

Training Your Children

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In our study of marriage and the home, we find ourselves at the subject of training up children to follow the Lord.
- B. With this lesson, we will first consider a great Bible example of how to instruct our children in the way of the Lord and then, we will consider seven important teachings that we must be sharing with our children.
- C. Let us begin by looking at Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

I. LESSON FROM DEUTERONOMY 6.

- A. The Israelites were to . . . (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
 - 1. “Observe” the commands of the Lord. (vs 1)
 - 2. Fear the Lord and keep His commands. (vs 2-3) Take note that this command to fear the Lord and obey His commandments were to extend to the current, as well as, all future generations of Israelites.
 - 3. Have the proper attitude towards God. (vs 4-5)
 - a. Recognize that Jehovah is the one and only Lord God. (vs 4)
 - b. Love the Lord God with all their heart, soul, and strength. (vs 5)
 - 4. Put the words of God into their hearts. (vs 6)
 - a. The word heart can refer to the mind, the intellect of a person.
 - b. However, the word heart can also refer to the center of a person’s affections or emotions.
 - c. When the word of God rests within a person’s heart, it becomes an influence upon that person’s life. The word of God, when carried in the heart, will affect every decision and action.
 - d. There were times when the Israelites knew the law, but they did not carry the law in their hearts. They did not allow the law to influence their lives. (cf. Romans 2:17-24)
 - 5. Teach diligently the words of God to their children. (vs 7)
 - a. Consider Adam Clarke’s comments on this verse: “Thou shalt teach them

diligently - שִׁנְנָתָם shinnantam, from שָׁנָן shanan, to repeat, iterate, or do a thing again and again; hence to whet or sharpen any instrument, which is done by reiterated friction or grinding. We see here the spirit of this Divine injunction. God’s testimonies must be taught to our children, and the utmost diligence must be used to make them understand them. This is a most difficult task; and it requires much patience, much prudence, much judgment, and much piety in the parents, to enable them to do this good, this most important work, in the best and most effectual manner.” (Adam Clarke’s Commentary, Vol. I, pg 755)

- b. We see the idea of constant repetition in the command to “teach them diligently to your children.”
6. Talk of God’s words to their children. (vs 7)
- a. As if to illustrate the constant repetition in teaching their children God’s word, Moses commanded the people to talk of the commands and every opportunity during the course of the day.
 - 1) “When you sit in your house.”
 - 2) “When you walk by the way.”
 - 3) “When you lie down.”
 - 4) “When you rise up.”
7. Continually expose their children to the commands and statutes of the Lord. (vs 8-9)
- a. These instructions were figurative. The idea conveyed in verses 8 and 9 would seem to be the importance of constant exposure to the Lord’s commands as well as the continual remembrance of His laws and statutes.
 - b. Consider the following excerpt from the Pulpit Commentary on this passage: “The words of God were to be bound for **a sign** [a memorial or directory] **upon thine hand**, the instrument of acting, and to be as **frontlets** [fillets or bands] **between thine eyes**, the organs of direction in walking or moving, and so on the forehead, the chamber of thought and purpose; and they were to inscribe them on the posts or their houses, and on their gates. The purport of this is that they were constantly and

everywhere to have these commandments of the Lord in view and in mind, so as to undeviatingly observe them.” (Pulpit Commentary, Vol. III, pg 119)

- B. While no longer under the law of Moses, which God gave to the Israelites on Mount Sinai, Christians are under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. Under this New Covenant, Christians are to obey all the teachings of Jesus and His apostles.
1. Fathers have a responsibility to teach their children the Word of God, so that their children will likewise obey Jesus Christ. (cf. Ephesians 6:4)
 2. Let all mothers and fathers follow the example set forth in Deuteronomy 6:1-9.
Let us do a brief review:
 - a. “Observe” the commands of the Lord. (vs 1)
 - b. Fear the Lord and keep His commands. (vs 2)
 - c. Have the proper attitude towards God. (vs 4-5)
 - d. Put the words of God into their hearts. (vs 6)
 - e. Teach diligently the words of God to their children. (vs 7)
 - f. Talk of God’s words to their children. (vs 7)
 - g. Continually expose their children to the commands and statutes of the Lord. (vs 8-9)

II. WHAT MUST WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN?

- A. Let us now give consideration to seven specific teachings which all parents must instill within their children’s hearts.
- B. We must teach our children:
1. To avoid rebellion.
 - a. Command your children in the way of the Lord.
 - 1) Abraham commanded his children. (Genesis 18:19)
 - 2) Solomon listed four benefits of following the commands of one’s parent. (Proverbs 6:20-24)
 - a) Take notice of the instructions to “bind them continually upon your heart” and to “tie them around your neck.”
Again, we see the idea of a person constantly carrying the word of the Lord within their heart and mind.

- b) The benefits to always carrying the Lord's commands with you are as follows: "When you roam, they will lead you," (2) "When you sleep, they will keep you," (3) "When you awake, they will speak with you," and (4) "The commandment is a lamp, and the law a light" to guide the person through life.
 - b. Discipline your children as instructed by the Lord.
 - 1) Do not be afraid to discipline your children.
 - 2) Consider the wise words of Solomon.
 - a) Proverbs 13:24 - *"He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly."*
 - b) Proverbs 22:15 - *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him."*
 - c) Proverbs 23:13-14 - *"Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell."*
 - d) Proverbs 29:15 - *"The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."*
 - c. If you will teach your children to follow the Lord and discipline your children in the way of the Lord, then you will be leading your children on a path that avoids rebellion against the Lord.
2. To avoid selfishness.
- a. According to James, the attitude of selfishness (self-seeking, KJV) is not from Heaven, but from the earth. It is "sensual" and "demonic." (James 3:13-17) Take notice of the contrast between "bitter envy and self-seeking" (vs 14, 16) and the wisdom that is "willing to yield."
 - b. Do not give in to every want and desire that your child may possess.
 - 1) Children must learn that life will not always go their way and that they will not always get what they want.
 - 2) If parents continually give their children what their children want and desire, then their children may develop a selfish attitude and

expect everyone to cater to their wants and desires.

- c. As a parent, be willing to say, “No.”
 - 1) The Lord has told His people no in many areas.
 - 2) We need to follow the example set by the perfect Father and be willing to tell our children no.
 - d. Be willing to teach your child that life is not about what they want and desire. Raise your children in such a way that teaches them to be selfless, not selfish.
3. To avoid hatred and bigotry.
- a. Teach your children to love everyone, including those who may not love them. The Lord commanded His people to love. (Matthew 5:43-48)
 - b. Teach your children to not be prejudice. Teach them that all people are equal in the site of God.
 - c. Peter said, *“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. (35) But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”* (Acts 10:34-35, NKJV)
 - d. If we treat other people differently, despising them because of some difference, then we are guilty of sin. Consider the warning found in James 2:1-4.
 - e. Let us rise above the worldly mentality and teach our children that, since God is no respecter of persons, then neither should we be prejudicial in our treatment of other people.
4. To avoid ignorance.
- a. The apostle Paul wrote, *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:4)
 - b. As parents, we are to instruct our children in the way of righteousness.
 - 1) Solomon tells us that a father is to instruct his son. (Proverbs 13:1)
 - 2) As established in the first part of this lesson, let us consider the example established by Moses in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
 - c. Let us teach our children God’s word and show them how to study His

word. By so doing, our children will learn to “rightly divide the word of God.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

- d. When we teach our children God’s wonderful word, then we will help lead our children away from the ignorance of the world.

5. To avoid worldliness.

- a. As parents, we must determine to keep our children away from worldly influences. Paul wrote, “*Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’*” (1 Corinthians 15:33, NKJV)
- b. Set standards and guidelines for your children’s friends. Consider the example of Solomon who warned his sons against running with immoral and ungodly people. (Proverbs 1:10-19)
- c. Keep control over that which influences your children, including the television, the computer, the music they listen to, etc. Give consideration to David’s resolve to keep wicked from the presence of his family. (Psalms 101:3-8)
- d. While you will not be able to always govern that which influences your children, you can guard the door of your house, and not allow evil influences to lead your children astray.

6. To avoid hypocrisy.

- a. As a parent, you have the responsibility to live your life the way you teach your children to live. Children are smart. They will see and take notice if you are not practicing what you preach.
- b. Set the right example by avoiding hypocrisy. Show your children a genuine and sincere love for the Lord and His word.
- c. Consider the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. (Matthew 23:1-5)
- d. While you teach your children through words, make certain that you are also teaching them through actions. By teaching your children in words and deeds, you will be helping your children to learn how to fully serve the Lord.

7. To avoid indifference.

- a. Show your children that you love the Lord and that you love serving Him.

- 1) Jesus said, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” (Matthew 22:37, NKJV)
 - 2) Jesus also said, “*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*” (John 14:15, NKJV)
 - b. Parents who do not care about serving the Lord, about taking a stand for what is right, and about studying God’s word will bring up children who will possess the same level of indifference.
 - 1) Solomon wrote, “*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*” (Proverbs 22:6, NKJV)
 - 2) The inverse of this promise is also true: If you train up a child in the way he should not go, then when he is old, he will continue in that same path.
 - 3) We recognize that the aforementioned statement is not a guarantee. However, you will find that many children will grow up to share their parent’s level of indifference towards God’s word or their parent’s love for the word of God.
 - c. Teach your children that serving the Lord should be the most important goal within their lives. Teach your children that their love for the Lord must come before any and all other loves. Teach your children not to be indifferent toward God and His wonderful teachings and instructions.
8. To avoid sexual immorality.
- a. Teach your children that the marriage bed is honorable. However, sexual activity outside of the marriage is wrong. (Hebrews 13:4)
 - b. Sexual immorality is a temptation from which people must flee. Paul told the church in Corinth to “flee sexual immorality” or fornication. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)
 - c. Teach your children that sexual immorality begins with lustful thoughts and desires.
 - 1) Jesus said that lusting after another person yields adultery in the heart. (Matthew 5:27-30)

- 2) According to the writer James, we find that sin begins with desires.
(James 1:13-15)
 - d. No matter how private sexual immorality may seem, God sees and judges all sin. (Hebrews 4:12-13)
 - e. Teach your children that sexual immorality can destroy their lives.
Consider Solomon's warnings to his sons. (Proverbs 7:9-27) Please note that the danger is not the enticing woman, but the enticement of sexual activity outside of marriage. It could be an enticing woman tempting a man just as it could also be an enticing man tempting a woman. The end is death!
- C. If we teach our children these very important rules, then we will be helping to establish our children in the way of the Lord. We will be bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Please give careful consideration to what we have covered in this lesson.
- B. Training your children in the path and pattern of the Lord is important to their soul's eternal state. Begin today preparing your children to serve the Lord with giving them the necessary attitude and tools.