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Be about your Father's business

by Peter Hay


Most teenagers at church become acquainted with God and His house because of the faith of their parents. This is a wonderful privilege for children who are born into Christian homes. Even Jesus was first brought to the house of God this way. Every year, Mary and Joseph faithfully journeyed to Jerusalem with their family for the Feast of Passover. On one of these occasions Jesus, aged twelve, began to show His understanding that the temple was His Father's house and that He had to be about His Father's business. Although aware of this work, Jesus left Jerusalem with His family, came to Nazareth, and continued to be subjected to His parents. This means that He was under their care and authority and was obedient to them. As a son in Joseph and Mary's house, Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and with men. Luk 2:41-52.

When one or both of your parents bring you with them to communion each week and live every day by the word that they receive there,

they are endeavouring to keep the Feast of Passover. At His table, the Lord provides for the life of every member of His household. That provision is available to you as you gather to the table with your parents and as you are subject to them at home. You receive the blessings associated with the bread and cup of the communion because you obey and honour your parents. Even if your parents are unbelievers, you can receive these blessings as you obey and honour them.

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You will know that you are receiving blessing because you will become more and more aware of the affairs of your heavenly Father's house and that He has business for you to do.

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Under the covering of your parents, you will start participating in all the offering activities of His house. Paul described this as a promise when he taught children of every generation to obey and honour their parents. Paul was talking about the promise of sonship.

God gives grace to Christian parents to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This is the capacity that He gives to them for fatherhood and motherhood. Grace is available for you to live acceptably to God in every circumstance of life as you receive your parents' discipline and instruction. Eph 6:4. You will also be learning to receive the discipline and instruction of God the Father. Children who reject the discipline of their parents are unlikely to be happy about suffering under the hand of the Father! However, it is by this means that we share His holiness and bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness. That is, we are receiving His Spirit and being the person whom He made us to be. Heb 12:7-11.

You would know that unbelieving teenagers do not think or live this way. This is because they have been taught a different way. In the media, and sometimes even at school, parents are portrayed as a little bit silly, unaware, easily overcome and manipulated by their children. Teenagers are taught that in many aspects of life they already know better than their parents. This view is not only completely dishonouring of their parents; it is not even true! If teenagers in Christian homes think and behave this way, they will not be able to take hold of the capacity for life that God makes available to them.

God has a plan for your life, and you can be living what He has planned for you, right now. The prophet Jeremiah was a youth when he was called to serve God. His father, Hilkiah, was a priest in Judah. Interestingly, the word Hilkiah means 'Yahweh is my portion'. This is the confession of every person who is committed to eating the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jeremiah had been brought up in a house that served in the temple and recognised that the Lord was the provision for their lives. Within this house Jeremiah received his call. He had been named by God from the womb. You also have been named from your mother's womb and can begin getting about your Father's business in your youth.

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So what does it mean to be about your Father's business? Let's think about Jesus' example. After three days of frantic searching, Mary found Jesus 'sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.' Luk 2:46-47. The first point of business in the Father's house is fellowship! Instead of you just being brought along, the motivation to join and participate in the many and varied fellowship opportunities at church can be



yours. Of course, you will still be coming with your parents, but your attitude will be different. You are recognising that this is your house and you have work to do.

As a member of your parents' house, you are in the house of the Father. And if you are subject to your parents, you are able to participate in all the activities of His house. As Jesus did, you can come to meetings ready to listen and learn, ready to ask questions, raise points of application, share testimony, and even participate in body ministry. This will no doubt involve talking with those who proclaim and teach the word. Your parents will need to be part of these discussions, but you must not view yourself as inadequate or unqualified to join the fellowship of the word. As you continue in the house of your father and mother, and find your

voice in our various gatherings, you will increase in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and with men.

The house of the Father needs to be explored! Remember that the Father's house is also the Son's house. Reference to the Son's house is specifically talking about each person being built into the house for the purpose of offering up spiritual sacrifices to God. 1Pe 2:5. Your youth is a time of transition from being in the house of the Father to becoming a part of the house of the Son as a living stone in your own right. As part of the house, your offering will no longer be covered or supported by your parents, and the accountability for offering will be yours. So it is important in this time of transition to get to know the place! In the psalms we are told to 'Walk about Zion and go around her; count her towers; consider her ramparts; go through her palaces, that you may tell it to the next generation.' Psa 48:12-13. This is an encouragement to every generation to learn the culture and activities of Zion, the city of God.

Those who come into the house of God are receiving a wonderful heritage. This is an exciting phase of life as you begin to explore the Father's house and learn how to be about His business. You don't need to draw back or work hard to be qualified to participate. You are already in the house! ■

