

Grace Legacy Builders

EQUIPPING MEN AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS

507 Broadway NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 † www.gracelegacybuilders.org † (616) 706-2198
Because Children Come with Eternal Souls – Acts 16:31

YEAR END NEWSLETTER - 2014

To: The Co-Laborers of Grace Legacy Builders
From: Rev. Bruce R. Kuiper – President of Grace Legacy Builders – Men’s Ministry
Re: Gratitude & Celebrating Past Blessings and an Eternal Vision for Our Future
Date: December, 2014
Tax ID: 37 – 1635688 a 501(c) (3)

Here the Reformation Must Begin:

Acts 16:30-31

“Sirs, asked the Philippian Jailer, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹And Paul & Silas said to him,

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Fathers, consider the important duty that God has placed in your hands, the raising up of a godly seed. Impress upon them the great truths of Biblical Christianity through Family Worship. A Church in the House will be a good legacy, nay; it will be a good inheritance, to be left to your Children after you...to build upon. Do your job diligently so that they will be praising God for you, and praising God like you, here on earth, when you are praising Him in Heaven.

Matthew Henry, (1662-1714) Family Religion: Principles for raising a godly family.

Dear Friends of the Ministry,

The impact of and opportunity for Grace Legacy Builders continues to shine. On the next page I’d like to highlight a more academic understating of who we are and what we do.

One Page three I ave more practical application of what we are doing and the goals we have, are and hope to accomplish in the future and give you an understanding of what and how we achieve these goals.

The last page is a tribute to Lou Benes and Ralph Goemen men who passed away in two areas:
The Two Pillars of Grace Legacy Builders

1. Saving eternal souls though the simple strategy of Father-Led Family Worship.

- The Theology of Deut. 5 “The Ten Commandants is followed by the Methodology of Deut. 6. Reiterated, and summarized in: **Psalm 78:5-7 (ESV)**

📖 God commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments

Bill Farley summarizes this in his seminal book “Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting.”

CHRISTIANITY is a patriarchal religion. That means that it is father-centered. But patriarchy is in steep

decline. ... If this trend is left un-reversed, the Church as we know it will not survive. When men abandon church and home, it is a sign that the wheels have come off. That is because male servant leaders energize the Christian church and family.

Father-Led Family Worship is the main way we equip men as spiritual leaders in order to be salt and light in the culture and the church. The Second is defining and expressing masculinity as Prophet, Priest and King. Therefore stirring men's hearts to lead their homes as sacrificial followers of Jesus Christ. It is our formula to change the world in time and eternity. It is as well our greatest need today – more than ever!

Guys are in trouble these days, ... Years ago, manhood was an opportunity for achievement and now it's just a problem to be overcome. Guys who once might have painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling are now just trying to be Mr. O.K. *Garrison Keillor*

2. The need for defining Biblical Masculinity that is does not copy the culture but leads the culture. A definition that is Holy Spirit wrought that ignites the hearts of men to be Christ-like in the home and bring glory to God in the Church and be that light in the city on the hill. This vision and definition must be:

✧ **Embedded in the Character and attributes of the Trinity.**

A church that is conspiring against the blessings of patriarchy not only disfigures the icon of the First Person of the Trinity, effects disobedience to the example and teaching of the Second Person of the Trinity, and rejects the Pentecostal action of the Third Person of the Trinity but, more significantly for our society, flies in the face of the sociological evidence! No father—no family—no faith. Winning and keeping men is essential to the community of faith and vital to the work of all mothers and the future salvation of our children.

✧ **Gospel Shaped.**

The Biblical gospel is about objective truth, promoted by Jonathan Edwards and the Puritans, with its hard edges and sharp corners. Chapters 4 and 5 (Gospel Powered Parenting) describe it, and the masculine mind relates to it. Churches not centered in this biblical gospel, either because the fear of man controls them or because they cannot hold conflicting ideas in tension, often lose their masculine membership.

✧ **Grace Paced**

The difference between them, (Grace based salvation and man based making himself right with God) is not primarily one of emphasis, but of content. One proclaims a God who saves; the other speaks of a God who enables man to save himself. One-view presents the three great acts of the Holy Trinity for the recovering of lost mankind—election by the Father, redemption by the Son, calling by the Spirit—as directed towards the same persons, and as securing their salvation infallibly. The other view gives each act a

different reference (the objects of redemption being all mankind, of calling, those who hear the gospel, and of election, those hearers who respond), and denies that any man's salvation is secured by any of them. The two theologies thus conceive the plan of salvation in quite different terms. One makes salvation depend on the work of God, the other on a work of man. J.I. Packer, as quoted in RC Sproul's book *A Grace Unknown*. (p. 23)

The following definitions of masculinity and femininity, living as male and female, blossom to fruitfulness from the seeds implanted in the fertile soil of Biblical manhood and womanhood.

Biblical manhood nurtures and matures the masculine offices of:

- **Prophet – Deut. 6:6**
- **Priest – Acts 10:1-8**
- **King – Genesis 3:9 & 20**

Biblical womanhood cultivates and enriches the feminine offices of:

- **Co-Heir – 1 Peter 3:7**
- **Co-Regent – Genesis 2**
- **Helpmate – Genesis 1:26**

Together men and women reflect the glory, beauty, and harmony embedded in our co-eternal and co-equal triune God. These roles contain divine dignity, distinctiveness, and delight.

✧ Christians ought to do their duty to one another, from a willing mind, and in obedience to the command of God. Wives should be subject to their husbands, not from dread and amazement, but from desire to do well, and please God. The husband's duty to the wife implies giving due respect unto her, and maintaining her authority, protecting her, and placing trust in her. They are heirs together of all the blessings of this life and that which is to come, and should live peaceably one with another. Prayer sweetens their converse. And it is not enough that they pray with the family, but husband and wife together by themselves, and with their children. Those who are acquainted with prayer, find such unspeakable sweetness in it, that they will not be hindered therein. That you may pray much, live holily; and that you may live holily, be much in prayer.¹

Today one of the most confusing questions can be what does it mean to grow up to be a man and not a woman or a woman and not a man? If these questions are regarded as anything less than utterly crucial, we think the resulting frustrations and confusions, through the loss of clear sexual

¹ <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/1-peter/3.html>

identity in the generations to come, will erupt with a tidal wave of hostilities and perversions that we can now scarcely imagine. -**Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood** by John Piper and Wayne Grudem (pg. 415)

James Dobson: “Feminist resistance to making manhood and womanhood significant in behavior and role determination is partner to some of the most painful social and spiritual issues of our day.” The need for definitions of masculinity and femininity.

Oliver Heywood (1630-1702) wrote, ‘As holy Jacob, the famous patriarch, was a prophet to instruct his family in true religion, and a king to govern them for God; so a priest to set up an altar, offer sacrifices and perform religious worship for and with his family; even the poorest man that has a family is to be a prophet, priest, and king in his own home.’²

When God transforms a man’s heart to lead Family Worship, marriages are rekindled, children get edified, churches are reformed, and the culture experiences revival because eternal souls get saved. (BRK)

First let me say that the website: www.gracelegacybuilders.com is constantly being updated this year with:



- 1) A “Grace Quote of the Day”
- 2) An inspirational “Note of the Week”
- 3) Our featured “Author of the Month”
- 4) Significant “Upcoming Events”

Please remember that we need your prayer support for these to be effective.

Included in this Newsletter are some notable quotes as to why we exist and why we need your support here on the front lines. I have also included our budget for this year and ways you can support the ministry. Lastly I have included some features of “My Tribute to Bert Kuiper – Builder of a Gracious Legacy”. It was exactly 25 years ago that God’s eternal wisdom usurped our temporal wishes and brought my Dad home.

The following summarizes our ministry objectives, successes and future goals:

1. The Family Worship Institute






-  Sermons and Sunday School on God’s call to Father-Led Family Worship.
-  Seminars and Bible studies that edify and encourage men as spiritual leaders.

² Beeke, Jones, 866



Last year we had a inspiring Father’s Day Seminar on “Family Worship” plus other Sunday services. Most Sundays I had preaching requests, usually focusing on the gospel response for men to be spiritual leaders. The first two years there were a total of 10 workshops. This year:

- † 13 Family Worship workshops with over 250 attendees.
- † Three long term small groups with over 25 men that went through the Biblical teaching on why and how men are called to be spiritual leaders.
- † One men’s group using Steve Lawson’s, **The Legacy: What every father wants to leave his child.**
- † I participated and helped out in a men’s group that studied Dr. Tony Evans, **Kingdom Man: Every man’s destiny – Every woman’s dream.**
- † I had four couples, various individuals, and other ministry leaders seeking out our resources and receiving personal counseling, consulting, and mentoring. I also provided long-term pastoral leadership concerning “man issues”.

The goals for the coming year are:

-  January 18 workshop a Men’s Conference: **The Trinitarian Dignity, Distinctives, and Delight of Being Created in the Image of God!**
-  June 15, Father’s Day Focus on Family Worship featuring a special guest TBA.
-  Continuing morning Men’s Bible Study, but on Thursdays this year, on **Gospel Powered Parenting: How the gospel shapes and transforms parenting**, by William Farley – call if you’re interested in attending. (706-2198)
-  **Add “blogging” and other social media to the website.**
-  A costly, yet strategic, dream would be to have booths at ministry events to boost the ministry visibility.




2. The College Outreach Center:

-  Gospel centered Bible studies on the beauty and glory of the Trinity in the context of life’s eternal purpose and priorities.
-  Thursday night dinners with special guests sharing real life experiences of how Christ has shaped their heart, family life, church life and careers.

Developing a Biblical World-n-Life View is essential to being a spiritual leader therefore we do the following:

- † Early morning college men’s Bible studies three times a week. We pray write, reflect, and memorize Scripture.
- † The dinners have been a big hit with the men in the ministry. It is a privilege to hear the testimonies and wisdom from our guests.

The goals for the coming year are:

-  Advertising more on campuses and in church bulletins.
-  Keep praying for outstanding participants for next year.
-  Keep reaching out to the Golden Gloves boxing gym that works out across the street from us. I have had the boxers here for dinner, shared the gospel, and handed out Bibles.

3. Men's Ministry Resource Library:

- 📖 Pastors, men's ministry leaders, and laypeople are invited to use the private facilities to read, reflect and pray.
- 📖 It is our hope to staff it and have it open to the public so that our ministry impact can keep growing.

We are stocked with resources that impact a man's influence to leave an eternal legacy from generation to generation. Primary categories are: Family Worship, Men's Distinctives, Biographies, Bible Study Tools, Reformed Classics, and Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

The goals for the coming year are:

- 🕊 To encourage Pastors and lay-leaders to invest a day to study, meditate and learn in a secluded place.
- 🕊 Keep valuable resources available.

Milestones to celebrate:

1. **TWO PARKING LOTS RECONSTRUCTED,**
 - △ See Grace Legacy Builders Facebook pages. All thanks to The Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Foundation.

Grace Legacy Builders Yearly Budget:

I. Fixed Expenses of Building

1. Building Insurance	\$ 4,715.00
2. Director & Board Insurance	\$ 1,185.00
3. Workmen's Compensation	\$ 1,800.00
4. Grand Rapids Summer Taxes	\$ 1,735.00
5. Grand Rapids Winter Taxes	\$ 360.00?
6. Water Bill Church & 4 Plex	\$ 1,000.00
7. Heat Church & 4 Plex	\$ 1,000.00
8. Electric 4 Church & 4 Plex	\$ 2,000.00
9. Exterminators	\$ 500.00
10. Outside upkeep	\$ 1,000.00

Option 1: Wire gifts of securities to:

RBC Capital Markets
DTC # 0235, Account Number 717-11572
FBO Grace Legacy Builders

For Questions on wiring securities only contact:
Julie Haveman - Registered Assistant to Marvin Andringa
Royal Securities Company
phone: 616-301-3689 --- fax: 616-538-3360
email: jhaveman@royalsecurities.com

Total **(\$13,500.00)**

- 1) Expected Rental Income \$24,000.00
- 2) Equals Positive Cash for ministry. + \$10,500.00

II. Ministry Expenses \$65,000.00

In order to keep the ministry operational and functional we need to raise \$65,000.000. The President is salaried at RCA minimum. The recompenses for support staff of maintenance, cleaning and secretarial is projected for 1/4th time. Right now we are at 50%

2. HOLY TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- △ HTPC is a new church start of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church. The exploratory team will be meeting here on Sunday nights in February. They are the perfect fit theologically and missionally for GLB. They are Reformed, Complementarian and Evangelical. Dr. Bill Vandoodeward, a professor of mine at PRTS, will be heading this up.

3. STUDIES @ PRTS PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- △ This year I will be studying Calvin's Biblical insights into the Trinity: How their dignity and beauty, distinctives yet equality, and duty and delight are complementary.

None of the above happens without your prayer and financial support. Please consider the following options.

Three Options For Donations Are:

Option 2: Send gifts Electronically:

www.gracelegacybuilders/Support

Or

Option 3: Send Gifts Directly to:

Grace Legacy Builders,
507 Broadway nw
Grand Rapids, MI. 49504

pay and no more than one day a month for support staff until more revenue is generated.

III. Building Maintenance Issues

Coming up:

1. Glass Block Windows	\$
2,500.00	
2. Electrical to outside areas	\$
1,500.00	
3. Barrier on 2nd St.	\$
2,000.00	
4. Painting Trim 4 Plex	\$
2,500.00	
5. Stain Glass Window Repairs	\$
2,500.00	
6. Sealer on North Parking lot	\$
1,800.00	
7. Paint Fire Escape	\$
1,200.00	
8. Landscaping	\$
1,400.00	

Total **\$14,400.00**

Prayer & Wish List

Stained Glass Windows Encased
\$25,000.00

Copier	\$
3,000.00	
Books & Bibles	\$
1,000.00	

Beside your support we are:

- △ Looking for ways to partner with other men's ministries or a 501c3 that could use our building as another revenue stream.
- △ We are looking at applying for grants from individuals and foundations that resonate with our mission, vision and values.
- △ We also need more churches to join us who share these convictions of being salt and light in a darkening and decaying church and culture.

All contributions are payable to: **Grace Legacy Builders.**
An IRS tax-deductible 501©3 Ministry

*We pray that you'd join us in sharing the beauty and the glory of the
Father, Son & Holy Spirit to men.*

Please consider one of these levels of contribution

1. **Men of Issachar – I Chronicles 12:32**
\$20.00-\$40.00 monthly or \$100.00 yearly
2. **Fellow Heirs – I Peter 3:7**
\$45.00-\$80.00 monthly or \$500.00 yearly
3. **Grace Shapers – Malachi 4:6**
\$100.00-\$500.00 monthly or \$1,000.00 yearly
4. **World Changers - Acts 17:6**
\$500.00-\$___ monthly or \$5,000 plus yearly

The piety of ancestors conveys no hereditary blessing to their children. Nor do we believe it to be the purpose of God to connect perpetuity of faith with any form of external service, however excellent. Yet we are deeply persuaded that among the means which He is deeply persuaded that among the means which He is pleased to use for this end, one of the most prominent is **family worship.**

James Alexander, Thoughts on Family Worship

MY TRIBUTE TO BERT KUIPER – A BUILDER OF A GRACIOUS LEGACY

It was 25 years ago that my Heavenly Father's eternal wisdom usurped our temporal wishes. The pain of losing a father can never be healed – not even by time. That is what Heaven is for. But we are not victims of these tragedies. By the grace of God we become victors in Christ through them.

For all practical purposes it was a car accident that instantly changed my life as a young seminarian. Yet, God foreknew this event and providence has no paralyzing pity parties, just hope in the midst of pain and a profound and curious hunger for Heaven.

The doctrine of the sovereignty of God is not just a theological idea but also the psychological wire I live on. It balances my hope and humility as it guides me to confident living in time and eternity.

This is my tribute to my father:

Bert A. Kuiper was a faithful man to his worship, work, and witness. Even though he was a fallen man, cursed and affected by the fall. He was also a redeemed man. Redeemed by:

- ▲ The sovereign will of God,
- ▲ The loving blood atonement of Jesus Christ,
- ▲ The power of being born again by the Holy Spirit.

As I read so many depressing statistics in books and sociological studies, and as I hear first hand accounts from men in my small groups of miserable childhoods, hurtful stories of failed fathers, abandonment of fathers to their spiritual and financial obligations - I thank God for Bert A. Kuiper all the time. He never abdicated his God ordained role of spiritual leader in my life.

Bert Kuiper was:

- 1) **My Favorite Catechism Teacher.**
☞ Wednesday nights were church night and he not only brought us but also taught us with discipline & delight.
- 2) **The Man Who Read the Bible to Me.**
☞ My Dad read the Bible at suppertime and my mother would read it to us at lunchtime. Both my parents made sure we were in and knew our Sunday school. They took us to church, they didn't suggest it or get to it when they had time. My Dad made time for God's priorities in our family.
- 3) **A Worker Who Took Me to Work.**
☞ He took time to take me, a lazy daydreaming boy, with him to work with the objective of turning me into a **working man.** It was frustrating to say the least but there was no other option and we both knew it. He ran his own business and paid his bills on time. He modeled manhood and a working man to me.
- 4) **The Provider & Protector of Me and Our Family.**
☞ I never worried, I never wondered, I never thought there was any possibility of not having plenty of food, a beautiful home to live in, and both parents in the house when I came home at any age. In fact I just assumed he'd be always there.

Now he's gone. He didn't want me to be a certain kind of person, just a kind person. Every child blessed by great parents like I've had is given a template and mold to love the next generation. I hope you can give your parents a tribute also, this is mine to a man who looms larger as my time in this life gets thinner. My tribute to him is to model the discipline and delight he modeled. I had no trauma nor do I have physical or emotional scars. I have spiritual and material blessings & benefits from his benevolence.

All because he was what D.A.D.S. should be:

Devoted
Affirming
Directing

Sacrificing

Bert Kuiper was a Builder of boys to men - He lived the vision of Matthew Henry...

Fathers, consider the important duty that God has placed in your hands, the raising up of a godly seed.

Consider your own precious covenant children; impress upon them the great truths of biblical Christianity when they are young and impressionable.

Teach them to honor God with their hearts, minds, lips and hands from the most tender of years.

Consider that your children are gifts from God made to serve the Lord. They are to carry forth the banner of Christ to the next generation.

Do your job diligently so that while you are praising Christ in heaven your children will be serving and praising God on earth.



**A Masculine Manifesto & Feminine Framework that is:
Trinitarian Based,
Gospel Shaped,
Grace Paced.**

Why We Call God 'Father'

Christians have good reasons to resist gender-neutral alternatives.

Simon Chan - Christianity Today. [July/August 2013](#). Vol. 57, No. 6, Pg 48, "Father Knows Best"

Not an Invention

... If patriarchy is responsible for cultures portraying God as male, then we would expect goddess worship to reflect a matriarchal society—one in which women are given superior status or at least are equal to men. But this is not the case. Even today, many societies devoted to goddess worship remain oppressive toward women. Devotion to the goddess Kali in Hinduism, for instance, has never resulted in better treatment of women, even among Kali devotees....

In the New Testament, God's fatherhood conveys two distinct ideas. First, it refers primarily to the internal relationship within the Trinity. This is how the first article of the Apostles' Creed puts it: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord." Even as early as Paul's writings, the phrase "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" had become commonplace. God is first and foremost the *Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is not an invention of later church leaders, but comes directly from Christ, who refers to God as "Father." In doing so, Jesus reveals a unique relationship between the Father and Son that constitutes the beginning of the Trinitarian doctrine. Jesus taught his disciples to call God "our heavenly Father." Therefore, the loving relationship he has with the Father from eternity now extends to those adopted into God's family (Rom. 8:15). The father-son relationship is the most intimate personal relationship, one marked by reciprocal love and respect, and it is God's supremely personal and loving nature that the term *father* is meant to underscore....

Second, the father metaphor points to God as the Creator (e.g., Isa. 64:8; Mal. 2:10) "from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (Eph. 3:15). *Father* captures in one word two seemingly contrasting characteristics: God's love for his creatures and his lordship over all creation. ... Calling God *Mother* undermines the Christian doctrine of creation by implying that God and the world are made of the same stuff and virtually indistinguishable. So, we need *Father* in order to get to the right doctrine of creation.

If you would be interested in knowing more about us I would love to host you here for coffee and a tour. I'd love to stop by and share our brochure with you or you can go to our website or obtain our 990 and articles of determination.

Blessings & Grace

Rev. Bruce R. Kuiper (616) 706-2198

bruce@gracelegacybuilders.com

507 Broadway NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Malachi 4:6 is our calling and our prayer. Please join in reversing the curse of father-apathy with enthusiastic-fathering with your prayers and support.

Social Research is revealing & alarming...

Pew Research—Social & Demographic Trends

The Decline of Marriage And Rise of New Families

November 18, 2010

Changes in marital patterns have had a major impact on the lives of children in this country. **Marriage is no longer considered a prerequisite for parenthood.**

- △ Over the past 50 years, the share of children born to unmarried mothers has risen dramatically—increasing eightfold from 5% in 1960 to 41% in 2008.
- △ This trend has contributed to the decrease in the share of children under age 18 living with two married parents – to 64% in 2008 from 87% in 1960.⁴

In his book, *The Marriage Go-Round*, Andrew Cherlin argues that Americans' relatively high rates of marriage and divorce as well the short-term nature of their cohabiting relationships have all contributed to a great deal of instability in family life.¹³

[1] Matthew Henry, *Family Religion: Principles for raising a godly family*, Christian Focus Publications, 2008. pag. Print. p.51

Here is Matthew Henry's challenge to Father's to be the:

- Prophet,
- Priest and
- King

of their home. He thought it most important to have the right man in every house. Somehow we think that the President is suppose to begin a revival in the land. First read the wise insight from Dr. Joel R. Beeke on the Dorchester Revival. (Family Guidance Series, **Family Worship**, Reformation Heritage Books, GR, Mi. www.heritagebooks.org) Then read a few excerpts from Dr. Matthew Henry

Christians have long recognized that God often uses family worship to bring reformation and revival to the church. For example, the 1677 church covenant of the Puritan congregation in

Dorchester, Massachusetts, included the commitment “to reform our families, engaging ourselves to a conscientious care to set before us and to maintain the worship of God in them; and to walk in our houses with perfect hearts in a faithful discharge of all domestic duties, educating, instructing, and charging our children and households to keep the ways of the Lord.”

Here the Reformation Must Begin:

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Romans 16:3-5 (NKJV)

Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house. Col 4:15 (NKJV)

Fathers, consider the important duty that God has placed in your hands, the raising up of a godly seed. Consider your own precious covenant children; impress upon them the great truths of biblical Christianity when they are young and impressionable. Teach them to honor God with their hearts, minds, lips and hands from the most tender of years. Consider that your children are gifts from God made to serve the Lord. They are to carry forth the banner of Christ to the next generation. Do your job diligently so that while you are praising Christ in heaven your children will be serving and praising God on earth.

While it is true that only God can give grace to a soul, it is also true that He uses secondary means—the teaching of God’s word—to give the sum of saving knowledge to the elect. Fathers, consider your pain and misery if through carelessness and neglect your children learn the warp of the world instead of the way of the Lord. If you fulfill your covenant obligations by loving, teaching, exhorting, admonishing, encouraging and warning your children to trust in Christ and obey His law then you have done your part and with peace of soul you may comfortably leave your children in the hands of God. Covenantally faithful parents can rest upon God’s promises. May God enable us to fulfill our covenant duties to our children that Christ would be glorified in them.

What Is the Gospel? by R.C. Sproul

There is no greater message to be heard than that which we call the Gospel. But as important as that is, it is often given to massive distortions or over simplifications. People think they’re preaching the Gospel to you when they tell you, ‘you can have a purpose to your life’, or that ‘you can have meaning to your life’, or that ‘you can have a personal relationship with Jesus.’ All of those things are true, and they’re all important, but they don’t get to the heart of the Gospel.

The Gospel is called the ‘good news’ because it addresses the most serious problem that you and I have as human beings, and that problem is simply this:

📖 God is holy and He is just, and I’m not. And at the end of my life, I’m going to stand before a just and holy God, and I’ll be judged. And I’ll be judged either on the basis of my own righteousness – or lack of it – or the righteousness of another.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness, of perfect obedience to God, not for His own well being but for His people. **He has done for me what I couldn’t possibly do for myself.** But not only has He lived that life of perfect obedience, He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to satisfy the justice and the righteousness of God.

The great misconception in our day is this: that God isn’t concerned to protect His own integrity. He’s a kind of wishy-washy deity, who just waves a wand of forgiveness over everybody. **No. For God to forgive you is a very costly matter. It cost the sacrifice of His own Son.** So valuable was that sacrifice that God pronounced it valuable by raising Him from the dead – so that Christ died for us, He was raised for our justification.

So the Gospel is something objective. It is the message of who Jesus is and what He did. **And it also has a subjective dimension.** How are the benefits of Jesus subjectively appropriated to us? How do I get it? The Bible makes it clear that we are justified not by our works, not by our efforts, not by our deeds, but by faith – and by faith alone. The only way you can receive the benefit of Christ’s life and death is by putting your trust in Him – and in Him alone. You do that, you’re declared just by God, you’re adopted into His family, you’re forgiven of all of your sins, and you have begun your pilgrimage for eternity.

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Print.

As I continued my research, writing, resourcing, and leading this ministry other vital tools that keep people equipped, inspired, and informed are Facebook, Twitter, and our Website - www.gracelegacybuilders.com. It is a silly saying but true – “Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.” Your continued support keeps us going as we impact men, families, churches and our culture as true salt and light of Jesus Christ.

In His Grace & My Gratitude

Rev. Bruce R. Kuiper

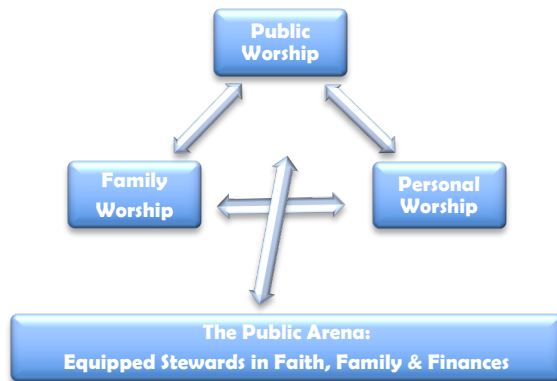
P.S. Here is my recent article: [“Matthew Henry’s Call to Father-Led Family Worship: Why His Vision of Masculinity as Prophet, Priest, & King is Relevant Today!”](#)

Fathers, consider the important duty that God has placed in your hands, the raising up of a godly seed. Consider your own precious covenant children; impress upon them the great truths of biblical Christianity when they are young and impressionable. Teach them to honor God with their hearts, minds, lips and hands from the most tender of years. Consider that your children are gifts from God made to serve the Lord. They are to carry forth the banner of Christ to the next generation. Do your job diligently so that while you are praising Christ in heaven your children will be serving and praising God on earth.

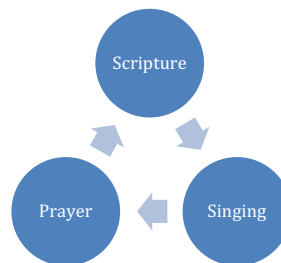
While it is true that only God can give grace to a soul, it is also true that He uses secondary means—the teaching of God’s word—to give the sum of saving knowledge to the elect. Fathers, consider your pain and misery if through carelessness and neglect your children learn the warp of the world instead of the way of the Lord. If you fulfill your covenant obligations by loving, teaching, exhorting, admonishing, encouraging and warning your children to trust in Christ and obey His law then you have done your part and with peace of

soul you may comfortably leave your children in the hands of God. Covenantally faithful parents can rest upon God's promises. May God enable us to fulfill our covenant duties to our children that Christ would be glorified in them.

The Family Worship Model



The Family Worship Method



† We also do “The Purpose Driven Life” followed by “A Life God Rewards” and ending with an in depth study of the epistle of Ephesians and Galatians using the “Journibles”. While we are doing this I teach them my goals and time management system: “The “Grace Life Pacer”.

† When we don't have a guest the men write out summaries of what they believe. The tool we use is something I put together for called the “Jedidiah Journal: Discovering, Developing and Deploying your Gifts and Talents for Time & Eternity.” Michelle and I will be working with the core group to get started. Because Bill is a full time professor the hope to get a committed core group started and call an APR new Church start pastor who will do the full time pastoring and preaching. The ARP is principle driven and meet a strategic presence in west Michigan while our more established denominations minimize, criticize, and ostracizes men who hold firmly to the Bible's authority as understood by the classic reformed confessions.

are guided by the greatest group of scholarly yet, Godly men that I have ever been around. They guide my research into areas that pertain to both our ministry objectives.

✂ Just a few other books and projects have been on my radar. I've been outlining, detailing and researching every chapter in Wayne Grudem's and John Piper's encyclopedia like work entitled: *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: a response to evangelical feminism*. I also studied Dr. Emerson Eggeriches, **Love & Respect**: The love she most desires – The respect he desperately needs. These will be reviewed on the website. Also on the website in the near future will be ways to give our children “The Blessing” and our parents “The Tribute”

✂ **The Christian Worldview - Affirmative & Challenging...**

✂ **Psychologist James Dobson states that his message to men is the most critical topic he has ever addressed and this message may even be the task for which he was born.³ Dr. Dobson is so concerned about recovery of the leadership of husbands he calls it “America's greatest need”.**

✂ A Christian man is obligated to lead his family to the best of his ability... If his family has purchased too many items on credit, then the financial crunch is ultimately his fault. If the family never reads the Bible or seldom goes to church on Sunday, God holds the man to blame. If the children are disrespectful and disobedient, the primary responsibility lies with the father.... not his wife. In my view, America's greatest need is for husbands to begin guiding their families.⁴

Or, Should this Worldly, Satanic, & Pessimistic View Prevail?

I see all this potential, and I see men squandering it, an entire generation pumping gas, waiting tables; slaves with white collars. Advertising has us chasing cars and clothes, working jobs we hate so we can buy stuff we don't need. We're the middle children of history, man.

³ Dobson, p. 21

⁴ James Dobson, *Straight Talk to Men & Their Wives* (Waco: Word Books, 1980), pp. 64f

- △ No purpose or place.
- △ We have no Great War.
- △ No Great Depression.
- △ Our Great War's a spiritual war...

...Our Great Depression is our lives. We've all been raised on television to believe that one day we'd all be millionaires, and movie gods, and rock stars. But we won't. And we're slowly learning that fact. And we're very, very angry."

"If our father is our basis for God, and our fathers abandoned us, then what does that tell you about god?"