

Every Day Is Father's Day!
Selected Scriptures
(Deut. 6:4-7; Proverbs; Col. 3:21; Eph. 5)
Reading: Genesis 2:18-25

Father's Day
Bethany Baptist Church
June 20, 2021

...pray...

I was in *meeting* a few days ago in which we touched on *Sunday School* and *Children's Ministry*.

We wrote down the *names* of every child here under the age of **10** we could think of.

Perhaps **25%** of our Sunday morning crowd is made up of *children*!

Which means we have a lot of *proud dad's* this morning! 😊

And, God says you men have some weighty, life-shaping *responsibilities*.

The Bible says men are to *love* God completely and *train* their children accordingly.

God has appointed father's to train their children.

- 1. *The father's conviction* – Deut 6:4-6**
- 2. *The father's charge* – Deut 6:7**
- 3. *The father's counsel* – samples from the wisdom of Proverbs**
- 4. *The father's coaching* – Col 3:21; Eph 6:4**

The father's conviction – Deut 6:4-6

1. Let's begin by *turning together* in our OT to **Deut 6:4-7**, a *jugular text* in terms of its importance to **Judaism**, and to you & me. **Read 6:4-7**
 - a. **Deuteronomy** is the fifth of the *Five Books of Moses* (*Pentateuch*; *Law*; Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, **Deut**).
 - b. The book is *framed-up* around **three major addresses** that Moses gave to Israel, as the **2nd** generation prepared to *leave* the Wilderness (**40** years) and *enter* the Promised Land. *Without Moses...!*
 - i. Moses gave these three speeches to *prepare* God's people to *enter* the Land of Promise...
 - ii. ...to *conquer*...
 - iii. ...and to *flourish*.
 - c. Our text is found in Moses' **second speech**.
 - d. It is important to note that Israel's leader had just finished reviewing the *Ten Commandments* in chapter 5 (same speech). So the shadow of the *Commandments* casts itself over the *charge* we consider this morning in chapter 6.
2. **"Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"** The Hebrew name for our text is *"The Shema."* *"Shema"* (Heb) means *"hear."*
 - a. The people of Israel were called to pay *attention* to life's fundamental truth:
 - i. God *is*. He exists...
 - ii. God is *one*.
 1. The Hebrew term *"one"* suggests *unity* (not simply *singleness*), which leaves the door open for a *Trinitarian* understanding of Moses' declaration.
 2. *"One"* also suggests *uniqueness*. There is no other god!

3. God's people are commanded to *love* Him with *every fiber of their being*.
 - a. V.5 – “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **might**.*”
 - b. You **don't** need to put these three words (*heart, soul, might*) under a *theological microscope*!
 - c. Moses' point is *clear*: your love for God should *all-encompassing, engaging all* that you are. Nothing held back!
 - d. Jesus simply called this (Mt 22) “*The Great and Foremost Commandment.*”

4. Moses goes on (6) to *clarify* how to pursue this “*Great Commandment Love*”:
 - a. “*These words*” are the immediate command (4,5) to *love the one true God with heart & soul & might...*
 - b. But “*these words*” are *also detailed* by the instructions of God's good Law; just rehearsed by Moses in chapter five.
 - c. So loving God is expressed *day by day* by keeping these *Ten Words of the Law*. With *heart-felt, all consuming* obedience.

5. This is *Father's Day*. My sermon title is “*Every Day Is Father's Day.*” But I **haven't** said a word about *fatherhood & children* yet. *What's up!?!*
 - a. You **can't** teach your kids to love God, if **you** don't love God.
 - b. You **can't** lead your children to Jesus, unless **you** are following Jesus.

So being a dad begins in your heart: to love God w/ everything that you are, then instill your love in your kids.

The father's charge (vv.6,7)

1. Israel is about to *conquer* the Promised Land, but the first priority is **not** to *sharpen their swords* but to *sharpen their sons*!
 - a. I was taken by the fact that Moses' command began with the *entire nation* (v.4 – "*Hear, O Israel!*") then *immediately* focused on *fathers and families*.
 - b. Ever since **Gen 2**, the Bible has taught that the family is the *basic building block* of society. That is *still true* today!
 - c. Which adds *great importance* (weight) to your charge, men!

2. Vv.6-7 – "***These words***, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall ***teach them diligently*** to your sons...
 - a. Brother's, your *charge* is to *teach* your sons and daughters according to "*these words*"; again, here is God's *core curriculum*:
 - i. **V.4** – *There is one true God, the God of the Bible*. Thus...
 - ii. **V.5** – *You are to love Him with all that you are (heart, soul, strength)*.
 - iii. Your *love* for Him implies your *obedience* to Him!
 - iv. Your teaching implies *this message* to your children: "*you are to love Him the way I love Him...*"
 - b. Your teaching is to be *diligent*. This will be a *life-long project*. It will demand your daily *attention*.

3. That's clearly seen in **v.7**, as God gives us instructions on *training our children* (**read v.7**).
 - a. The *lesson plan* encompasses *when & where!*
 - b. *Sitting in the house together, walking the road together.*
 - c. *Turning in at night, getting up in the morning.*
 - d. Game night and homework; taking a walk and going shopping.
 - e. Working in the kitchen and learning to mow the yard.
 - f. Settling squabbles and tending to broken hearts.
 - g. *Teach these words...everywhere and all the time...*
 - h. Because the Gospel speaks to *all* of these!

4. **I.e.** God is the *dominant topic*, the *ever-present guest*, in your home.
 - a. Father's, husbands, what *is* the *theme* of your family? Is it faith in God, sparked by **your** faith in God!

 - b. *“This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, **all the day long**; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, **all the day long!**”*

Here is your charge, men: “teach them diligently.”

***The father's counsel* – important lessons from the wisdom of Proverbs**

1. What does a king teach his *sons* – his *children*?
 - a. That's an important question, because a good king cares who sits on his throne when he is *gone*.
 - i. He doesn't want to leave his kingdom to a *fool*!
 - b. King Solomon wrote the **OT** collection of Proverbs to document what he taught his sons.
 - c. It is a *treasure* of godly wisdom! Men, I encourage you to *read* Proverbs often and to *read* it (*explain* it) to your children regularly.
 - d. We've just established (Deut) that *fathers* are to love God and to constantly train their *family* to love God.
 - e. Now I want to turn to Proverbs to survey the *foundation* and the *building blocks* of training your family. .
2. Your *foundation* is found in **Proverbs 1:7**(reinforced 9:10; **turn/read**).
 - a. The Bible makes *fearing God* the prerequisite for knowledge/wisdom! If we connect that back to Deut 6...
 - i. If you *love God w/all your heart*, you will also *fear* Him.
 - ii. And if you *fear God*, you will want to obey Him by *teaching* your family *all the time/everywhere*. You will teach them to *fear, love* and *obey* Him. Like *you* do!
 - b. Let's suggest a few *definitions* and then a simple *explanation*.
 - i. *Wisdom* – seeing and responding to everyday life from God's perspective. (Applying God's truth to life.)
 - ii. *Fear of God* – responding to God with *awe* that draws us near and a *holy fear* that drives our obedience. The Bible teaches (OT/NT) that Christians are to *fear God*.

- c. So when you *fear God* you know you must *see* life and *live* life His way. I.e., *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*.
 - d. The connection (7) between the *fear of God* and *wisdom* argues that the values you teach your children must be taught in a Christian context.
 - i. E.g. *We work hard* because that honors God and His *creation mandate* (Gen 1 &2).
 - ii. *We avoid sinful friendships* because they drag us from God.
 - iii. Proverbs is not simply a *recipe book* for good conduct (moralism). It is an aid to teach your kids to live the *Christian life*.
3. Let's build on the foundation (*fear of God leading to wisdom*) by briefly considering **three** subjects God wants you to teach your kids
- a. In fact, these topics are *repeated* in Proverbs (often) because they are *essential* to growing in wisdom and godliness.
 - b. **Three** fundamentals to teach your kids (more): *friends, sexuality, work ethic*.
4. *Friends*. You are not the only person shaping your children's *character* and *world-view*. They are listening to their *peers*! Their peers are *pulling* on them!
- a. Follow as **I read 1:10-15**. Sinners want to *recruit* your kids!
 - i. To "*entice*" is to *persuade*, to *tempt*. Wrong friends will work on your kids with *peer pressure* and *bullying*.
 - 1. V.11 – "*Come w/ us*"; v.14 – "*Throw in your lot with us*."
 - ii. You need to need to *train* your children to *resist* peer pressure. Instill in them the desire to *please* you and *fear* God.

- iii. The danger of wrong friends is well known.
 - 1. **Psalm 1:1** – *How blessed is the man who does **not** walk in the counsel of the wicked (stand/sinners sit/scoffers).*
 - 2. **1 Cor 15:33** – *Do not be deceived: bad company corrupts good morals (“deceived”)? – we underestimate the power of peer pressure).*

- b. Solomon illustrates the *pressure of wrong friends* with the example of a gang of *violent robbers*.
 - i. They suggest evil is *fine... fun* (11 - *ambush without cause*).
 - ii. They promise it will be *easy* (12 - *swallow them alive*).
 - iii. They tempt with *profit* (13 *we will fill our houses with spoil*).

- c. Some children are easier targets (naïve; people pleasers). Truthfully, some children are drawn to sinful people (glamorous; rebellion).
 - i. You must *appeal* to your kids!
 - 1. The bad influence says (11): “*Come with us.*”
 - 2. You must repeat (10): “*My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.*” (15): “*My son, do not walk in the way with them; keep your feet from their path.*”
 - ii. You must *train* your kids to stay away from the wrong friends! Again, v.15 – *keep your feet from their path.*”
 - 1. Because if they won’t embrace *wisdom*, they’ll probably embrace a *sinner*!

5. *Sexuality*. Western Culture is caught up in a *revolution* that began in the **1950s** and has grown in *scope* and *influence* to this day. It is a *moral revolution* – a *sexual revolution*. I'm not going to take the time to *develop that* (need?), but I'm going to assert that we *lost* that fight.
- a. The *sexual revolution* wants to take your children *captive*.
 - b. Father's need to prepare their children to *resist*.
 - c. Men (all), turn **with me to 5:1-8 (read)**.
 - d. Let's begin by pointing out Solomon's appeal is *strong* (1): *give attention...incline your ear*. That underlines how *important* it is to protect your children from sexual sin.
 - e. The king gives **three** *warnings* concerning the adulteress:
 - i. She is *appealing* (3), beginning with her sweet, smooth *speech*. Sinful sexual encounters often begin with *flattery*.
 - ii. She is, however, *deadly* (4-5)! *Wormwood* suggests *suffering*. Her feet are on the path of *death*.
 - iii. Third, she doesn't even *consider* (6) how *unstable* she is!
 - f. Solomon's advice (7,8) is simple. It's the same advice as with any other bad friend: *remember what's right* (7) and *just stay away* (8)!
 - g. Proverbs (Bible) has *much more to say* about sexual sin. Brothers, my point this morning is that the *repeated presence* of this warning in Scripture means you *must* teach these truths to your family.
 - i. This is *high* on God's list of your children's training.

6. *Hard work*. I've got a friend who likes to say, "*hard work ain't easy!*"
- a. There are "*Hiring*" signs up all over the city & country, but people **don't** want to *work*! There are pieces on the *news* (*papers*) about this problem every week!
 - b. But to be honest, *laziness* is an evidence of our sin nature, so *laziness* has been around ever since we got *evicted* from the Garden. Solomon wrote: "*nothing new under the sun!*"
 - c. Which means fathers have always needed to *train their children* to *work*! **Turn to 6:6-11 (read).**
 - i. The hard-working **ant** *prepares* summer & fall for the approach of winter; that's just the way she is.
 - ii. The *sluggard* lies down when he should be working; that's just the way *he* is! His *sloth* will lead to *poverty*; *laziness* will rob him of riches as sure as a *bandit*. (11)
 - iii. Again, the Proverbs addresses the topic of *laziness* often; as does the **NT. 2 Thess 3:10** - *For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.* This is a critical *life lesson*!
 - iv. When my *sons* were old enough to take their first jobs, I would tell them, "*just show up on time and stay till the whistle blows, you'll be a hero!*"
 - v. This week I ordered a new book by **Mary Beeke** (Dr. Joel) titled "*Teach Them to Work: Building a Positive Work Ethic in Our Children*" The book review included a brief article by Mrs. Beeke; I'd like to share an excerpt of her four pointers *on instilling a work ethic in you kids*. **Read M. Beeke's piece.**

7. God wants you to teach your kids His truths about *friends, sexuality, and work*. That's why those are *all over* your Bible! Yet, these **three subjects** are just an *important sample*: **Fathers**, I urge you to read through Proverbs and *build your own list of life lessons* for your kids (*character, communication, finances, substance abuse, authority ...on and on*). **Train your children!**

Finally, I'd like to coach you on your coaching techniques!

1. The Apostle Paul had a few coaching pointers for fathers. **Let's look together in Col. 3:20-21 (read).**
2. *Today is Father's Day*, so I need to point out something to our *children* from **v.20**: cheerfully *obeying your dad* is even better than a *card*, and it makes God happy, too!
3. **Men**, let's *spend a minute* thinking about **v.21 (read)**.
 - a. Here is Paul's *parenting pointer*: Fathers do not **exasperate** your children!
 - b. "*Exasperate*" – irritate, provoke, stir up.
 - c. **Eph 6:4**, Paul's parallel warning: *do not stir them up to anger*
 - d. Dads, you are to communicate in a way that assures your kids will *hear your message* without being *frustrated* (hurt, turned off) *by your delivery*.
4. This was a *revolutionary* directive. **First century** father's (Roman, Jews) generally *laid down the law* with little concern for the feelings of their *wives* and *children*. Christianity *directly challenged* accepted family patterns!
5. What coaching blunders can *exasperate* your children...? Here are some warnings (not too fast)... *harsh discipline* (re speech; "rod"), *setting the bar too high* (re age), **no discipline** (kids want bounds), *favoritism* (Jacob & Joseph), *no training, no attention/affection, no sacrifice* (time, advantage, comfort/security, indulgence), *inconsistency* (yours), *hypocrisy* (yours).
6. Where does a child's *exasperation* (anger) lead? *Slow obedience, sulky obedience, no obedience*. Perhaps, eventually ... *abandoning, repudiating* your values and your faith.

Men, take the time and trouble to *train your children w/o exasperating your children; bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

A few years ago my **youngest** graduated from *college* and headed off to the *Marine Corp's OCS*.

An *engineer* and an *officer*. Man...I was one *proud* dad!

Then one morning at *breakfast*, just after he left home, I was *thinking* about all of that....

And I began to *cry* a little. I had to admit to Joanie: "*No one needs me any more.*"

Men, *don't waste a single day* of being a *husband* and a *father*.

Walk in the fear of the Lord.

Love your wife unselfishly and tenderly.

Train you sons and daughters in your faith – all the time and everywhere.

Teach them to value what God values (today: *friends, purity, hard work...more*).

Coach consistently, *coach* compassionately.

And, **OBTW dads**, I was *wrong* about working myself out of a job!

Children and grandchildren will always listen to advice of a wise, old man!

May that be *you*, in God's good time...

...pray...

Faith of Our Fathers