

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

May 3, 2018

My dear Friends:

I hope you are doing well today. Sara and I are particularly happy today because our two college students came home. It is fun having our kids around for a couple of days before they head off for RUF Summer Conference. Those of you who have college students coming home, you know how sweet it is to have your adult children around.

It is a weird parenting age, though. On the one hand, they are young adults—they manage themselves, their classes, their summer plans, their friends; on the other hand, they are still our children, needing whatever wisdom and insight we might be able to offer. They are exploring the world with new opportunities before them; but they also still like to be home, to have mom wash their clothes and cook their meals and baby them a bit. And trying to sort out what it means to be dad and mom to those whom you don't really control, but whom you desperately love—it is just weird.

Of course, that's part of the weirdness of this in-between, where many of you live with Sara and me. Tomorrow, we'll be driving up to St. Louis, not only to see my parents, but also to see U2 on Friday night and then the Cardinals on Saturday afternoon. So, we feel responsible for our parents to a degree, although not as much as we will feel in the next several years. And then, we have these college-age children that are themselves heading toward their own households. Three generations, but we are the in-between, the glue between them. And then, if God were to bless our children with spouses and children...

This is also our life together as a church. One of the strengths of a church like IPC is that we are multi-generational. Unlike a church plant that tends to be monogenerational, we have everyone from newborns to great-grandparents: four or five generations. How do we who are those middle generations love us all well? How do we listen to the wisdom and insight of the elders? In what ways do we allow the youngsters to explore this broad expanse that is the Christian faith and God's world? How do we let go of things that are obviously preferences and yet precious to us? How do we affirm the traditions of the elders as representing that which we value?

It is not easy. It even feels a little weird at times. But it is good. It is what God designed for us as a church, as a family, as his people. It is IPC.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean".

Rev. Sean Michael Lucas, PhD
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