

## I. Cornerstones for Cornerstone

### A. Continuing to set forth our commitments for moving forward together

### B. Putting in place four cornerstones for Cornerstone

1. Establish our theological identity
2. Engage our educational responsibility
3. Enact our relational opportunities
4. Empower our mission priorities

### C. Seven Commitments for Discipling the Next Generation

1. Embrace a biblical vision for the faith of the next generation
2. Foster a robust partnership between church and home
3. Teach the breadth and depth of the whole counsel of God
4. Proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ
5. Disciple the Mind, Heart, and Will

## II. Follow up to Commitment #5 Disciple the Mind, Heart, and Will

### A. Why do we need to engage the heart and influence the will of every disciple?

### B. Four Reasons:

1. Because there is a powerful enemy outside us who lusts for our destruction
  - a. **Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
  - b. **1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
  - c. Church:
    - (1) We have a real, personal, congregational enemy whose goal and every interaction with us is our spiritual destruction.
    - (2) Let me assure you, the devil has no qualms about targeting the most vulnerable among to hurt us the most.
  - d. Peter's follow up:
    - (1) **1 Peter 5:9 (ESV)** *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*
    - (2) **One way in which the church of Jesus Christ resists the devil is by discipling the mind, heart, and will of the next generation, leading them to faith and faithfulness to Jesus!**
2. Because there is a perverse culture around us that craves out capitulation
  - a. **1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is*

*from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

- b. **Colossians 2:8 (ESV)** *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*
- c. Do you ever wonder why warnings like these exist in the Bible? Because the risk is real!
  - (1) Perhaps you've heard of that barrel of crabs, sea creatures that, when caught and placed in a barrel will actively prevent one another from escaping by pulling down the ones that attempt to climb out?
  - (2) The culture in which we live has no heart or desire for God or the things of God and will actively attempt to neutralize anyone who does
    - (a) Silencing
    - (b) Peer pressure
    - (c) Outright hostility
- d. **We must enable the next generation to face the threat of assimilation the culture presents by discipling their minds, their hearts, and their wills.**

3. Because there is a sinful nature within us that sabotages our sincerity

- a. **Romans 7:18-25 (ESV)** *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*
- b. Discipling the next generation includes more than simply presenting the gospel and calling for a decision.
  - (1) Discipleship includes training one another to put faith into practice on a daily basis
  - (2) To participate fully as a believer in God's ongoing work of sanctification and holiness within us.
  - (3) **Romans 6:19 (ESV)** *I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to*

*sanctification.*

- (4) **We must help the next generation among us to learn to live in Christ, with Christ, and for Christ will all their mind, their heart, their will, and their strength as He works in them every moment of every day to make them more like Jesus and prepare them to dwell forever in the Presence of His glory.**

4. Because there is no greater joy for a Christian parent (or for a Christian period) than to know their children are walking in the truth.
- a. **3 John 1:4 (ESV) *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.***
- b. Notice
- (1) John is writing to and of his spiritual children not physical children
- (2) Their faith in Christ AND their life of faith are his highest joy.
- c. Ask most parents today what their greatest joy for their children is and they might answer
- (1) That they find a good spouse and be happy
- (2) That they land their dream job and be happy
- (3) That they get the best education and be happy
- (4) That they have a place to live, clothes to wear, have food to eat and are happy.
- d. These earthly goods are not evil in and of themselves, but for most people today, their greatest joy for their children ends of the grave!
- (1) Happiness in the world ends when we end in the world.
- (2) Holiness, the heart and nature of Christ, worked in us by the Holy Spirit through faith, extends as life into eternity.
- e. **John points us to a joy that extends beyond death into eternity, the joy of knowing that the next generation has a certain future in glory through saving faith in Jesus Christ witnessed through the faithfulness of their godly lives.**
- f. Church, Cornerstone, John had no greater joy than to hear that his children were walking in the truth.
- (1) Have you given up on the next generation?
- (2) Have you settled into just knowing they have a measure of happiness in this world?
- (3) **Are you content with a lesser joy when it comes to your children?**

**C. It is not enough that we merely introduce the next generation to the facts.**

1. We must also work to engage their hearts and influence their will toward Christ.
2. We cannot take for granted that a little effort will yield much fruit.
- a. **2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV) *6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully***

*will also reap bountifully.*

- (1) We will reap what we sow
- (2) If it is true in our financial efforts it is true in our relational and discipleship efforts.

- b. **We must make the commitment and fulfill the commitment to disciple the mind, heart, and will of the next generation.**

### III. The power for effective discipleship comes through the Holy Spirit in conjunction with prayer.

#### A. The Spirit of Christ is our only sufficiency for discipling the mind, heart, and will of the next generation

1. **2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,* <sup>6</sup> *who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*
2. David Michael
  - a. **The most important thing I can do to provide what I desire for my children is to seek God's help and plead for His grace to accomplish what I am powerless to do in the heart of my child.**
  - b. **Being seriously committed to the discipleship of the next generation means being seriously committed to praying regularly, earnestly, and biblically for the faith of the next generation.**

#### B. Resources for those who "don't know how"

1. [www.Truth78.org](http://www.Truth78.org)
  - a. Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation
  - b. Praying for The Next Generation
  - c. A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children (Has an app!)
  - d. Utter Dependency on God, Through Prayer
2. Practice at Church
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Each Month devoted to prayer for the next generation
  - b. We will pray, by name, for another and for the next generation among us.
    - (1) You will know that Sunday will focus not just on talking about praying but on actually praying
    - (2) The next generation will come to know, wherever they are, that on that day each month an entire congregation is lifting them up, in prayer, by name, to the throne of grace.
    - (3) At the end of our service this morning, after communion, I'm going to ask all the men and fathers who are willing to come up here and close our service by praying for the next generation,

#### C. We cannot change the mind, heart, or will of our children, only God can do that, but we can, in faith and obedience, plead with God to release them from bondage to sin, grant them new life, and lead them in the way of holiness.

1. **Matthew 18:14 (ESV)** *So it is not the will of my Father who is in*

*heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*

2. **2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)** *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*
3. **1 John 5:14-15 (ESV)** *And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*