

God's Word to Parents

Deut 6:4-7

I. What goals do you have for your children?

A. I am not talking about when they are grown but right now

1. During these 17 or 18 years they are with you, what do you want to accomplish in their lives?
2. They are a gift from God
3. What goals do you have for your gift?

B. Do you have some concrete objectives for your children?

1. The surest way to never hit a target is not to have one
2. If you do not have goals and objectives for your children then you will surely not accomplish them.

C. As you look at that little person—what do you want to accomplish in his or her life?

1. They are the most precious thing in the world to you—what goals should you have for them?

D. Wouldn't it be great if God would tell us the goal we should have for our children and how to accomplish that goal?

1. After all God gave them to us as a gift, He has given us the responsibility to raise them, to shape their lives
2. Wouldn't it be great if He would give us the goal and the plan to accomplish that goal?

E. I want you to know God has done just that!

1. He has given us the goal we are to have for our children and the plan to accomplish this goal.
2. It is found in book of Deuteronomy 6:4-7
3. Give the context

READ TEXT

II. THE GOAL: TO LOVE GOD SUPREME

Deut 6:5

" You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

What is Moses saying?

1. This is a way of speaking of our total being
2. **All your heart, all your soul, all your might** is a way of saying love God with your total person, unreservedly and supremely.

B. One day a lawyer approached Jesus and asked Him which was the greatest commandment-

1. In other words, which commandment is the most important

2. If you could only obey one of the commandments which one should it be!

3. Jesus quotes this passage in Deut. for the answer Matt 22:37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

4. Jesus is saying the most important thing in life is to love God above all else!

*Life is centered around God

*Surrender to Jesus' Lordship

Illus.

The service of Christ is the business of my life

The will of Christ is the law of my life

The presence of Christ is the joy of my life

The glory of Christ is the goal of my life.

C. Can you have any goal for your child that is greater than this?

1. You say "But I want them to be wealthy"

*Jesus said what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

*There are plenty of wealthy people who are miserable

2. "I want them to be famous, do something important for mankind—discover cure for cancer

*that would be great but that only effects this life which is only like a vapor compared to eternity

*Again—what does it profit a person to ...

D. Our goal is to raise children who love God supremely—He is the most important thing in their life!

1. That brings us to the plan

2. How can we accomplish this goal in our child's life?

3. How can we raise children who will love God unreservedly and supremely?

III. THE PLAN: WE ARE TO TEACH THEM PERSONALLY, CONTINUALLY AND NATURALLY (6-7) Deut 6:6-7

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 " You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

We are to teach them personally

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

1. Moses tells these parents they must first take these words to their heart before they can teach them to their children.

2. He is saying they must first love God supremely themselves and then they can teach ..

3. If we are going to teach our children to love God supremely we must first apply these words to our heart—we must love Him supremely.

4. We can only love God supremely through His Son, Jesus

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

***Gospel**

—we cannot come to God on our own because our sins have caused a separation between us and God—Rom 3:23

—deserve death—Rom 6:23

—Jesus came and dealt with my sin problem

*lived a sinless life

*punished for my sins

*removed the sin barrier

—He is my bridge to Holy God

—as I accept Him by faith

5. Then by His grace I can love God supremely

6. The first part of the plan is we must **personally** love God

***He must be supreme in our life**

B. We are to teach them continually.

1. The Heb word translated teach means to sharpen—like a knife or sword

***how do you sharpen a knife on a stone?**

***repeatedly moving the knife across the stone**

***SHORT REPEATED STROKES**

2. God is saying we are to teach our children in short repeated intervals

***Modern learning theories tell us this is exactly the best way to teach children**

***children learn in short intervals of time—5 or 10 minute segments**

***and they learn by repetition**

*therefore the ideal learning environment is short intervals that are repeated

3. This is exactly what God is telling us in His word.

*teaching our children to love God supremely is a process that takes time

*it's not something that takes place in one month or one year

*it's a process that we are involved in over and over

*that's one reason God gives them to you for 17 or so years

C. Third, we are to teach them naturally as a lifestyle.

Deut 6:7

You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

1. Notice this teaching is to be a part of our everyday living with our children

2. It's not only to take place in structured setting like a family devotion time

3. It is to talking place in the normal course of daily living with your child

when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

*while you are riding in the car

*while you are sitting in the den

*while you are watching t.v.

*while you are helping them with homework

*while you are sitting around the table

*while you a putting them to bed

4. Teaching them to love God supremely is to be as natural as breathing

***you teach them in short intervals, repeatedly in the normal course of daily living!**

5. I see the plan working itself out in 3 aspects

*lifestyle—

*verbal instruction—devotion times, teaching

*teachable moments—no one knows when these will occur but they occur because you have done the lifestyle and verbal instruction!

Summary:

The goal: for our child to love God supremely

The plan: us to teach them

*personally

*continually

*naturally as a lifestyle

III. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

A. Relate God's love to his everyday experiences

1. Tell him or her of God's concern for their daily activities

*school problems

*friends

2. Pray with them over the things that bother them

*prayer is talking to God

*sharing our heart with God

3. Relate God to their world

*out walking—God made the trees, sky

B. Make time each day to be with God in a special way

1. Show them the importance of spending time each day with God

2. At early age begin reading Bible stories to them—picture Bible

3. When 3 or so short devotion time

*songs

*short Bible story

—tell them

—act it out

C. As they get older help them to have a daily time with God through Jesus

1. Show them the importance of following Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior

2. Daily prayer list

3. Set time

4. Accountability