

Parenting- God's Way

Deuteronomy 6

Key Verses: 6:7, 20

Intro:

- A group of expectant fathers were in a waiting room, while their wives were in the process of delivering babies. A nurse came in and announced to one man that his wife had just given birth to twins. "That's quite a coincidence" he responded, "I play for the Minnesota Twins!" A few minutes later another nurse came in and announced to another man that he was the father of triplets. "That's amazing," he exclaimed, "I work for the 3M company." At that point, a third man slipped off his chair and laid down on the floor. Somebody asked him if he was feeling ill. "No," he responded, "I happen to work for the 7-Up company."
- "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord the fruit of the womb is His reward."
- It is a blessed privilege to be parents, and there are many examples in the Bible for parents
 - Eve- a man from the Lord
 - Example of Hannah in I Samuel 1- children belong to the Lord
 - Noah won his children, Lot lost them
- Whether you have children of your own, all of us are impacting the next generation. We all have someone looking up to us, and so we must be careful to set the right example!
- What should we teach the next generation?

I. Know God- v. 6-12

a. Taught

- i. Daniel Webster offered excellent advice, saying, "If we work on marble it will perish. If we work on brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work on men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with just fear of God and love of their

fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which time cannot efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity.

- ii. We must teach from the Word of God!
- iii. Church involvement is key here!
- b. Key to the teaching was the simple recounting of Israel's testimony - how God saved them from the bondage of Egypt. Parents need to relate to their children how they came to a personal relationship with Jesus, so the children understand that they must come to the same relationship.
- c. Knowing who God is enables us to act towards Him rightly. We give Him His due.
- d. Caught
 - i. "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.
 - ii. Know God not only intellectually, but experientially as well...taste and see!
 - iii. II Tim 3:14-15
 - 1. Learned, and assured of! Example of a personal life! See v. 10
 - 2. The difference it makes when you start young
 - 3. II Tim 1:5- godly mother and grandmother- unsaved dad/missing dad? Acts 16:1
- e. Never to be forgotten- v.12. Reinforcement, repetition- appl. Church attendance and daily devotions
- f. (20-25) How to avoid apostasy in times of prosperity: Teach your children to understand and honor the LORD.

II. **Obey God- v. 13, 17**

- a. Illustr- Flustered mom and disobedient son...After an especially trying day, she finally flung up her hands and shouted, "All right, son, do whatever you want! Now let me see you disobey THAT!"
- b. "The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master".
- c. Fear God- v. 15-17

- d. Gives no place for idolatry. Seek ye first...
 - i. Cultivating this means parents are vigilant in guarding their child's heart!
 - ii. Friends, cultural influences (books, music, tv, etc.)
- e. Blessing vs. curse- v.18
- f. Deut 11:26-28, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day:

And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.
- g. Israel's fate rested on their obedience. If they obeyed their commandment, their life would be long and filled with blessing. If they did not obey they could expect to be cursed by God.
- h. God planned to bring Israel into an abundant, prepared land.- 10-11
- i. V. 20-24- "When thy son asketh thee....Then shalt thou say....for our good always" –
 - i. What's wrong with...?
 - ii. Obedience to God's commandments are boundaries to protect us!
 - iii. We don't make the rules, God does! Illustr- basketball
- j. Often, the apostasy which comes from prosperity afflicts the next generation more than the present. They grow up expecting such prosperity and blessing, without understanding the repentance and walk with God which led to the prosperity.
 - i. Application: growing up in a Christian home
 - ii. Then you shall say to your son: Therefore, it was essential for Israel to teach and warn their children, so that the blessings given to one generation would not become a curse to the next generation.
- k. You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him: When we do this, the idea is not of a shrinking fear from an angry God. Instead, the idea of fear is more in the

concept of an awe-filled respect, an inner repulsion at the idea of offending such a great, loving God who has done so much for us.

- I. V. 13- When Satan wanted Jesus to bow this is what Christ quoted back to him.
Fear and serve God!

III. Love God- v. 5

- a. We often think God demands a hundred other things from us - our money, our time, our effort, our will, our submission, and so forth - but what God really wants is our love. When we really love the LORD with all of our heart, soul, and mind, then everything else is freely given to the LORD. If we give the LORD all the rest - money, time, effort, will, and so forth - without giving Him our love, it is all wasted
- b. The greatest commandment given is to LOVE
- c. We love Him because he first loved us
- d. This is not an emotion towards God, but a devotion and commitment to Him!
- e. Matt. 25:35-38 "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,
Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
- f. True love and devotion to God is the best value we can hope to instill in the next generation
- g. Eph 6:4: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - i. Nurture and admonition- Encouragement and rebuke must be combined with training and teaching.
 - ii. Provoke- unkind, over-critical attitude that torments the child instead of training them

When the 10-year-olds in Mrs. Imogene Frost's class at the Brookside, N.J. Community Sunday School expressed their views of "What's wrong with grownups?" they came up with these complaints:

1. Grownups make promises, then they forget all about them, or else they say it wasn't really a promise, just a maybe.

2. Grownups don't do the things they're always telling the children to do--like pick up their things, or be neat, or always tell the truth.

3. Grownups never really listen to what children have to say. They always decide ahead of time what they're going to answer.

4. Grownups make mistakes, but they won't admit them. They always pretend that they weren't mistakes at all--or that somebody else made them.

iii. Proverbs 22:6, 15- training/disciplining is a loving thing to do!

iv. "When you are disciplining a child, you should have first controlled yourself... What right have you to say to your child that he needs discipline when you obviously need it yourself?" (Lloyd-Jones)

v. Significantly, both training (nurturing) and admonition are used to describe the purpose of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 10:11). Parents are to raise their children on the Word of God.

vi. The goal is not to avoid embarrassment, or to make mom happy, but to love and honor God!

h. This great command must first be in our heart. Then it must be communicated to our children, the topic of our conversation, and should always be in front of us - as near as our hand or our forehead, as ever before us as our door posts and gates.

i. Phylacteries are small boxes holding parchment with scriptures on them, held to the forehead or hand with leather straps.

ii. In the end times, there will be a Satanic imitation of this practice, when the number of the Antichrist will be applied to either the hand or forehead of all who will take it (Revelation 13:16).

- iii. You shall write them on the doorposts of your houses: This command leads to the Jewish practice of the mezuzah. This is a small container holding a passage of Scripture that is nailed to a doorpost.

Conclusion:

- We must pass on these principles to the next generation!
- Let's pray that God allows us to be effective in teaching the next generation!
- The Christian life is like a relay race, and we must be ready to pass the baton!