

Building Monuments
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Introduction: How are you doing in your monument project?

- A. We admire great monuments of men. Which impress you?
 - 1. Most of the ones I think of were built in the last 100 years.
 - 2. Archeology has found remains of monuments of past societies. Many of the “7 Wonders of the world” are gone.
- B. As Christians we are to put our efforts into building “monuments” that can build faith in others. **(Mt 5:16)**
 - 1. Today I want to focus on instilling faith in our children. **(Eph 6:4)**
 - 2. How can we under the Lordship of Jesus Christ put our entire being into the great work of instilling faith in others?

I. God gives opportunity to parents

- A. The greatest opportunity He gives is a changed heart molded into the image of God. **(Deut 6:1-6)**
 - 1. Our God is our heavenly Father! What kind of parent is He?
 - 2. A genuine conversion can bear witness to the character, works and teaching of such a loving God.
 - 3. The best thing we can do is have a genuine faith. **(2 Tim 1:5)**
- B. God gives opportunity to parents. Consider the crossing of the Jordan. **(Joshua 4:1-9)**
 - 1. Joshua reminded them of this opportunity. **(Josh 4:21-24)**
 - 2. How were they to take advantage of this? Think!
 - 3. This monument is now gone. How did they do?
- C. God wants smaller “monuments built”. **(Deut 6:6-9)**
 - 1. What monuments do we have? I still remember my mother reading the bible to me. I remember her taking me to services. She encouraged me in the Lord until she died. I remember her death bed.
 - 2. What memorials will be in the minds of your loved ones?
- D. Do not neglect the God-given monument! **(1 Cor 11:24-27)**
 - 1. I rarely had this opportunity growing up in a denomination.
 - 2. What memories I have of helping my children in the assembly.

II. As parents we must win the battle of the heart

- A. Sadly, some parents are distant and uninvolved with their children. **(Mal 4:6)**
 - 1. I find the prophecy of John the Baptist interesting as fathers are addressed.
 - 2. One of the saddest memories in school was on a day when parents were invited to the class to hear their students.

3. Look carefully and make sure you are involved with your children.
- B. The role of the mother is a powerful tool in God's hands. **(Titus 2:3-5)**
 1. I will always be thankful for the time my mother spent with me.
 2. Some today try to take on 2 full-time jobs. Fight for the place of the mother in your home.
- C. What a blessing if we succeed. **(Psa 103:13-18; Prov 17:6)**
 1. Are you a rich man? **(Psa 128:6)**
 2. What a terrible burden if we fail. **(Jer 2:8-9)**

III. What do we do with an opportunity?

- A. We need to be careful about pride. **(1 Pt 5:5-6)**
 1. Pride blinds us to reality. Do not take an easy path and think everything will work out ok.
 2. The old Harry Chapin's song "Cat's in the cradle" is a good warning.
 3. We will not always have opportunity – What we do today matters!
- B. Consider some opportunities.
 1. When your child asks a question. (Homosexuality, mixed swimming)
 2. When an example is presented.
 3. Constantly showing the importance of relationships, marriage and the future. Consider Abraham. **(Gen 24:2-6)**
 4. Seeking wisdom to know when an opportunity is there. Will we be ready to open the door? There are times when they are not ready.

IV. Making time with your children

- A. You are building a tower. Have you counted the cost? **(Lk 14:25-30)**
 1. Are you a faithful Christian? Is the Lord your passion?
 2. Be interested and involved in the good things your children are interested in.
 3. Be a listener and be teachable.
- B. Make the example of loving brethren and loving God's word a major part of your time together. Please do not ask "What services do I have to attend?"
 1. Do not tear down while you build. **(Eph 6:4; 4:30-31)**
 2. Let your relationship with God and His people be a joy.

Conclusion: What will your child think of you in eternity?