SLT200, LESSON 8: Building Generationally

THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the importance of building generationally, recognizing the progress that results from generational transfer, and outlining the process of maturing the next generation.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTATNT BECAUSE continuity from one generation to another is God’s plan for the advancement of His Kingdom and the sustainable development of the culture.

LESSON 8 OUTLINE:

I. God’s preferred process of advancing the earth and His work in the earth is accomplished through continuity rather than through discontinuity.

1. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which is known as the Shema Israel, God calls upon the natural families to insure that each preceding generation instructs and prepares the following succeeding generation.
2. The background of Deuteronomy and the Shema Israel is the discontinuity of the Egyptian exodus and the continuity promised in the land of inheritance.
3. The Passover, which was the commemoration of the Exodus deliverance, was celebrated with unleavened bread (Ex. 12:12-20; Lev. 23:5-8); but Pentecost, which was the commemoration of the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai, was celebrated with leavened bread (Lev. 23:15-17).
4. Leaven represents any belief system that gives rise to a culture.
5. Discontinuity is a radical action to cut off that which must not be allowed to move into exponential growth.
6. Moses commanded fathers to pass onto their sons the Kingdom leaven, which would guarantee the continuation of the nation’s worship system and the progressive advancement of the culture.
7. In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul reveals that God has given the five-fold ministry gifts to function within the church in a similar and parallel role as parents function within the family.
8. The five-fold imparts truth and oversees application of that truth in order to leaven the saints for the work of the leavening the culture with the Kingdom.
9. The end goal of the leavening process for the church is that the body of Christ matures from children to the measure of the stature of Christ.
10. The five-fold is responsible for continuity from generation to generation.
11. The Shema outlines training unto maturation.
12. “The Lord our God is one Lord” emphasizes an integrated rather than fragmented view of life.

2. “Love the Lord you God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” describes no fragmented affections of the heart.

3. “Teach them (the laws) diligently unto your children” accentuates no fragmented source of the leaven.

1. “Talk of them when you sit in your house, and walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when your rise up” means to build a worldview by discussing everyday events through the lenses of God’s Word.
2. “Bind them for a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes” denotes that the whole soul of man and all forms of his labors are manifesting the influence of a biblical worldview.
3. “Write them upon the posts of your house and on your gates” signifies the building of the culture of family and social institutions based upon the culture of the Kingdom.

II. The goal of bringing sons to maturity who are prepared to manage the inheritance is a main theme seen throughout the scriptures.

1. Adam, God’s son, was perfectly created but not fully mature, and he introduced the first radical discontinuity found in the Bible and disrupted generational continuity.

B Jesus, God’s only-begotten son, brought discontinuity to the generational transfer of death and introduced continuity with the leaven of the Kingdom.

C. Israel’s three rites of passage addressed the process of generational transfer through the process of maturation.

1. Circumcision on the eighth day spoke of birth into a covenantal lineage.
2. Bar Mitzvah at twelve years of age acknowledged the completion of training in the law or the leavening of the child’s world view.
3. Huiothesia at the age of thirty denoted the transfer of management rights to a mature son who was thoroughly prepared for management of the inheritance.
4. The story of Elijah and Elisha in II Kings 2:1-14 demonstrates the steps that must be secured for continuity of the generations to be attained and the reward of generational transfer to be granted.
5. Gilgal, which means rolling, solidifies that the son is in the covenant.
6. Bethel, which means house of God, defines the worship and seat of spiritual life.
7. Jericho, which means fragrance, expresses that all earthly works are motivated by and dedicated to the advancement of the Kingdom.
8. Jordan, meaning to descend, represents the transfer and coming into the new day.
9. Elisha received a double portion, which is an indication that generational transfer not only secures the future but advances the power, authority, and influence of the Kingdom.