

Teaching Fathers

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NKJV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

We are always teaching our children. I did not say that we should always be teaching our children but rather that it is something that we cannot escape.

It is one of the most important things we will ever do.

But it is something that America is increasingly failing at.

Even among Christians we are not doing as well as we have in generations past.

The pull of the world on children is greater than ever before.

We cannot all do what the man did in Manhattan by locking his children away from the world. I think that the children could have ended up much worse, but that is not the answer.

Instead we must prepare our children for the day they will be without us. For that day will come.

- I. We must teach convictions not just words.
 - A. Words are the things that we say, convictions are the things that we do.
 - B. We naturally do well in words but not as well as converting those words into convictions.
 - C. That is why we hear don't do as I do, do as I say.
 - D. Children are much better following an example than a list of instructions.
 - E. And that is the problem.
 1. The Bible has many more had examples of fathers as it does good ones.
 2. Maybe it is that the good ones just don't get mentioned.
- II. We must teach them diligently, constantly.
 - A. We are going to have vacation Bible school this week.
 1. But teaching your children cannot be a once a year event.
 2. I shudder to think that some of the children get there yearly dose of Bible at VBS.
 - B. Notice the words of God here.

1. And shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
 2. When you walk by the way,
 3. When you lie down,
 4. And when you rise up.
 5. We might could add some others.
 - a. When you are riding in the car.
 - b. When any trial comes along for the child or the father.
 - c. When you are waiting on something.
 - d. In the check out lanes.
- C. We spend time doing a thousand useless thing that will never matter 50 years from now.
1. But what we do with our children now when they are young will matter for generations.
 2. Every week I get to see the ruin and heartache of bad parenting.
 3. And many times it just perpetuates itself, sometimes for geneartions.
- III. They are to guide our lives every day.
- A. Consistency thou are a gem.
1. One of the biggest problems we have in teaching is that we are not consistent.
 2. Today they will do it the way we say but tomorrow we are too tired to push back against childish rebellion.
- B. All of our lives.
1. We are never too old or it is never too late to teach your children.
- C. Read Psalm 119 through and see the value of knowing and keeping the word of God.