**REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE…**

**AND WHO HE IS**

Many Christian parents have called to their teenagers as they were leaving the house to go out for the night, “Be careful, and remember who you are.”

Of course, those two pieces of advice are aimed at both their physical and spiritual values. It’s a dangerous world out there and the fear of getting that dreaded phone call with some strange voice saying, “Sir, Maam, there’s been an accident and…” preys upon the heart and mind of every dad and mom. It’s in our DNA to worry about the safety of our kids. We want them to drive defensively and behave righteously.

Among our greatest concerns is a forgetfulness of Paul’s warning, “*Evil companions corrupt good morals*” (I Cor. 15:33). We say silent prayers until we hear the car drive into the garage and the door open with the words, “Hi dad, hi mom, I’m home.” When they’re safe again in bed we finally close our eyes with a whispered prayer, “Thank you Lord for bringing her home safely again.”

If you are a young parent and have never yet experienced this fear that grips your heart, you know that day is coming. You prepare for it now by doing the best you can to fulfill the Biblical command, “*Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture (training) and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4),” along with its companion verse, “*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged*” (Col. 3:21). Oh how you pray to be a good father and mother. Yes, one day, and sooner than you think, you also will be saying to your child as he heads out the door, “Son, be careful, and remember who you are.”

Who, exactly, ***are*** they? True, they are your children and wear your name. You certainly want them to remember to “*honor your father and mother* … *that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth*” (Eph. 6:1-3). Respect and honor to you will keep them from much harm in this world. You have worked hard to give your child a good name, and we know the proverb that says, “*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold*” (Prov. 15:1). That is who they ***are***.

But you know, and I know, and the Lord knows, that what you really mean when you tell them, “Remember who you are,” is that they wear a higher and nobler name. They represent to the world not only the reputation of your family name, but also “*the name which is above every name*” before whom one day “*every knee should bow … and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*.” (Phil. 2:9-11). Yes, your greatest fear as a Christian parent is not their physical life, but their spiritual. Into your hands was given the sacred charge that “*children are a heritage from the Lord*” (Psa. 127:3). You are but stewards, not owners, of this inheritance (i.e. heritage), and to the Lord you must give an account as you return them to Him again. That is who they “***are.***” But you know, and I know, and the Lord knows, it goes deeper than that.

Who they “***are***” is who Jesus “***is***.” Implied in our words as they head out the door is this thought, “Remember who you are, and who He is.” If our children will but take Jesus with them wherever they go then we can rest in peace knowing they will make wise decisions and do the right thing. You hope their motto will be: “*I have set the Lord always before me, because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved*” (Psa. 16:8). You pray they will remember: “*Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand*” (Phil. 4:5). Just knowing the Lord is right there, standing at their right hand, seeing and hearing all they say and do, will keep them from Satan and sin.

David, as a father, made a lot of mistakes. His children grew up in rebellion against both God and himself. But I can just see him, alone in his chambers one night when they were still young, thinking about his children’s future. He prayed, “God bless Amnon, Daniel, Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, Eliphelet, along with my daughter Tamar.”\* While it must have been a marvel just to remember all their names, I’m thinking he finished his prayer and penned these words:

11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?
13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.
14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.
15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.
16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.
18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34 is David’s way of saying, “Remember who you are, and who He is.”

I have sat down this morning to write this with all the parents of this church on my mind and heart. I prayed for you. At this moment during the quarantine you have your children safe and sound as you shelter-in-place. It is a time for family to grow together in the safety of your home. I’m happy for you. But the day will soon come when you will see them once again leave for school, or to be with others, and it will bring once again a whispered prayer and an audible cry, “Be careful, and remember who you are.”

Know this, when you say those words, there is a Father up in heaven who is saying those same words. The difference is, He is saying them to you, His children.

Until tomorrow… remember who you are.

I love you.

Rick

\* taken from I Chronicles 3:1-9