

MEN THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE #3

Pastor Dennis Clanton

Woodland Church

Sunday, June 17, 2018

“We were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too. Don’t you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God’s Good News to you. You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.” (1 Thessalonians 2:7–12, NLT)

1. THE WORDS I SPEAK MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

“Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose.”
(Proverbs 18:21, Message)

We were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. (Verse 7)

We treated each of you as a father treats his own children. (Verse 11)

2. BUILDING LOVING RELATIONSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We loved you so much. (Verse 8)

“I spent last week at the beach in Florida, relaxing with my family. The week was for eating fresh seafood, sitting by the beach ... throwing the Frisbee, and catching up with my dad and his new wife. My parents are divorced, and that process took about nine years. I had erratic and intensely negative feelings for and about my dad throughout my high school and college years; those feelings have mellowed out, and as adults we get along okay. We live 1,200 miles apart and don’t see each other often, but I’m

always glad to visit him when I can. This beach trip was his and his wife's initiative, and they provided a big place for us all to meet up and spend some time together. But at the week's end, my dad said something to me that left my mind quiet and full of one thought. At the end of a perfect day of hunting for shells with the girls... we had to pack up the car and pass around goodbye hugs. My dad hugged and kissed me. His arms are still so strong and tight; no one's hugs feel like his. He told me he was so proud of me. I have to admit, after hearing those words from my dad, my 29-year-old self was filled. I can guess my dad's been proud of me; I'm at least sure he's not disappointed in who I am or what I've done with my life. But hearing him say it to me – despite all our past and its residue, despite my independence from him, despite the deeply affirming relationship I have with my husband – it was like I've needed nothing else.” *Sarah Scherf*

3. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

We shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.
(Verse 8)

Note – Share your life with your family and friends.

Values – Struggles – Decisions – Mistakes – Prayers – Bible and Books

4. DILIGENTLY WORKING FOR OUR FAMILY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

“Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you.” (1 Thessalonians 2:9, NLT)

5. A CONGRUENT LIFE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

“You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.” (1 Thessalonians 2:10, NIV)

6. CHOOSING TO LIVE AN ENCOURAGING LIFE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

“You experienced it all firsthand. With each of you we were like a father with his child, holding your hand, whispering encouragement, showing you step-by-step how to live well before God, who called us into his own kingdom, into this delightful life.” (1 Thessalonians 2:11–12, Message)

“Son, are you okay?”

“Yes,” the intern answered quietly, wiping his tears away.

“Did I say something to offend you?”

“No, sir.”

“Well, what’s wrong?”

After a short silence, the young man said, “That’s the first time in my life anyone’s told me that I did something good.”

In a Heartbeat, Leigh Anne Tuohy, Sean Tuohy

GROWTHWORK

1. HAVE DINNER WITH YOUR FAMILY DAILY.
2. THEY WON’T ALWAYS BE IN THE BACKSEAT, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CAR.
3. AFFIRM AND PRAY TOGETHER AT BEDTIME.
“Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim.” (Proverbs 15:4, The Message)