

**Sermon Text:** Deuteronomy 6:1-25 Parenting as Disciple-making

**Christian parents have the blessed responsibility of forming covenant children with God-given instruments.**

**1) God's covenant blessings are for present and future generations (6:1-5).**

- a) "that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son"—reverence and worship from generation to generation
- b) "as the LORD, the God of your fathers"—God covenanted with Abraham nearly 500 years prior to the generation Moses is addressing
- c) "Hear, O Israel"—this includes children; the children were not pagans, they were "children of Israel," covenant children
  - i) "The LORD our God, the LORD is one"—children were to confess this faith
  - ii) "You shall love the LORD your God"—children were to know that the LORD was their God; they were to know that they were His children; they were called to love Him
- d) **Application:** Have you claimed the covenant promises for your children? Are you training them up as covenant children or pagans?

**2) Covenant children are formed in the heart (6:6-7a).**

- a) "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."—The Shema was not to be merely recited. It is life-giving, life-changing truth. Heart is the seat of the intellect and the will. "Constant, conscious reflection" (Eugene Merrill)
- b) "You shall teach them diligently to your children"—image of engraving with a chisel
- c) **Application:** How do you reach your child's heart?
  - i) Your motive must be love for God and for your child.
  - ii) Engage them with moral reasoning from God's law, not seemingly arbitrary demands. "Why do we require this?"
  - iii) Encourage their early steps in obedience. Challenge/charge them with the call to follow Jesus.
  - iv) Call them to repent of sin.
  - v) Apply corrective discipline.
  - vi) Be a godly example.
  - vii) Pray with and for your children, because only God can change the heart. You can feed the heart, but only God can make change.

**3) Covenant children are formed in every moment of daily life (6:7b-9).**

- a) "talk of [these words] when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise"—teach God's truth everywhere at all times
- b) "on your hands . . . between your eyes . . . on the doorposts of your house"—stimulate thoughts of God
- c) **Application:** Are you turning God on/off in your daily routine? Do you allow your children to turn God on/off? How can you increase a *Coram Deo* attitude in your family?

**4) Covenant children are formed in a world hostile to true religion (6:10-19).**

- a) “great and good cities . . . houses full of all good things . . . cisterns . . . vineyards . . . olive trees . . . when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD”—God’s gifts can become idols
- b) “You shall not go after other gods”—There would be many vestiges of idolatrous paganism when they entered the land.
- c) “thrusting out all your enemies”—idolatrous Canaanites
- d) **Application:** Beware of the Canaanization of your household. Are the enemies of your God and of your family and of your soul welcome guests in your home? Are you giving your children a Christian worldview to think critically about what they see and hear in their environment?

**5) Covenant children are formed by God’s redemptive works and promises (6:20-23).**

- a) “When your son asks you in time to come”—the worship practices, celebrations, and instructions of the covenant raise important questions
- b) “What is the meaning of the statutes and rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?”—Laws have meaning. They are given for a reason. They are given for revelation.
- c) “the LORD brought us out”—The Law of God has redemptive foundations. Explain the Law in light of the gracious redemption that God has wrought for us.
- d) “He brought *us* out”—The story of God’s people is their story too.
- e) **Application:** Teach the whole story of the Bible, not just bits and pieces. It is a Redemptive History. Emphasize the character and works of God as they are revealed in the stories. The promises are for you and for your children. Do they know God’s promises? Use the Shorter Catechism!

**6) Covenant children are formed by God’s commandments and warnings (6:24-25).**

- a) “And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes”—The Law is to be done. Obedience is not a dirty word in biblical Christianity.
- b) “to fear the LORD our God”—reverence and worship are heart attitudes
- c) “for our good always, that He might preserve us alive”—Obedience to God’s Law is good for us. God’s Word gives life through Jesus Christ.
- d) “righteousness”—imputed and practical righteousness is revealed in God’s law
- e) **Application:** Beware of antinomianism. Beware of legalism. Beware of the anti-authority spirit of the age. Jesus taught, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

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**Doxology:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:1-2