


The Amazing Ripple Effect!

The type of role models we are will affect future generations.

- ◆ In the early 1700's two men developed distinct reputations for themselves— one was Jonathan Edwards, a man of integrity, refinement, and Christian character, and the other was Max Duke, a well-known criminal. During the last 200 years, their descendants have been traced. In Jonathan Edwards line of descendants are 13 college presidents, 200 preachers, 60 prominent leaders, 90 physicians, 32 authors, 6 professors and 300 farmers. On the other hand, Max Duke's descendants include 90 prostitutes, 100 criminals, 145 confirmed drunkards, 300 delinquents and 285 who contracted various evil social diseases.





We must understand the forces that shape and mold us!

- ◆ We can Replicate (repeat) what we know
 - Blend in by far the easiest
 - By far the most common and powerful
- ◆ We can Repudiate
 - Consciously choose not to
 - Which has its own pitfalls
- ◆ We must be Responsible to ask for wisdom
and make the right choices!



How to Take Past Failures and Turn them into Present Successes

**Replication,
Repudiation,
& Responsibility**

Replication

- ◆ We both have two families:
 - A. Family of *Orientation*
 - B. Family of *Outcome*
- ◆ How we respond to A – determines B!
- ◆ Replication is far the most powerful.
- ◆ So **powerful** we often repeat even if we hated it growing up!
 - Rm 7:19 Struggle: “For the good which I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I practice.”





Examples of Replication

- ◆ Divorce – 80% divorce rate among first married when both have divorced parents.
- ◆ Child abuse – most common among those who were abused themselves.

Biblical Examples:

- ◆ Abraham and Isaac
- ◆ Isaac and Rebecca
- ◆ Jacob and Esau
- ◆ Israel – coming out of Egypt
 - Ex 1:11; 13-14 – Bitter Bondage
 - Wanted to return—why? Num 11:5
 - Their fixation on the past destroyed the possibility of a better tomorrow!






Key Principle:

- ◆ You will tend to raise your children exactly the way you were raised.
 - Ecc 7:11 Wisdom is good for an inheritance

REPUDIATION – to rebel & change

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- ◆ *“We are all affected by our past, but we are not prisoners of it.”*
 - Heart of repentance! *Acts 26:20*
 - Overcoming sin is a matter of choice!



REPUDIATION – to rebel & change

- ◆ The **major pitfall** is the tendency to over react and go to extremes.
 - Discipline in Corinth
 - Children of Israel
 - 1st generation – Joshua – **zealous**
 - 2nd generation – **apathetic**
 - 3rd generation – **rebellious**

Judges 2:12 “Forsook Jehovah.”



RESPONSIBILITY

- ◆ *Must learn from the past, make choices and not make excuses!*
 - Adam and Eve
 - Hillary explaining Bill's infidelity
 - Overweight folks blaming McDonalds!

RESPONSIBILITY

- ◆ Don't blame your parents!
 - Ezekiel 18:2-4 “Our father's have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge.”
 - No excuse for disobedience





Challenge you to be a *transition person*!

- ◆ Great cloud of witnesses who repudiated bad parenting and did God's will:
 - Hezekiah – father Ahaz
 - Josiah's family and whole nation was wicked
 - Gideon repudiated father's idolatry



Challenge you to be a *transition person*!

- ◆ Abraham came from idolatry/Ur.
- ◆ Jephthah – “a mighty man of valor” in spite of being an outcast, disinherited, child or a harlot!

Assignment:

- ◆ Think about what things you liked about your upbringing and would like to *replicate or repeat*
- ◆ Think about and list the things you would like to *repudiate* and take responsibility to change.
- ◆ Plan how you will avoid the tendency to overreact and simply go from one extreme to the other.

