SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

INTENTIONAL CHILDREN, Curt Brunk 10.18.09

Have you ever wished for a deeply clarifying moment in your life that would make your purpose/Calling known so that you could live the rest of your life with that kind of intentionality?

Turns out, it is not any one moment, but a series of moments making up God's process

How does God build intentionality into our lives?

1) Eph 2:10 He gives us purpose
2) But that has to come with genuine responsibility for that purpose to ever really manifest

The key is, that responsibility has to happen at much younger age than we in western culture realize?

How old was Mary, and Joseph, when God gave them the responsibility of caring for Him as a baby? Mary most likely 12-14, Joseph most likely 16-18

How old was Jesus when He was in the Temple amazing the teachers? 12 yrs old

Idea is that God is bringing us into differing levels of responsibility/accountability throughout our lives

Prov 22:6 so at every age we are being trained up by Him into what He made each of us uniquely to be

This training up is a combination of us as Free Will Beings made in His image speaking things into existence & only speaking that which He has reveled for us to speak

Spirit of Blessing/Passing on Purpose and Intention in Scripture:

Gen 27:28-40 Isaac speaks as if God will honor his words

Gen 48:13-14 Jacob/Israel speaks from revelation

Mat 16:19 verb means both that we bind/loose and that what we are to bind/loose has already happened in heaven

Epigenetics: the science that deals with how genes express themselves, or not, based on external factors

Real responsibility throughout a family, i.e. Family meetings where every person has real input. For example:

Submit a decision about whether to move to the whole Family

Oct 18 Intentional Children
Oct 25 Intentional Parenting
Nov 1 Intentional Relationships
Nov 8 Intentional Marriage

Have kids work at a certain age and put their income into the family's income, then the whole family make spending decisions

If one member of the family misbehaves, have the whole family decide on the consequences

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe what God has "at work" in the life of a child? What can we do to cooperate with this? What do adults sometimes do to compete with this divine work?
2. Some have observed that our Western culture encourages "extended adolescence" that actually slows down the maturing process in our young adults. Respond to this thought. What does Scripture say about this? In what passages?
3. Curt helped us see that Prov 22: 6 ("Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.") refers to parents directing children in keeping with their unique design. Identify a time when your parent or spiritual mentor did this for you. How valuable was that experience? Why?
4. Speaking about the Brave Heart clip, Curt invited us to think about what it would be like to receive "the challenge of your life". Think about the arenas of character, personal growth, influence for God -- In which of those is God confronting you with a large challenge? Explain? How might you respond?

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus