

I Promise

I'm still digesting Peter Rollin's lecture at a recent gathering of those interested in the formation of South Bend City Church. One of the themes Peter presented was our tendency to attempt to create security through false promises. Secure what? Our place (or the place of our loved ones) in the universe. Your son takes a spill on his bike, but does his best to not cry as you apply medicine and bandaids to his scrapes. You compliment him because we all know "big boys don't cry". Our little girl dances through the room in costume with a wand and we proclaim her a princess. It's a \$15 costume. Those are simplistic examples and it's okay to encourage your offspring. But the underlying point is - do we make false promises to ourselves and to others in an attempt to secure our place in the universe?

So what happens when we do this? According to Rollins we tend to affirm our promises rather than God. In the case of our children, we often pack them full of beliefs long before they learn to think on their own. We do the same in church when we take more comfort in our traditions (a set of beliefs), than God's words.

God has some things to say about this:

Deuteronomy 6:9 and 11:20 - Write them (God's decrees and commands) on your doorframes of your houses and on your gates...

Proverbs 7: 2-3, Keep my commands and you will live, guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Hebrews 8: The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant....I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts..

SO QUESTIONS:

1. Do we create promises for ourselves and others at times? Instead of relying completely on God's promises?
2. Can we distinguish between encouragement and false promises?
3. Do you see people attempting to create their place in the universe apart from God?
4. How does God put his laws in our minds?