

I) **Introduction:**

- A) There is a tension between the young and the old. It has been a long standing tension that spans millennia. I am sure that every thoughtful generation has held contempt in some way towards the previous and/or next generation.
- 1) "[Young people] are high-minded because they have not yet been humbled by life, nor have they experienced the force of circumstances... They think they know everything and are always quite sure about it." ***Rhetoric, Aristotle 4th Century BC***
 - 2) "Youth were never more sawcie, yea never more savagely saucie . . . the ancient are scorned, the honourable are contemned, the magistrate is not dreaded." ***The Wise-Man's Forecast against the Evill Time, Thomas Barnes 1624***
 - 3) "The free access which many young people have to romances, novels, and plays has poisoned the mind and corrupted the morals of many a promising youth..." ***Memoirs of the Blooms Grove Family, Reverend Enos Hitchcock 1790***
- B) This generation hasn't stumbled across a new battle of waging war within itself on what is proper and right. The plays and novels have been exchanged for social media and movies. The lack of respect of authority has been an undercurrent since the literal beginning of time. Do not be deceived into contempt of the old or the young. I am sure we have all heard about "Those stubborn old people are so stuck in their ways that they cannot see...." Or "Those young people are lazy and haven't really seen what life is like..." The fact of the matter is there is a need for unity.
- C) The Lord longs for us to seek the complexities of His heart and not to fall into scornfulness or quips with one another. The knowledge of The Lord is where our minds can be healed of hate and prejudices. Do not be simple minded in this.
- Proverbs 1:22-23** "22 *How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge.* 23 *Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.*"

II) **Part 1: ROOTED IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AWAKENS WISDOM.**

- A) I will start about by stating that we live in an AMAZING community. Never have I seen a place that is as diverse in its age of people walking alongside each other as here. So, know that this is more of an exhortation of you than a rebuke. With that being said, there is rejuvenation and healing that needs to happen for us to move into the next season of our unification with each other and The Lord.

B) To the WISE:

- 1) **Proverbs 20:29** *"The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head."* I am glad the word "head" is used here as some of the wisest men I have known had no hair at all!
- 2) You are wise, and have something to offer. You're entering a new season that looks different than the last. That does NOT mean you can retire, you are in the most important season of your lives, the most important season of others' lives. You have a deep well of knowledge and wisdom that has come from being alive, some of it useful, some of it not. GIVE IT AWAY!
- 3) Breezy and I have sat with several couples (older) that have told us of their increasing frustration of the lack of desire from the young people in their lives to be discipled. One night, we sat with one such couple and they told us about their ministry and their fear that it would die due to lack of interest in sitting under their teachings and ways of running this organization, ultimately discipled in their way. A question was proposed to the husband: Are you more interested in raising up "little you" or are you more interested in raising up ones that look like Jesus? The man was floored! The audacity of the question.
- 4) Let yourself melt away and allow the Lord to seep in! Walk in the fear of the Lord. The beginning of Proverbs 1 speaks about the fear of the Lord being the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. Being more concerned with the heart of the Father and His desires than our kingdoms, passions, desires, wills, ambition and so forth. This is where I have seen the gray hairs pride melt and the humility that only comes from the fear of the Lord allows knowledge to become wisdom.

C) To the ZEALOUS:

- 1) **Proverbs 2:1-7** *"My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly"*
- 2) This is a verse that has driven me for the majority of my post adolescent life. Different fathers and mothers that have come into my life and I have had the privilege of pursuing them. From a young age my parents allowed other amazing people to speak into my life. That was such an amazing gift from them!

- 3) Pursue the wise! Find men and woman that have something you want and pursue it with everything you have. This creates humility, because all of the sudden you are admitting you do not know everything. I truly believe this is why Proverbs 2 wisdom leads to understanding the fear of The Lord and knowing that ALL knowledge comes from HIM.
- 4) In Proverbs 20:29 it speaks of the glory of young men (or women) is their strength, or vigor, or zeal. This is where the saying "Youth is wasted on the young" makes a lot of sense. The old and wise would love to have the renewed energy and zeal that they had once with the newfound gift of wisdom. Utilize your zeal to pursue as much wisdom as you can!

III) Part 2: UNITY A SIGN OF THE RETURN OF THE LORD

- A) **Malachi 4:6** *"....will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."*
- B) I have seen glimpses of why this is so important. Why the very last verse situated in the modern bible speaks of this. When there is a unified generation, meaning from babies to great grandparents, that there is no other option but for the Lord to move mightily. I still have vivid memories of the first time I saw this in action. My heart came alive in pursuing wisdom, the overzealous nature my friends & I carried "infected" the fathers and mothers we were pursuing. It went both ways! Wisdom begets strength. (Rom 12:8-21)
- C) How do we get to this place? It is not just waiting for Elijah to appear. For some odd reason this has to start with the zealous. Why? Because young people tend to be prideful and selfish. Once we understand we need more than ourselves we start to grow. The concept of being pour in spirit falls along these lines. Our need for the Lord to sustain us and not our own strength will lead to knowing we need wise fathers and mothers so we can grasp what they have. To pursue in this way is utilizing their "ceiling" for our "floor".
- D) The gray haired has to be receptive though. You have to have a YES when the opportunity arises. Position yourselves as fathers and mothers, sometimes it looks like making the first move, inviting a young person to coffee or dinner to let know you are there. FATHERS AND MOTHERS ATTRACT SONS AND DAUGHTERS. Pour out your wisdom, continue to further yourself to model what it looks like. Get off your phone and read a book to tell us that we will always keep learning. Retirement is not an option in the Kingdom of God. Retirement is a lie from Satan to remove you from injecting wisdom into your generation. (2 Cor 9:2)
- E) A ZEALOUS, WISE PEOPLE ARE A DANGER TO THE PLANS OF THE ENEMY.
Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28) *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."*

- F) Visions and dreams. Young people have dreams of the future, of what their life will be like. The implication of old men dreaming is that they are not finished with their assignment. They have a renewed vigor for life, to encounter what the Lord wants to do with their life. This is so important because it leads the charge of encountering the heart of the Father.
- G) Without vision the people perish. Vision without wisdom is merely a dream. Vision of where we are going is to know the heart of the Father. This is the foundation of this whole idea. That our identity is rooted with the Father.

IV) CONCLUSION

- A) I believe we are coming to the edge of a precipice on this topic. What is on the other side is unity of the body Christ and encounter of the trinity in its fullness. Allow pride to sluff off, allow others in, pursue wisdom, and embrace zeal. The Spirit is longing to overwhelm us, but we need each other for that. Let us encounter each other. Sacrifice time sacrifice the things of this world so that we can pursue what is good and right. This is an eternal pursuit, not just a temporal one.