conversation with my boys. We began to talk about the past and what times were like for their grandparents and great grandparents. We talked about simpler times and how the community seemed to be united in conviction and core values. As I reminisced about the days that had passed, I imparted a little lesson that was passed on from my grandfather. It is the lesson of the “**Law of Lasting Impact.**”

One of the many virtues that made the “Greatest Generation” so amazing was that they understood the importance of impacting the next generation with the right virtues and right values. They practiced and applied the “Law of Lasting Impact” as summed up in Proverbs 13:22 which states, “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.” This simple principle teaches you to live your life so that your influence empowers, equips, and encourages others well beyond your time on this earth.

QUESTIONS

What virtues do you want to teach the next generation?

How does this relate to your Legacy?

Four Pillars of the Law of Lasting Impact

My grandfather understood this law so well that he passed on this principle to his children and grandchildren through his example and encouragement. He was a man of principle, perseverance, and lived his life by the standard of the Word of God. As he made his mark on this world, he helped me understand the “Four Pillars of the Law of Lasting Impact” that each of us can teach to the next generation and make an impact for the glory of God.

Pillar #1 – Clarity

The first pillar that was modeled by my grandfather is found in the simple lesson that he taught me about clarity of vision. He was an individual that always seemed to have an objective in mind and knew what he was trying to accomplish whether he was working on a welding project for farm equipment or shaping the values of grandchildren.

QUESTION

How does the principle of “clarity” help you develop the right Legacy?

The Law of Lasting Impact teaches us to live life with clarity and live for a greater purpose than the here and now. Choose today to invest your life into others for the glory of God and you shape generations down the road with the right values and right convictions. The Apostle Paul summed this principle up in these words in 2 Timothy 2:2,

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men.”

H. Jackson Brown, Jr. once observed, “Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity.” Whatever you do make sure that you seize this day and don’t miss this moment to make a lasting impact.

Q U E S T I O N

How can you seize the day to make a lasting impact?

Pillar #2 – Character

The second pillar of the Law of Lasting Impact is discovered as we look to the importance of your Character. You are known by your character whether you want to admit it or not. Character is not something that is achieved overnight but it is developed over time.

No matter what your past is like, you can start becoming a person of character starting today. How can this happen? The principle is found in Proverbs 21:5 as the author tells us...

“Steady plodding brings prosperity, but hasty speculation brings ruin.”

The Law of Lasting Impact reminds us that the content of your character is shaped by your daily decisions. You shape your future by what you choose, what you think, and what you do today.

Henry and Richard Blackaby sum up this principle in their book Spiritual Leadership as they declare, “Integrity means being consistent in one’s behavior under every circumstance, including those unguarded moments.” Be steady, be consistent, and be a person of character. Future generations will be blessed by your decision today.

Q U E S T I O N

What are two ways you can develop the content of your character so you can make a lasting impact?

Pillar #3 – Conduct

The third pillar the Law of Lasting Impact is found in your conduct. Over the years I have discovered that obtaining the knowledge of what was “right” was only half the battle. The other half of the battle was choosing to do what was right. Many people discover that it is not that we lack knowledge but often we lack the courage to do what is right. Brian Tracy once observed,

“There is never enough time to do everything but there is always enough time to do the most important thing.”

Never forget that actions often speak louder than words. Make a lasting impact on this world by choosing to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. Philippians 1:27 sums this principle up in these words,

“Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel.”

Q U E S T I O N

How does your daily conduct impact your legacy?

Pillar #4 – Consequences

The final pillar of the “Law of Lasting Impact” is discovered in the fruit of your actions. Every day, we make decisions that impact tomorrow. The Apostle Paul declared in Ephesians 5:16, “**Make the most of every opportunity.**” Every decision we make has a consequence which leads

us to a simple conclusion in the Law of Lasting Impact: “The secret of shaping a better tomorrow is found in making better choices today.” John Maxwell summed this principle up in this manner as he said, “Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.”

Every decision that you make today impacts the shaping and molding of tomorrow. You are given the opportunity every day to make a lasting impact upon future generations simply by standing for what is right and choosing to carry out the right actions even in the face of opposition. Choose wisely as you choose to honor the Lord today.

Q U E S T I O N

How do the consequences of your daily choices impact your legacy?

Conclusion

The Law of Lasting Impact is a revolutionary principle that will shape your legacy more than any other principle if you choose to apply it in your life. Never forget that you receive the results tomorrow of the seeds that you sow today. Start sowing the right seeds today and you will leave a legacy that shapes the future of tomorrow. Choose today to live your life for the glory of God and you will shape a better tomorrow.

How can you apply the “Law of Lasting Impact” today?

Download some of our free resources at our website to help you encourage others today.

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www.ReStartMinistries.Com