

THE LAST CHAPTER



3.6

Each member prepares to leave this earth as a blessing to others.

We don't really think about this too much but, you are going to die at some point. Sooner or later it happens to us all. The question is, are you going to be a blessing or a curse to the people you leave behind when God takes you home?

You may be asking what do you mean? How would I be a blessing or a curse if I'm no longer here? Let's dig into that a little.

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

Like anything else, what we leave behind will reflect the kind of life we've led. What matters to us in life will be evident to everyone after we're gone.

Matthew 27:37-39 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We can summarize this by saying “The theme of your life should be Love God, Love Others.” If this should define our life it should also define what our life leaves behind.

INHERITANCE

When we talk about what our life leaves behind, we often use the word “inheritance.” With that, there are specific things that usually come to mind. A last will and testament and a financial or estate plan are typically thrown into the inheritance bin. This is a physical, financial way of blessing others when we leave. We are not talking about the size of this blessing because everyone's ability to create and save wealth is different.

There is a different kind of inheritance that may be far more important, however. The non-financial inheritance we can leave behind is actually far more important for those we love. After all, our money only blesses us (maybe) in this lifetime. Because we are looking forward to eternity,, though, we have the opportunity to create an inheritance on earth that is eternal. Let's take a brief look at both.

FINANCIAL

Proverbs 13:22 A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

Q. How might the lack of a plan curse those you really want to bless?

When we look at the financial plan we have for those we will leave behind, there are some aspects to it we need to pay particular attention to. We need to make sure that our last will and testament is up to date and completed. If we have an estate plan or a financial plan that includes insurance, those things also need to be up to date. Make sure your spouse agrees with all of these decisions, knows what will happen and has access to documents.

There are other things however that we need to do to make sure that what we leave behind isn't a curse to those we love.

Some of the ways that we can curse when we leave is to create an organization (like a business) that has no plan for transferring the ownership of that business. Imagine your spouse without you. Likewise, as a business owner, this organization you have created and managed now has to be managed. Who ends up with this responsibility? How does your business bless your spouse in your absence? If you have no plan your business will actually be a curse to your family because they don't know how to manage it or how to get rid of it.

Small things to you might be huge things to them. As an example, passwords that provide access to important documents or accounts need to be communicated somehow. Where is that information being kept? Who has access to that information? Without those passwords, getting access to the proper information becomes extremely difficult and can be seen as a curse to those you really like to bless.

Some other concerns might be business debt, partner agreements (or lack of them), undocumented (verbal) agreements, as well as many others. Plan ahead so your financial estate is a blessing, not a curse.

Q. What do you need to do in the next few months to make sure your finances are a blessing and not a curse?

NON-FINANCIAL

There is a larger, more important thing to consider though: **What is the non-financial inheritance that you are leaving behind?**

Luke 12:13-21 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” (14) But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” (15) And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, **for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” (16) And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17) and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ (18) And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’(20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

“...one’s life does non consist in the abundance of his possessions.”... When we talk about an inheritance, we mean all of the things, both tangible and intangible, that we are leaving behind. You can also look at this as your legacy. **This is where Jesus called us to store up treasures in heaven.**

What kinds of things does this include? Your values, the love you show or don’t show for your family, your care and protection of others or yourself, your faith in God and submission to Him or your rebellion against Him. What kinds of things made you laugh or cry? Did you serve or dominate? Where did you store up your treasure?

All these things add up to a non-financial inheritance and an intangible legacy either for good or not.

Q. If you had to, how would you qualify your intangible legacy? What do you want to leave behind?

SUMMARY

A mature member chooses to be a blessing to their family and their business relationships should God take them from this earth, expectedly or not. Therefore, we have done our best to leave a legacy of godliness, love, and truth to those we love. We have chosen to bless others through our planning, and we have created and communicated a current Succession and Estate Plan. Legacy's 'The Last Chapter' has been completed and shared with the appropriate people.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

A good leader realizes they lead while they are alive and even afterward. Their life is an opportunity to lead others and their intention is to lead in a godly way. When we die, our last leadership gift should be to bless those we love with an inheritance of godliness and care.

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Complete**
"The Last Chapter" by Legacy Leadership Forums
- **Book**
Splitting Hairs by Ron Blue
https://www.amazon.com/Splitting-Heirs-Children-Without-Ruining/dp/0802413765/?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_w=wkgYa&content-id=amzn1.sym.cf86ec3a-68a6-43e9-8115-04171136930a&pf_rd_p=cf86ec3a-68a6-43e9-8115-04171136930a&pf_rd_r=132-8689074-8677346&pd_rd_wg=LTdNr&pd_rd_r=46eb02e0-892e-4dbc-a6bf-f412195c7c4e&ref_=aufs_ap_sc_dsk