

Bridgeway Community Church
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Mother Day 2021

Multigenerational Mothering

Question: Do you have your mother's voice in your head?

Parenting, in general, has an amazing impact on our lives, our personhood, and even our psyches.

The art of mothering calls on moms to constantly give, guide, guard, and grow-up little human beings into well adjusted adults.

Question: For those of you with adult children, how did you do?

And then, you have grandkids and the starting of a new generation both excites you and concerns you.

And then there is that awkward time for parents of young children when you see your parents interacting with you children and you wonder, "Are these the same people that raised me!?"

- They are kind, caring, compassionate, emotional, lenient, giddy, & shoot, they're happy!
- Then you entertain that very sad, but fleeting, thought: "I wonder if they love my children more than they love me?"

Triple Generation Parenting

"From generation to generation to generation, even though I did not know them... there's something about history, heritage, ancestry that affects us today and there's something about your life...that will affect the generations to come and you won't be there but your influence will be."

- Parenting in general has a generational impact that goes beyond the 50 to 100 years between you and your parents.
- In scripture we often see God speaking in a generational manner.

“What I would like to do today is show you an Old Testament passage...New Testament passage to see what this multi-generational parenting looks like.”

The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

Exodus 20:12 NIV84

Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

“That word ‘long’, that concept, may not only mean the years that are quantity but also quality, to live a quality, long, godly life and lineage.”

“When you are children you are suppose to obey them [parents] and when you are adults you are to honor them regardless of their age.”

But check out the verse 5-6 regarding iniquities and punishment for sins:

Exodus 20:5-6 NIV84

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Notice that God’s punishment is limited to the 3rd and 4th generation. “That’s mercy!” That is good news for those who have come from wicked families lineages.

Also, we see that there is no limit to the generations of God’s love!

The point is that we serve a long-term generational God who lives from eternity to eternity.

“This means that God doesn't just relate to you but to your seed; to your lineage; to your family line.”

“In an individualistic culture often times we only think about our relationship with God as individuals but God relates to us as family, as lineages...”

“The blessings you have experienced in your life may be very directly connected to the prayers of your ancestors.”

“It's very possible that the favor you have in your life is more about what you were born into that something to do with you.”

“The work, the words, the wisdom of your ancestors could be poured on to you to this day.”

“The blessings on your great grandchildren may come upon them because of the way you parent them in this day and in this age. That you're not just parenting the children that you have but you're actually through lineage parenting the children that they have.”

“This means that what we sow today will have an effect whether good or bad for years, even generations to come.”

Psalm 126:5 NIV84

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

“Invest well!”

“While we can't see the future, we can send our children there!”

The Power of Multigenerational Parenting

- Deuteronomy 6 & 2 Timothy 1

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 NIV84

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

INSIGHTS FROM VERSE 1:

“God will drop a word on you before you get to your next season...God will give you words of preparation so when you get to the other side you actually know how to embrace what you’re walking into.”

“What God is trying to do right now is build into something of character and command so that when you get to the other side, you don’t get there saying, ‘Now what’d I do?’ God is saying, ‘I am preparing you so when you get to the other side...so that you will have in you what you need to succeed.’”

INSIGHTS FROM VERSE 2:

Do you see the 3 generations? “you, your children and their children after them”

“What he [God] is saying is, ‘what I am giving you now, before you even get to the other side is going to be good enough to have sustaining power...that go way beyond resources you invest...there is something you are going to possess that will last not only in your lifetime, but in your children’s lifetime and even their children after them.’”

Multigenerational parenting is a mindset.

Multigenerational mothering is the understanding that you are addressing the “needs” of today while planting “seeds” for tomorrow

“I know that that may feel like a lot of pressure.”

“At the end of the day: Do your best and let God handle the rest.”

- Honor your parents the best you can
- Raise your children the best you can
- Support your adult children the best you can
- Celebrate your grandchildren the best you can
- And then, die happy knowing that you did your best.

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE - 2 Timothy 1:5-7

2 Timothy 1:5-7 NIV84

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

3 generations: Timothy, Eunice (mother), Lois (grandmother)

“If you’re concerned about your kids or your grandkids not having the things that they need, what you need to do is pray that God would put spiritual people in their life that can speak into them because no parent can speak everything into a child that he or she needs in order to survive when they get to the other side of the Jordan.”

“We pray that God would put people in our kids’ lives that will influence them in the direction that we believe God wants them to go.”

Acts 16:1 NIV84

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

Timothy was a mixed race kid with a mom who was a believer and a father who was not.

“Mamas have a greater impact on the faith of their children than fathers do often times.”

“God can make up for daddy deficiencies by bring Pauls into their [children] life.”

“Moms that the ability to move in the life of a child that grows up into a man and that child will still bow to his mother but will want to fight his father.”

“Paul is saying to Timothy: Buddy! Listen! Fan that flame that God has inside of you because that same faith live in your grandmother Lois and your mama Eunice and now it’s in you.”

Good news: The generational blessing of faith can start with you!

- You might not had a family of faith to pass on to you anything
- Generational curses can be broken with your generation - with Jesus the curses are broken! All curses went to him

Galatians 3:13 NIV84

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” [Deuteronomy 21:23]

“Your heritage might not have been great but your God is!”

“There is no curse that pre-dates the Lord...There’s no curse, there’s no hex, there’s no problem, that God cannot break.”

“God has the ability to use you to start something new!”

“For those of you who might not be mothers you can still pour into children.”

Practical Application:

www.andersonspeaks.com - the icon from Compassion labeled “fill the stadium” and “Help Children in Crisis.” A \$500 one time gift will support a child for a whole year: hear the gospel, get food, clean water, and health care.

You can use your resources to impact the next generation

- If you didn’t come from a godly family, **let it start with you.**
- May You be the one to fan the flame of faith!
- May You be the one to fan the gift of God in you!
- May You be the one to trust Christ and begin a new heritage to pass on!
- May you be the one to stop the blame and the shame and the guilt

CONCLUSION - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED TODAY?

- We learned that God sees us and relates to us through a forever lenses generationally, not just in current times
- We must think in 3-4 generations as we think about raising our children - multi-generational perspective
- We learn that triple-generational mothers must “do their best and let God handle the rest.”

Practical Applications:

1. Thank God for the good you’ve received from your heritage
2. Thank God that you are not limited to the curses and the sins of your family
3. Thank your mothers for the good seeds that they planted
4. **Book:** The Top Ten Distinctions between the Millionaires and the Middle Class by Keith Cameron Smith

With these five groups come five mindsets of thinking.

- The very poor think day to day
- The poor think week to week
- The middle class think month to month
- The rich think year to year
- The very rich think decade to decade

“His point was that you have to begin thinking in the right direction instead of allowing your current category to dictate your cognition.”

- Believers in an eternal God must think **“generation to generation”!**

MOMS, address their NEEDS, plant your SEEDS, and pray that God will honor your DEEDS!...in this generation and in the generations to come.