The Blessing

Most people are chained to ~~their homes~~ their past emotionally even after they've left physically. If they had a lack of approval from their parents they have trouble feeling accepted in the present.

one reaction → Some people are driven to workaholism as they search for the acceptance they never received at home – they never feel that they are measuring-up – even though they achieve greatly.

another reaction → Others get mired in withdrawal + apathy as they give up hope of ever truly being blessed – this can lead to chronic depression – even suicide.

→ Others try all sorts of extreme behavior.

But the reason is that these people as children missed out on their parents' blessing at some level + this lack of acceptance set off a lifelong search.

"Leaving" home carries with it not only the idea of physical separation but also of emotional separation, as well. The terrible fact is that most people who have missed out on their parents' blessing have great emotional difficulty leaving home. It may have been years since they've seen their parents, but unmet needs for personal acceptance can keep a person emotionally chained to his or her parents, unable to genuinely "cleave" to another person in a lasting relationship.

(2) What is the blessing? What are the elements of which it consists? How can I know whether I received it or whether my children or disciples are receiving it now

Five elements necessary:

The family blessing includes

1. Meaningful touch
2. a spoken message
3. attaching High Value to the one being blessed
4. Picturing a special future for the one being blessed
5. an active commitment to fulfill the blessing

(1) Meaningful touch

Your spouse & children need meaningful touch

e.g. Lisa – Rocked c̄ arms wrapped around self
mother abandoned her in orphanage

Need for touch does not go away c̄ grade school

(a) The way to protect your child from immoral relationship later is to give him/her plenty of physical touching – meaningful – now.

(b) Old people need to be touched – they are so lonely

e.g. Type A driven men need to hug their wives – would add years to their lives (p. 42)

e.g. Marilyn Monroe – foster families – only one woman pulled her cheek c̄ powder puff – "for that moment I felt loved by her"

Promiscuous men & women – often merely a way of satisfying yearning to be touched & held

Dr. Ross Campbell says: (homo) men never had meaningful touch by father "I never knew of one sexually disoriented person who had a warm, affectionate & loving Father"

(3) Jesus did it with the little children, with the (b) lepers, the blind man, (a) and His disciples
For children things become real when they are touched - + for old people touching is so important
Q Why do we stop in between?

(2) Second element: spoken words
- Words have incredible power to build us up or tear us down - this is particularly true in families (a) Many can clearly remember words of praise their parents spoke years ago
(b) Others can remember neg. words - even what their parents were wearing when they spoke them
→ Children need to hear spoken blessing
→ so do husbands + wives need to hear words of love + acceptance regularly
James clearly called the tongue a forest fire & ships rudder the bit in a horse's mouth
→ Words can shape a child's life + send him/her in a direction they don't want to go - destroys the
Don't put off accepting, loving compliments
Reasons for not complimenting
(a) Overactivity - too busy
(b) "it's not that big a deal" (c) "they know I love them"
Not true - silence communicates something far different from love + acceptance
→ makes children workaholics or
→ extreme withdrawal
e.g. Workaholics - the only time approval was given was for some accomplishment - so the child grows up trying to gain approval by working hard - but work can never sustain a missing sense of acceptance

4 e.g. **Withdrawal** – the opp. – these give up & travel the road of apathy, depression & withdrawal – terrifying end – e.g. Cyphu in The Snow (p. 57)

"Death & life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21)

The reason many people hesitate to bless & spoken words of love & acceptance is that their parents never gave them this part of the blessing – both praise & criticism seem to trickle down thru generations – sins visited down

(3.) Expressing high value:

To value something is to attach great importance to it (a) like God is Someone of high value to me (b) He is my Best Friend, the (c) Source of my life. We need to place high value on (a) family – husband, wife, children (b) the Body of Christ, (c) our disciples

Recognizing them as very special persons

Word pictures help – (a) nice nicknames (b) special days (c) special events

Jesus used parables to communicate His Love

" called Peter – the rock – the great undeveloped traits of a person

He challenged his disciples by many word-picture analogies to commit to Him & go out & witness e.g. wedding feast, 2 brothers, vine-branches

Newest book The Language of Love