

## Resources Created By Pops

So kids, here are the resources I want to leave you. In addition to two sermon series, I have included materials I have written or produced which I believe you will find helpful. It would be my greatest joy to know that these resources would be a blessing to you guys – my favorite people in the world! And if these are helpful to you, please pass them along to my great grandchildren – and tell them “hello” for me.

The first resource is a sermon series entitled “The Stand.” I taught this series less than a year ago. As I prepared each message, I considered you guys as my primary audience. Though I don’t cry much (certainly not enough), I found myself at times weeping as I prepared these messages and thought about you guys – especially as I imagined what the world would be like when you take “your stand” (as I pray you will). The messages speak for themselves.

Secondly, I am leaving you with a copy of my book, The Answer. I have been privileged to meet hundreds of times with non-Christians of all types (moralists & immoralists, religious and irreligious). Over the years, I’ve found all are looking for the same thing, life satisfaction. What is written in this book includes much of what I share when helping a person to become interested in investigating Jesus and Christianity. I have seen untold numbers of people say that they never understood how to find life satisfaction until they were introduced to the ideas of “glory” as found only through “grace” and “truth.” Read this book and you will understand what I mean.

Thirdly, I am leaving you with each of my series from the book of Romans, chapters 1-8. As a young Christian in college, I asked a godly older man whom I greatly admired, what advice he had for me to grow strong in the faith. His answer – “Master the first eight chapters of Romans.” I took him at his word and found his counsel to be profound. And now, I pass on to you the same advice.

When I began preaching in 1977, I made it my commitment to teach a segment of Romans 1-8 every year, with the goal of covering those 8 chapters every five years. I have now taught these chapters numerous times and will soon complete chapter eight for what could be my last time. I hope these chapters will be the foundation upon which you build your lives. And by the way, note chapter 6 particularly. In it is found the secret to living the Christian life – by God’s power, not by will-power.

The fourth resource is a book entitled, Finding Your Million Dollar Mate. With it I have included a DVD filmed years ago of me giving this as a talk, a condensed version of this book.

At 12 years of age, you are certainly not thinking of marriage. But it is a safe assumption to make that your future dating convictions and choices will significantly influence your choice of spouse and quality of marriage. Again, these resources speak for themselves. My hope is that each of you can benefit from my life learnings and that you will one day have as great a marriage as your CiCi and I have been privileged to experience.

The fifth resource I leave you, oddly enough, is my teaching of Perimeter Church's new members class, entitled "Discovering Perimeter." I have also included my Taste of Perimeter talk designed to precede the new members process.

As I write, you guys are all at Perimeter, which is one of the greatest joys and honors of my life. But by the time you read this, that may not be the case (which is perfectly fine, as long as you are in a healthy church, being fed and growing spiritually).

I am convinced that few people understand the church and the role it is intended to have in our lives. Certainly, for the most part, churches have sacrificed "health" in order to attract people. Many of these churches are winning people over to church, but to a powerless, self-centered Christian life. (And by the way, you will find my list of 12 characteristics of a healthy church on page 93 of my book Insourcing.)

I think these videos of "Discovering Perimeter" will prepare you for choosing a good church for the rest of your lives. By the time you read this letter, you should be making your decision whether or not to become a communing member of the church. At baptism you became engaged to Christ, by the choice of your parents. To marry Christ is your decision. At your age now, to not marry Christ will mean to break your engagement with Christ, nullifying the covenant your parents made for you. As a result, you should no longer have the benefits of church membership. I pray that will not be the case for any of you.

So remember, you will never have a healthy Christian life without having a healthy relationship with a healthy church!

And in case, as you grow older, you want to know the "what's" and "why's" of church from your Pops' perspective, I have included in your packet a copy of my book, The Intentional Church.

And by the way, as you get older, see if “Life On Life Ministries” is still around. I began this ministry to equip others how to disciple using Jesus’ method. It is now spreading around the globe with on-going workshops and coaching, training Christian leaders.

I will leave “The Journey” and other training resources such as my book Insourcing (which I mentioned earlier). It will explain what I call Life-On-Life Missional Discipleship.

These later resources will be meaningful as you grow older.

I realize I have left you with a lot of resources. It will take a lot of time to watch, listen to and read all I have given you. But trust your Pops – you will do yourself a great favor by exposing yourself to God’s truths found in these resources. God’s Word in John 8:32 is true, “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

Begin with the book The Answer and the teaching series, “The Stand.” I hope you will bring these back at ages 16 and 20 and go through them again.

These resources are your “Pops” life messages. I have invested hundreds of hours preparing these resources and can truly say, if they only benefited you guys, it would for sure be worth it all.

I love you all so much.

Pops

P.S. It’s now Aug 26, 2021. Today is my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and, as you know, I’m still alive and kicking strong! I recently had a two-part sermon on “The Lord’s Day” put into a small booklet. I have included it as another, hopefully helpful, resource. It is entitled A Remedy For A Disordered Life.

I am also adding to these resources two booklets I have recently written. These explain my discoveries that have helped me, and countless others, learn about the two priorities mentioned in my letter, regarding being a disciple maker and a disciple trainer. Love you guys!