



Title: Beyond the norm III – leaving a legacy
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Two weeks ago: What do we **need**? Friendship.
Last week: What do I need **to be**? A great friend.
Tonight: What do I need **to give**?

1: Defining legacy

Ask yourself, when you leave... is it the end? Or will the legacy live on?
Actions speak louder than words.

Legacy defined: A stone dropping into the pond of life.

Success defined: My children become everything God has destined them to be.

2: Louder than words

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) ¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV) ¹ Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

Our actions are more powerful than the words we speak. No book, no teaching, no words can compare to you leading by example.

Lead by example and grace will be imparted to our children for a lasting legacy.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

Lead by example + explain to them...

If we want our children to become everything they have been called to be, then we have to become everything God has called us to be.

What do we need to give our children? An example. Don't just tell them. Show them. Give them a living example.

3: Bad legacy:

Good example = good legacy. Leading by bad example = bad legacy.

Exodus 20:5 (NLT)

⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the **entire family is affected**—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.

Exodus 20:6 (NLT)

⁶ But I lavish unflinching love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

But those who love God and follow Him, their children will be blessed... Grace will be imparted ...

Building walls - speaking one thing but living something else: What is the effect of this?

This is called **hypocrisy**. **This will build a wall** between you and your child. This will also build a wall **between your child and God**. We represent God to our children.

How many Christians have caused people to turn away from God?

4: Show them the way

Lead by example and grace will be imparted to our children for a lasting legacy.

It's a jungle out there. We need to prepare the way for our children.

(1) **Not to make children / people dependant on ourselves:** called to make them dependant on God – **how? You need to be dependent on God** and show them how to be as well.

(2) **Evaluate your life. What example are you setting?** Deal with the areas of disconnect.

(3) **Start when they are young:** The young are more impressionable

5: Leaving a legacy

Know that you can stop the bad legacy today. The effect of the past can be changed today.

- **Decide - to live a life that is an example - become everything you have been destined to be,** and those around you will become everything they have been destined to be.
- **Desire - to have a good legacy** – grow in God / position yourself for growth:
- **Deal with - bad legacy** – give it to God in prayer / forgive / ask for forgiveness

