Relationships in the Home- Grandparents

Webster’s Dictionary gives the following definition for “Grandparents”, a parent of a parent. Looking up the word “grand” I found the following, “a prefix used in genealogical terminology meaning one generation more remote. In common verbiage, it refers to our parent’s parents.

Grandparents exist because their children have children. This could be by giving birth, i.e. biological birth or adoption. In either case they are part of the family unit. “Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father” (Proverbs 17:6). Somebody said the role of a grandparent is to bring magic into the lives of children. Others have said grandparents have the rights of being a parent without the responsibilities. I am not sure if that last is true but I will agree that some of my fondest memories of my childhood contain my grandparents. Now being a grandparent, I can say they bring magic into our lives as well.

What does the Bible say about this relationship? Let us first look at the grandchildren and then the grandparents.

Grandchildren are to help their Grandparents in time of need. “But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.” (Timothy 5:4). God’s social security system includes the next generation and the one after that.

They are also to show them respect. “The glory of young men is their strength. And the splendor of old men is their gray hair” (Proverbs 20:29). The grandchild may not appreciate this relationship until it is over. However, one’s grandparents should be honored if they have given the family a good reputation. They should be honored because they raised their children and lived many years. Grandparents have seen the good and the bad times. My grandparents were rearing their children during the Great Depression. They made the sacrifices necessary to keep their families together. Grandchildren can learn a lot about living by listening and watching their grandparents.

Grandparents have responsibilities also. They can teach the law of God to the next generation, “when I call to remembrance, the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and you mother Eunice, and I am persuade is in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5). Can you see how the word of God was passed from one generation to another? Lois taught Eunice and I dare say she also had a hand in teaching Timothy. Sometimes grandchildren will listen to their grandparents quicker that their parents. Unfortunately, some parents fail in teaching their children God’s Law.. In which case, the grandparents can play a role.

They can also provide the proper example to that next generation. One of my memories of Grandma and Grandpa Beesley was their prayers. Every meal stared with a prayer and every night before we went to bed there was a time of prayer. My Grandpa could hardly read or write but he could pray.

I also believe Grandparents can give valuable time to their grandchildren. Parents tend to be rushed and always trying to “get things done”. Some times children need to talk with someone who isn’t in a hurry. Grandparents can afford to listen and talk. I can still see my Grandmother Tucker in her rocking chair going back and forth. She was not in a hurry and was not going anywhere. She had time to talk.

Eventually this relationship will end. However, the lessons taught and learned will continue on to the next generation. Dennis Tucker

(Editor’s Note: I wrote this series of articles a number of years ago. Some revision was necessary but the message remains the same. God created the home with all of relationships for the good of mankind. When we neglect or worse, abuse and destroy our homes, we suffer. Our society suffers and the church suffers. When we properly work to fulfill our roles, we are happier and better off to serve God. I hope these writings have been beneficial to you. D.T.)