

Our Legacy

How Most Think of Legacy



Type of Legacy We Want to Consider

“the **long-lasting impact** of particular events, **actions**, etc. that took place in the past, or of a **person's life**” (Oxford)

Goals

- ▶ Examine examples of godly people and how their righteous conduct impacted others
- ▶ Examine examples of ungodly people and how their wicked conduct impacted others
- ▶ Understand how our conduct affects us and others and can have lasting effects for generations to come

Ruth's Dedication

Ruth 1:16-17

¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, *Or to* turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me."

Ruth's Reputation

Ruth 2:10-12

¹⁰ So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I *am* a foreigner?"

¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

¹² The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Ruth's Obedience

Ruth 3:1, 6, 10-11

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

¹⁰ Then he said, "Blessed *are* you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* a virtuous woman.

Ruth's Love

Ruth 4:14-15

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed *be* the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

¹⁵ And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

Lineage of Christ: Matt 1:5-6 "Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Mt 1:6 and Jesse begot David the king."

Abraham's Obedience

► Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸ By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ **By faith** he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

¹⁰ for he **waited for the city** which has foundations, **whose builder and maker is God.**

Abraham and Sarah's Faith

► Hebrews 11:11-12

¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because **she judged Him faithful who had promised.**

¹² Therefore **from one man**, and him as good as dead, **were born as many as the stars of the sky** in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

► Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"

Abraham's Justification

- ▶ **Genesis 22:18** "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice**"
- ▶ **James 2:20-24**
 - ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?
 - ²¹ Was not **Abraham** our father **justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?
 - ²² Do you see that **faith was working together with his works**, and by works **faith was made perfect**?
 - ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**" And he was called the friend of God.
 - ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Moses' Upbringing

► Moses Parents

- Hebrews 11:23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months **by his parents**, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and **they were not afraid of the king's command**”
- **Acts 7:21-23**
 - ²¹ But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son.
 - ²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.
 - ²³ Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

Moses' Faith

► Hebrews 11:24-27

²⁴ **By faith** Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

²⁵ **choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,**

²⁶ **esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.**

²⁷ **By faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for **he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**

Joseph's Spiritual Strength

- ▶ Sold by his brothers who wanted to kill him
- ▶ Demonstrated his righteous attitude by rebuffing Potiphar's wife "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)
- ▶ Was 30 years old when he became 2nd in command in Egypt, 13 years after he was sold by his brothers
- ▶ Did not seek revenge against his brothers. He maintained perspective
 - Gen 50:20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive"

Joseph's Praise

► Genesis 49:22-26: Jacob's praise and prophecy

²² "Joseph *is* a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall.

²³ The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot *at him* and hated him.

²⁴ But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong
By the hands of the Mighty *God* of Jacob (From there *is* the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

²⁵ By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you *With* blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

²⁶ The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

Legacy of the Great Cloud of Witnesses

► Hebrews 11:32-35

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

³³ **who through faith** subdued kingdoms, **worked righteousness**, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Legacy of the Great Cloud of Witnesses

► Hebrews 11:36-40

³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented--

³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Lasting Effects of Righteousness

- ▶ Righteous **conduct** has a positive effect on the world for generations
 - James 3:13 “Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom**”
 - James 2:14-18
 - ¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?
 - ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,
 - ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?
 - ¹⁷ Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**
 - ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**

Our Righteousness: Effect on Others

Lights to the World

- ▶ “Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and **glorify your Father in heaven**” Matt. 5:16
- ▶ “By this **My Father is glorified**, that you **bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples” John 15:8
- ▶ “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks** you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” 1 Pet. 3:15
- ▶ 1 Peter 2:12 **having your conduct honorable** among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works which they observe, glorify God** in the day of visitation.

Our Righteousness: Effect on Others

Encourage and Edify

- ▶ “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” Rom 14:19
- ▶ “having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous” 1 Pet. 3:8
- ▶ “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering” Col. 3:12
- ▶ Hebrews 10:24-25
 - ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
 - ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Our Righteousness: Effect on Others

Family

- ▶ Good examples: “Actions speak louder than words”



- ▶ Growth and development

- **Teach:** “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6
- **Admonish:** “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul” Prov. 29:17
- **Comfort and Build Up:** “Comfort each other and edify one another...” 1 Thess. 5:11

Our Righteousness: Effect on Others

Help to Save Souls

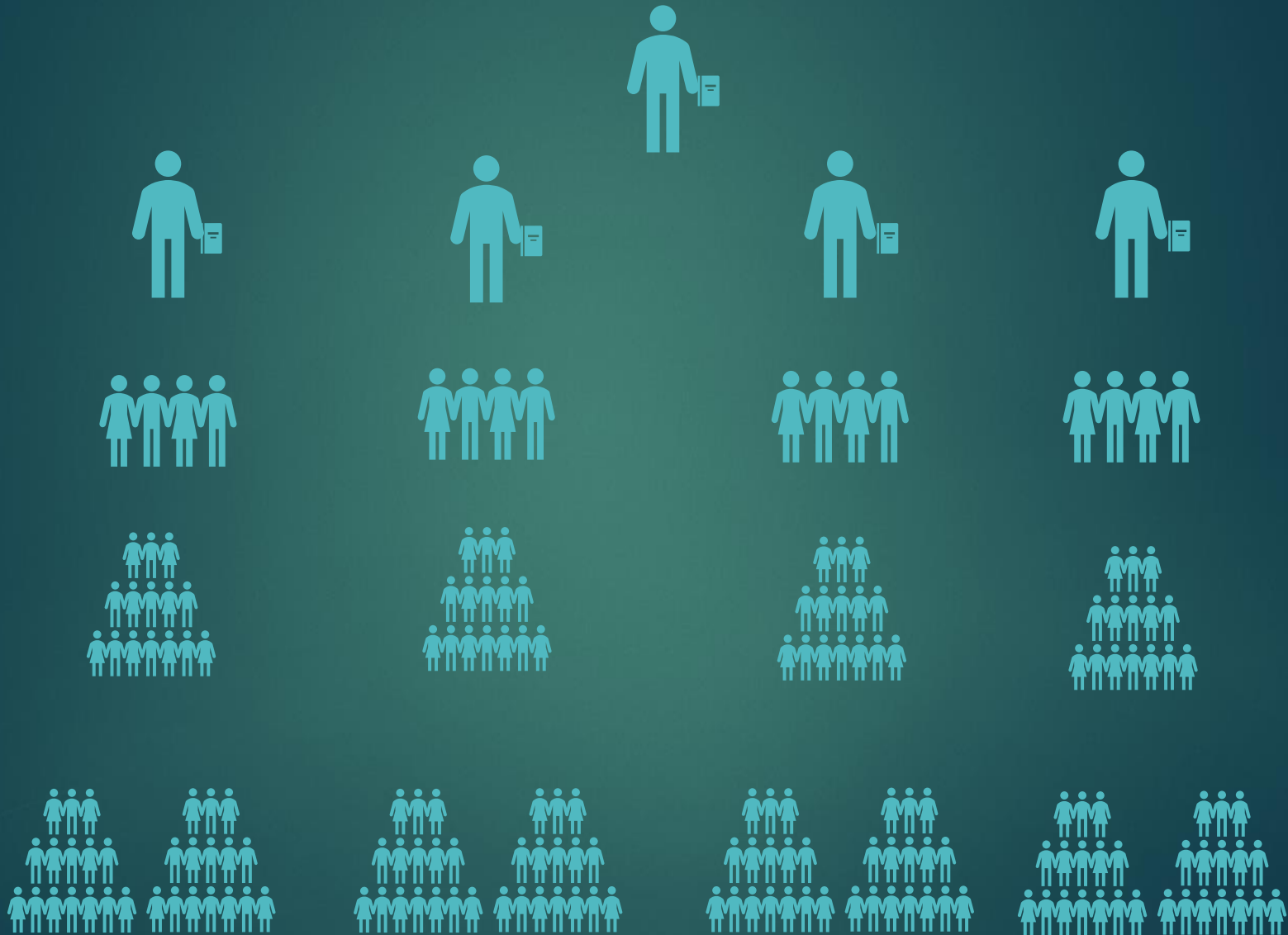
▶ Share the gospel

- “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” Mark 16:15-16

▶ Restoring the erring

- “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” James 5:19-20

Result: Generations of Righteous People



God's Desire: Righteous Generations

Psalm 78:4-7-Teaching the Law and Works of the Lord

⁴ We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;

⁶ That the generation to come might know *them*, The children *who* would be born, That they may arise and declare *them* to their children,

⁷ That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

Effects of Sin on Others

▶ Adam and Eve

- Woman: Sorrow was greatly multiplied
- Man: Ground was cursed and in toil he would eat

▶ Achan

- Israel lost a battle and lives were lost
- Entire family put to death

▶ Ten Israelite Spies:

- Convinced the people they could not take the land
- Caused people to doubt God and complain against Moses and Aaron
- None over 20 allowed to enter the Promised Land

Effects of Sin on Others

► Sodom and Gomorrah

- Psalms 119:158 “I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word”
- 2 Peter 2:7-8
 - ⁷ ...delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked
 - ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, **tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day** by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)–
- Jude 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, **are set forth as an example**, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Effects of Sin on Others

► Israelites 1 Corinthians 10:5-12

⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things **became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*"

⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

¹¹ **Now all these things happened to them as examples**, and **they were written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

¹² **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Effects of Sin on Ourselves

▶ Mental Turmoil

- Psalm 38:17 “My sorrow is continually before me”
- Psalm 38:18 “I will be in anguish over my sin”
- Psalm 51:3 “My sin is always before me”
- Prov. 22:8 “He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow”

▶ Physical Consequences

- Galatians 6:7-8 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption...”
 - Addictions
 - Physical pain
 - Permanent damage to our bodies

Long-Lasting Effects of Sin on Ourselves

▶ Spiritual Consequences

- Conscience seared leading to more sin
 - Proverbs 6:28 “Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?”
 - Ephesians 4:19 “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness”
- Fall Away
 - 2 Peter 2:20-22
 - ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.
 - ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “*A dog returns to his own vomit,*” and, “*a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*”

Long-Lasting Effects of Our Sin on Others

► Our family

○ Shame to parents

- Prov. 10:1 “A foolish son is the grief of his mother”
- Prov. 17:25 “A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him”

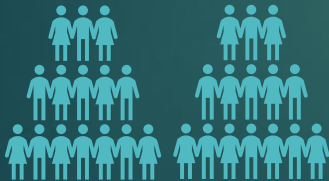
○ Influence on children: often repeat the same sin. Imitate what they see.

• 1 Kings 15:25-26

²⁵ Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.

²⁶ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, **and walked in the way of his father**, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

Result: Generations of Wicked People



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⁶ That the generation to come might know *them*, The children *who* would be born, *That* they may arise and declare *them* to their children,

⁷ That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

⁸ **And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation *that* did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

Applications

- ▶ Be conscious of our legacy and be ever more resolved to have a positive impact on the lives of others
- ▶ Understand the results of our conduct can have a long-lasting impact for generations to come

- ▶ **Hebrews 12:1-3**

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.