



God-honoring Legacy



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Leaving a God-honoring Legacy

Getting old is not your fault. It is not a time to be frowned upon. This is a time where you are experiencing great blessings from seeing God work in your life. As we grow older though, more realities set in; we may not be as active as beforehand or maybe we are not able to connect with others like we did before because of health or other issues. What we can do though is focus on what is important for the generation to follow and this means leaving a God-honoring legacy.

In our culture when we talk about leaving a legacy, our first thought is a pile of money somewhere for our children or grandchildren to use. There have been many people who squandered their family inheritances. Is this really what a legacy is all about? A legacy is your reputation, your value, and your connection that exists beyond your physical existence on this earth. This may come through money, but a true legacy is invaluable. Maybe this is something that you struggle with as a senior adult. You have worked and built up a nest egg, a successful family, and you see down the road (either for health or other reasons) that your window of opportunity to make an impact is getting smaller. What characteristics make up a God-honoring legacy?

God-honoring legacies have a strong foundation in God's Word.

Many beautiful buildings have been erected in our lifetime and yet in one seemingly small event they are left decimated. What was the problem? They did not have a solid foundation. This is where leaving a legacy begins; it is to be based upon God's Word. What does that look like? It means that you base decisions on Scripture, you memorize and meditate on Scripture, and you teach the next generation about how to follow Scripture. Scripture is not there just for good suggestions; it is to be a way of life. The reality is that you may have never considered building your life upon Scripture until now. That's fine. God can do more with your faithfulness than your regrets. It begins with simply laying the foundation and building upon it faithfully.

God-honoring legacies make great impacts for the kingdom.

Think about the people that made a lasting impact on your life, whether it was through a personal investment they made in you, time spent together, that first boss, or whoever it was--you have been imprinted by a legacy in one way or another. Some of these memories and imprints on your life may have been negative, but the majority of people that have made an impact on your life were positive. For the senior adult that is seeking to leave a God-honoring legacy, it will make an impact not just on their family and friends, but also for the kingdom of God. It will go beyond the impact that a person could make in their individual life and will multiply to others. This is a challenge for us because we often sell ourselves short into thinking that we cannot make an impact for God. Someone that seeks to leave a God-honoring legacy sees this as non-negotiable and intentionally seeks to invest in those that can make an impact beyond themselves.

God-honoring legacies are not about the past but about the future.

When God's people get focused about leaving God-honoring legacies, they cannot have a vision of how life used to be, their eyes have to be focused on the future. This involves leaving some things behind (regrets, shame, pain, guilt) and investing in things of value for the future (God, family, church, and world). The more we remember that our past does not have to define us, we can move forward in pursuing a God-honoring legacy today that will make an impact for tomorrow. As the old saying goes, "leave it differently from how you found it." Those who desire to leave a God-honoring legacy pursue and plan.