

The Faith of Our Children

2 Tim. 1:3-5

Introduction:

- A. We, as Christians, will likely influence the faith of generations to come.
 - 1. Timothy's was a third generation faith.
 - a. Not blind faith of parents - was "genuine" ("unfeigned" - KJV) faith.
 - b. Not weak faith of "inherited religion" - was taught Scriptures (3:14-15).
 - 2. Some are exceptions to the rule.
 - a. King Hezekiah was faithful in spite of father, Ahaz. (2 Kgs 17:2; 18:5)
 - b. Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways. (1 Sam. 8:3)
- B. We, as Christians, will likely pass on dominant features of our faith.
 - 1. If faith is predominantly strong, children's faith likely strong.
 - 2. If faith is predominantly weak, children's faith likely weak.
- C. We, as Christians, need to work on **flaws** in faith - for own, children's and grandchildren's sake:

Discussion:

- I. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO SUBJECTIVE. (2 Tim. 3:14-17).**
 - A. Too subjective if "just because" is answer for faith (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - B. Too subjective if reflects mere personal preferences or opinions.
- II. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO SHALLOW.**
 - A. Too shallow if merely ritualistic (cf. 2 Tim. 3:5), traditional, or emotional.
 - B. Too shallow if do not find work to do for the Lord. (Jas. 4:14-17; Mt. 23:3).
 - 1. Work at faithful attendance to all services.
 - 2. Work that goes beyond mere showing up at services.
 - 3. Work that goes beyond "organized" and "assigned" activities.
 - C. Too shallow if unwilling to defend faith. (Jude 3).
 - D. Too shallow if does not sustain us in daily life.
 - 1. Worry. (Matt. 6:30).
 - 2. Fear. (Matt. 8:26).
 - 3. Doubt. (Matt. 14:31).
 - E. Too shallow if unconcerned about Children's faith. (Eph. 6:4)
- III. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO VAGUE.**
 - A. Too vague if merely oppose: "Sin", "False doctrine", "Worldliness", etc.
 - B. Too vague if merely advocate: "Scriptural", "Truth", "Right", "Soundness", etc.
 - 1. What specific things do you consider to be such?
 - 2. cf. Brother at Lipscomb stood "four square" on Premillennialism.
- IV. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO FLEXIBLE.**
 - A. Too flexible if bend to fit times and circumstances. (cf. Gal. 2:14ff; Eph. 4:14)
 - 1. Can only been in matters of indifference and expediency.
 - 2. Can not change the faith once for all delivered.
 - B. Too flexible if bend Bible to fit practice, rather than practice to fit Bible.
 - 1. Institutional controversy example of this in both ways.
 - 2. Marriage controversy fast becoming an example.
 - C. Too flexible if bend faith to pacify immature children - afraid to say "no way"!
 - 1. Melt under that "Oh, mother" or "Oh, daddy" look.
 - 2. Give in to crying and pitiful begging.
 - 3. Afraid of appearing to be "old fashioned" or "out of step with times".
- V. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO RIGID.**
 - A. Too rigid if no room for patience, compassion, compassion and forgiveness - believe such is softness of character. (cf. Matt. 23:23).
 - B. Too rigid if cannot say "I am sorry" to our children - think it shows weakness.

Conclusion:

- A. We may not detect flaws in our faith - our children do.
 - 1. They may try to justify themselves by our weaknesses.
 - 2. Or, they may turn away in total disgust.
- B. We can give our children a strong working faith only by having one ourselves.