

What Do I Want to Leave Behind?

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I'm sitting here looking at my mother-in-law's collection of Depression glass and realizing that my husband, his sister, and my kids have no recollection of ever seeing, much less using, any of it. They remember her Melamine instead.

Having this reflective moment reminds me of what I want to leave my children and my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren and all the way down the line as far as it goes.

I want them to know God in truth and I want them to know, deep down, that the things we sing about in church are not just for Sunday but are real, believable, livable, concrete foundations for every day. I want this for when times are so good they need someone to thank and for when times are so bad that they wonder if there is any help in God.

I have not always been able to teach my children correctly because I haven't known how. I don't claim to know all the truth now and will continue to keep learning forever. For this reason, I have apologized to my kids a thousand times for the lies about God I have either taught them or lived before them or put them in places where other people taught them. I have asked God to forgive me and for Him to teach my children about Himself in truth.

What are those lies? At different times in our lives, there were different wrong-headed, wrong-hearted, passed-down errors. There was the lie that God loves us in proportion to how we perform. There was the lie that God saves our souls by grace alone, through faith alone but we "take it from there" and attempt to live our Christian lives in our own strength. There was the lie that Christianity was somehow enmeshed with patriotism. There was the lie that people's worth and contribution to society was determined by whether they were Christian or not.

I am not one of the "tear the Church down and start over without it" crowd, but I do hate the ugly, hurtful things that have been taught and done in the name of Christ. And I'm guilty, too.

What I want with all my heart is for everyone to be drawn by the Holy Spirit to the One True God and His Son Jesus. I want us all to know that He is real and trustworthy and that He loves us. I want my descendants to allow themselves to be loved by God in truth.

Do it, Lord.

I rejoiced greatly that I have found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. 2 John 4