

Series: Striving Together as a Family

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS FOR THE FAMILY DEUTERONOMY 6

Text:

Introduction:

The family, as we know it, is under attack in our society.

Today I want us to consider some foundational truths for the family.

Deuteronomy is the farewell address of Moses to the children of Israel. In this address the Lord gives Moses some very important instructions to leave for these people to follow.

In Deuteronomy 5 Moses had reminded them of the Ten Commandments and then begins this chapter referencing what he had just reminded them of.

Deuteronomy 6:1

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

God says that if you want your home and your nation to last, then take these Commandments and hand them down from father to son.

I'm very concerned about the generation growing up today. So many children and young people attend churches filled with squishy theology, where the authority of the Word of God is questioned and the life of the Lord Jesus Christ is not being manifest, where the worship is empty and futile.

It has well been said that in the fifties kids lost their innocence. They seemed to be liberated by music and films and cars and money. Then after losing their innocence, in the sixties kids lost their authority. During that decade of rebellion, young people challenged every authority-their parents, teachers, religion, and government.

But nothing replaced those authorities, so the youth were left without anything to believe. That led to a loss of the ability to love in the seventies and especially in the eighties, the so-called "me-decade."

Having lost their ability to love, young people substituted sex for love without knowing the difference.

So in our day, having lost their innocence, authority, and ability to love, our youth have lost their hope. That's why young people in the bloom of life are taking their lives. They have lost any confidence in the future. It breaks my heart to see this happening.

James Madison is called the father of the American Constitution.

Here is what he said about our nation:

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of our politics upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

Madison said that America had staked everything on the ability of its people to govern themselves and control themselves according to the Ten Commandments.

That's an incredible statement! It wasn't a pulpit-pounding preacher who said that. It was the father of the Constitution.

But the Ten Commandments have been all but lost in our homes.

May we be reminded today that the Ten Commandments are not obsolete but rather they are absolute.

They are absolutely true and absolutely necessary.

These instructions are important for us so that we may have a family that honors the Lord.

Note:

1. WE MUST LIVE RIGHT (VS. 1-3)

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

A successful family always begins with a relationship with God.

No parent can succeed in helping a child grow up into the image of the Lord unless they know the Lord.

Parents must be walking in a right relationship before the Lord or they will never have the influence in their children's lives that is needed.

In other words, you will never be able to lead your children somewhere you have never been.

These first few verses speak to this issue and show us where they need to be if they are going to have the family God desires for us to have.

Note:

A. He Speaks About Reverence (vs. 2)

Deuteronomy 6:2

² *That thou **mightest fear the LORD thy God**, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*

We are told in verse 2 that we should “fear the Lord.” That is, we are to walk with awareness of His glory, His holiness and of His majesty.

A family's primary responsibility is to walk in the fear of the Lord.

We are to bring our lives under God's authority. A godly family places the Lord's will above all other considerations, realizing that the fear of the Lord is the first step in wisdom and in proper parenting.

Not only does he speak of "Reverence" but also:

B. He Speaks About Reactions

When we fear the Lord as we should, we will obey His Word.

This brings to mind to great truths:

- God's Standards Are To Be Our Standards

We are to build our lives around the dictates and mandates of the Word of God. When God speaks, we are to respond by doing what He tells us to do, and by refraining from what He forbids us to do.

- Your Children Will Often Model What They See On Your Life

They will carry away from your home many of your actions and reactions. It is your responsibility to teach them that God's Word is to be obeyed.

Not only does he speak of “Reverence” and “Reactions” but also:

C. He Speaks about Rewards

God promised Israel that when they followed His Word, He would bless them and reward their lives. The same holds true today! God has promised to bless those who walk in His will and follow His Word.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

We need to demonstrate so that our children can see that God will do what He has said He would do.

- Do Your Children See That Faithfulness Is Blessed By God? (Matthew 25:21)

Matthew 25:21

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few

things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

- Do Your Children Know That God Will Bless Honesty? (Phil. 4:8, 1 Thess. 4:11-12)

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

¹¹ And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹² That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

- Do Your Children Know That God Will Bless Tithing? (Mal. 3:8-10)

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in

mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

- Do Your Children See Serving God as A Blessing and Not a Burden?

They will learn exactly what they observe in your life. They need to know that God blesses faithful people. If they see us enjoying the great blessings of the Lord, they will want the same things for their own lives.

Notice Not Only “Must We Live Right” but also:

2. WE MUST LOVE RIGHT (VS. 4-5)

If our family is going to be the family that God desires for it to be then we must love God supremely.

Note:

A . Our Love Is To Be Focused on the Lord (vs. 4)

Deuteronomy 6:4

⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

There are to be no other gods in our lives.

Too often people put everything in the world ahead of God.

It may be a job, a hobby, a friend, etc. Whatever comes ahead of God in your life is an idol and it sends a false message to our children.

We tell our children and those around us, by our actions, that this thing we love comes ahead of our love for God.

Our children need to know that no one or nothing comes before our relationship with God. He must be our focus.

If we teach our children that God is just for Sundays, we are going to raise a generation of infidels.

Not only must “Our Love Be Focused on the Lord” but also:

B. Our Love Is To Be Fixed on the Lord (vs. 5)

Deuteronomy 6:5

⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

This love for God is to motivate us in every area of life. Our love for Him should consume us totally.

Matthew 22:35-40

³⁵ Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, ³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

When we love Him like we should, we will be in our place at church time. We will support the work of the church with our giving, our living and our time.

We will teach our children to be faithful to the things of God, not to personal opinion. We will teach them to respect the church, the people of God and the men of God. We will teach them to love the Word of God, the worship of God and the will of God!

Notice Not Only “Must We Live and Love Right” but also:

3. WE MUST LEARN RIGHT (VS. 6-9)

Moses mentions three things that we to do with God’s Word.

Note:

A. We Are To Study It (vs. 6)

Deuteronomy 6:6

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

The Word is to be taken in, and it is to be allowed to change our lives.

If we expect our lives to impact our children, then we must be transformed by the Word.

Nothing can happen through us until it first happens in us.

It is essential that we have a personal time of prayer and Bible study.

We need to be growing so that we can help our children to grow.

The importance and influence of the Word of God should never be underestimated! If we expect to raise Godly children, there must first be godly parents!

Not only are we to “Study the Word of God” but also:

B. We Are To Share It (vs. 7-9)

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

This verse says that we are to “diligently” teach the Word to our children. The word “diligently” means “to whet or to sharpen.” It carries the idea “of stabbing, or of one object penetrating another.”

In other words, our training is to penetrate deeply into our children. We are to help them, on the basis of God’s word to be keen, sharp and discerning when it comes to living life.

We are to develop in them a set of convictions based on the Word of God that will guide them through life.

It isn’t about a bunch of rules, but rather a right relationship with the Lord and a respect and reverence for God’s Word.

Close:

May we determine to have the family that God designed us to be and desires for us to be.