

Ten Steps To The Next Generation

*“Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.”
Deuteronomy 11:1*

Today we are faced a real challenge. About a generation ago there was a demographic group labeled as the Baby Boomers who started an experiment in life. This experiment was based on new and different values. They broke from “traditional” values and instituted new ideas and new freedoms which have been promoted, pushed, and hyped with unrelenting enthusiasm and energy.

Politicians, educators, lawyers, doctors, business executives, Hollywood filmmakers, book publishers, newspaper and magazine editors, perhaps even some key religious leaders, have all been engaged in selling us these new values.

David Boehl in an article called **“Hanging by a Thread”** enumerates these values in seven statements:

1. Personal happiness the main goal

Personal happiness, fulfillment, and independence are the highest goals for any person.

2. Marriage for life old-fashioned

The idea of marrying someone for life is old-fashioned.

Divorce is not harmful, but should be encouraged if couples are not compatible. We should not worry about how divorce affects children; they have a remarkable ability to adapt to hardship.

3. Traditional roles are confining and outdated

Women should be encouraged to pursue careers and personal fulfillment, and it is unfair to view men as leaders of their homes.

4. Teenagers should make their own choices

Parents should be encouraged to begin 'letting go' of their children as they begin adolescence. Then these teenagers can begin to make their own, independent choices.

5. There is no such thing as absolute morality

We encourage each individual to experience sexual freedom by setting aside biblical morals regarding premarital sex, extramarital sex, and homosexuality. We must embrace tolerance for any lifestyle an individual chooses.

6. Question all authority at every opportunity

7. The influence of Christianity should be eliminated from public life (Hanging By a Thread by David Boehl)

Getting Off The Bleachers

I remember very distinctly the sound of excitement in the stands and from the stands. It was so motivating to know that a few thousand people were watching every move you made and applauding every accomplishment you achieved. But when I went to college, I was shocked to find out what it meant to not be cheered on. I was so excited to attend my first game of the season at this particular college even though they had never won a game that year. I was shocked that evening to walk into a stadium so empty that I never attended another game.

I've been thinking about **what empties the stands**. What is it that causes the stands to empty out and what causes them to fill? Here are a few of my thoughts from that question:

1. Wrong Concept of Winning.

Nothing de-motivates and individuals participation and support like losing.

- “People who lack vision almost always lack passion. They have no fire- and no fuel to keep themselves and their people going.” (John Maxwell stated in his book, 360 leader, Nelson Business, 2005, pg. 37)
- It is so difficult to get up day after day in our families, in our relationships and in our jobs if we do not have the potential for a win. It's simply not good enough to want to survive, you want to thrive, but the wrong concept of winning will always leave you struggling no matter what role you play.

I'll never forget the year we started six man football at a Christian High School in Texas. No matter how much we tried to get our boys to hit each other, they could never fully conceive the concept of “contact sports.” In their minds, the glorified image they had of themselves because of their shoulder pads and uniform somehow translated in their mind “preparation.” They looked ready, but they were not ready. They had a wrong concept of what a winner was.

We had them doing all kinds of drills that would mentally prepare them for the games ahead. We yelled at them, ran their legs off but could never seem to get that competitor mentality in their heads. After much frustration, our first game came.

It was the first offensive play of the game for our team. The team looked great and was in perfect formation, listened for the count and then the ball was hiked. I will never forget what I heard next... “Oooouch!” Ouch? You don't say ouch. You may feel it but you don't say it. It was loud and it was embarrassing. Needless to say, we lost. I'm happy to say that we got better, but I'm not sure our fans would have stayed around much longer if we had not changed our concept of winning. Looking good and knowing all the right concepts are not enough if you are unwilling to engage in them.

2. Right Concept of Winning

I am constantly reminded every year of what it's like to win. I love watching Texas beat USC last year, (2005), for the national college championship game. You talk about clearing the stands. The game was so close it could have gone either way, but the last few minutes proved that the “better” team won. (OK, I'm biased)

As the clock moved down to the final seconds people were being held back from rushing onto the field. Their was crazy at the final buzzer. People were running,

screaming, shouting, "We're number one!" Winning fills the bleachers and empties them too

3. Wrong Concept of The Game

When I was in **Junior High School, my eighth grade year**, I remember a guy by the name of Robert who was the loudest, most intimidating person I had ever known. He loved to fight and would not back down from any body who wanted to fight him, no matter what size they were.

We were playing Bowie Jr. High win one of their players stood up before the ball was hiked and popped one of our players right in the nose. All I remember was immediately Robert was already halfway on the field yelling, "**Charge!**" The bench and the bleachers emptied out.

I know we one because we never lost a game that year. But what we won by was intimidation more than ability. Kid's were afraid to play us. Our reputation exceeded our abilities. I know in a game that is a great advantage, but in a home or a relationship that is a disaster!

4. Right Concept of The Game

Picture with me if you will that it is game time. You are standing on the field and you look up in the stands and no one is there. Your heart sinks and right before the play takes action you hear a crowd of people, but they are not in the stands. You turn around and **they are all behind you like the cell phone commercial.** When asked who they are you just say, that's my support team.

● **The Right Concept of the game is that we are more important than me**

I have seen many guys who dropped out of the game because he didn't like his position. To be honest, I can't imagine how those guys could play offensive line. That was the most sacrificial position on the field with the least amount of recognition. But something I learned about the temperaments of a lineman, they were more **we** oriented than **me** oriented. Everyone who got to touch the ball knew who the real champions were, it was the guys who sacrificed the most so that others could get the glory.

- John Wooden said that to be successful "**you must be interested in finding the best way, not in having your own way.**"
- **The Right Concept of the game is that results do not depend so much on the leader above us as it is the spirit within us.**
 - Have you ever thought that if you prospered your boss, you might prosper?
 - If you met the needs of your spouse, your spouse would want to meet your needs?
 - If you responded in a proper way to your parents and those in authority that they might want to give you privileges that you are now demanding?

How do you **become the person you desire to be** in relationship with your

spouse, in your family, your church and in your job?

- You **start now to adopt the thinking, learn the skills, and develop the habits of the person you wish to be!**
- **Make the decision to become a leader where you are instead of waiting for a position to be given to you.**
 - You can make a difference no matter where you are!
- **Develop your leadership and you will develop your family, your church, your job and your life.**
 - Leadership is not dependent on a position because the main issue is the ability to influence others.

Love And Obedience

Moses Instructs The Parents About Biblical Priorities and Principals

“Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.”
Deuteronomy 11:1

Obedience without love is a dead religion

Love without obedience is a false religion

A love for God never goes *against* His word. A passion for God's Word never goes against His love.

- As Jesus said in **John 14:15: *If you love Me, keep My commandments. Real love for Jesus always translates into obedience.***
- **Love is Commanded Here:** Love is not a matter left entirely up to our **impulse** or our **feelings**. **We choose to love the Lord or not.** What is it the Lord really wants from us - our love. We could give Him a hundred other things, but none of it really matters unless we give Him our love. As Jesus said to the **Ephesian church** in **Revelation 2:4: *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. If we lose love, we lose all.***

Four Responsibilities to Keep

- **Requirements: Keep His Charge/Requirements-** mishmereth {mish-meh'-reth} 4931- guard, charge, function, obligation, service, watch
- **Decrees: Statutes/Decrees-** chuqqah {khook-kaw'} 2708- statute, ordinance, limit, enactment, something prescribed
- **Laws: Judgments/Laws-** mishpat {mish-pawt'} 4941- judgment, justice, ordinance
- **Commands: Commandments-** mitsvah {mits-vaw'} 4687- commandment
- **Guard and protect the statutes and ordinances using the judgment of God utilizing His commandments.**

Six Ways To Express Your Experience With God

“Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country...”

Deuteronomy 11:2-4

- Remember, your children were not the ones who saw...
- **Stormie Omartian** has written books called, *The Power of a Praying Parent*, *The Power of a Praying Wife* & *The Power of a Praying Husband*. In the Power of a Praying Parent she opens the book sounding like Dickens — **"It's the best of jobs. It's the most difficult of jobs. It can bring you the greatest joy. It can cause the greatest pain. There is nothing as fulfilling and exhilarating. There's nothing so depleting and exhausting. No area of your life can make you feel more like a success when everything is going well. No area of your life can make you feel more like a failure when things go wrong"** (page 13).
- **What Do You Know About God?** What you know is greater than your children has experienced. Make sure it is God that you know about and can share. Separate yourself from secular information and Biblical demonstration.
 1. **Communicate Your Experiences In His Discipline:**
Chastisement/Discipline- muwcar {moo-sawr'} 4188- discipline, chastening, correction
 - It shows that you recognize God is greater than you. Your children will only learn to fear God by how you communicate how you have submitted to His rebuke and discipline.
 - **Life Lesson: Humility and Reverence**
 2. **Communicate Your Experiences In His Majesty: Greatness/Majesty-** godel {go'-del} 1433- greatness, magnitude, magnificence
 - Talk of God's creation, not just the beauty of nature. Stop sharing just the beauty of things, but the maker of all things.
 - **Life Lesson: Awe and Praise**
 3. **Communicate Your Experiences In His Mighty Hand: Mighty-**chazaq {khaw-zawk'} 2389- strong, stout, mighty, severe, sharp, hot, firm, hard
 - Where has God shown up in your life? Talk about His **provision**, talk about His **healing** power, talk about His **peace** in trouble. Talk of giving your tithes offering, let them place the check in the box.
 - **Life Lesson: Trust and Confidence**
 4. **Communicate Your Experiences In His Outstretched Arm:**
Ourstretched Arm:natah {naw-taw'} 5186- to stretch out, extend, spread out, pitch, turn
 - **Share the love of God for humanity and the power of God for**

His enemies. Share insights about people who are not as privileged as you. Share the character of Christ in large ways, “socialism”, abortion, homosexual.

- **Life Lesson: The Love of God and The Power of God**

5. **Communicate Your Experiences In His Signs: Sign/Miracle:** 'owth {oth} 226- sign, signal, miracle

- Share when God came through in a time of **need, sorrow**, searching for **direction**, times of **joy**
- Converse your observation of His soon returning. Explain the signs of the times, your children haven't learned yet.

- **Life Lesson: Provision and Expectation**

6. **Communicate Your Experience In The Things He Did In Egypt:** Do not forget the significance of the Biblical presence and power of God.

- **Life Lesson: Significance and Foundational**

- ***It Wasn't the Children Who Saw: (vs. 4-6)***

- What God did to the Egyptian army, horses and chariots (vs. 4)
- What God did to Dathan and Abiram when the earth opened up and swallowed them and everyone in their families, their tents and every living thing that belong to them. (vs. 5-6)

- ***It Was the Parents Who Saw:***

***“But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.”
Deuteronomy 11:7***