

“You and Your Son and Your Son’s Son”

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

INTRODUCTION: Why look at Deuteronomy 6:1-9 during a series on Gideon and the Judges?

- Consider the history of Israel leading up to the time of the Judges. circa 1400 BC to 1050 BC
- Judges 2:10: And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

→ How did they get to this place?

PASSING THE FAITH TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. v.1-3

- Moses wrote Deuteronomy (‘second law’) to the 2nd generation of Israel as they prepared to enter Canaan.
- 1. The faith of God’s people is covenantal—intended to be passed down to future generations. v.1-2**
 - God’s moral law is the foundation for communal life in Canaan. v.1
 - The “commandment” refers to ch.5 –the Ten Commandments (5:6-21)—aka. God’s moral law.
 - Following the LORD is intended to be generational. v.2
 - Moses: “I taught you” (see v.1); “you shall teach them” (see v.7). Ref. 2 Tim 2:2
 - 2. Faithful covenantal stewardship echoes life in Eden. v.3**
 - “that you may multiply greatly... in a land flowing with milk and honey”
 - God commanded Adam and Eve to multiply and take responsibility. Gen. 1:26-28

LOVING THE LORD YOUR GOD. v.4-5

- 1. The LORD is God. v.4**
 - The *Shema* (from the Hebrew word meaning “Hear”).
 - Who is God? The LORD is God. LORD (Heb. *Yahweh*) is God. He is Master and King. He is Lord
 - Whose God is He? The LORD is *our* God.
- 2. Therefore, our response has to be a totality of love with a totality of life. v.5**
- 3. Jesus Christ referenced this text as the first and greatest commandment. Mt 22:37; Mk 12:30; Lk 10:27**
 - Essentially, it comes to Deut. 6:4-5. (But cannot be disconnected from 10 Commands)

APPLYING THE COVENANTAL COMMAND. v.6-9

- 1. Internal v.6. these words...shall be on your heart**
 - How is this accomplished? You cannot do this on your own or the hearts of your children (inability of man).
 - 2. Practical v.7. (Parallel instructions repeated in Deut. 11:18-21)**
 - Here are specific ways. Not so much ‘orchestrated’ or ‘manipulated’ as it is to be *intentional*.
 - 3. External v.8-9**
 - “Sign on your hand” (Rf. Exod. 13:9, 16; Prov. 6:20-23; 7:1-3. Eg. wedding ring)
 - 4. Personal priority v.6 to 7, 8 to 9**
 - Note the progression from self to children; self to family; self to others
 - v.6—written on *your* heart...and you shall teach them diligently to your sons (v.7)
 - v.8—on *your* hand, on *your* forehead...and on the doorposts and gates of your house (v.9)
- **The responsibility for educating children in all things (not just spiritual) is upon the parent (s).**
 - **Is the church relegated to only address ‘spiritual’ matters? No.**
 - **Public education gravitates almost completely toward empiricism, senses, and experience.**
 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Psalm 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10

A few practical applications:

- Greeting children on Sunday mornings—they are part of our corporate worship. Be patient with them.
- Pray for the LORD to put 1-2 other godly men and women into the lives of your children/grandchildren.
- Intentionally set out to know a couple other families in the congregation (children's names, birthdays, etc.)
- Talk openly about the Lord at home—as if He Himself actually lived there among you (He does!)
- Memorize Scripture together as a family. Dad, (or mom if a single parent) write it on a 3 X 5 card and pull it out at the dinner table several times a week.

Thoughts from fellow pilgrims...

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (3 John 4)

“. . . I fear that many, even among professors of religion, could not truthfully repeat my text; they look for other joy in their children, and care little whether they are walking in truth or no. They joy in them if they are healthy in body, but they are not saddened though the leprosy of sin remains in them. They joy in their comely looks, and do not inquire whether they have found favor in the sight of the Lord. Put the girl's feet in silver slippers, and many heads of the families would never raise the question as to whether she walked the broad or the narrow road. It is very grievous to see how some professedly Christian parents are satisfied so long as their children display cleverness in learning, or sharpness in business, although they show no signs of a renewed nature. If they pass their examinations with credit, and promise to be well fitted for the world's battle, their parents forget that there is a superior conflict, involving a higher crown, for which the child will need to be fitted by divine grace, and armed with the whole armor of God. Alas, if our children lose the crown of life, it will be but a small consolation that they have won the laurels of literature or art. Many who ought to know better think themselves superlatively blessed in their children if they become rich, if they marry well, if they strike out into profitable enterprises in trade, or they attain eminence in the profession which they have espoused. Their parents will go to their beds rejoicing, and awake perfectly satisfied, though their boys are hastening down to hell, if they are also making money by the bushel. They have no greater joy than that their children are having their portion in this life, and laying up treasure where rust corrupts it. Though neither their sons nor daughters show any signs of the new birth, give no evidence of being rich towards God, manifest no traces of electing love or redeeming grace, or the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, yet there are parents who are content with their condition. Now, I can only say of such professing parents that they have no question whether they be Christians at all, and if they will not question it themselves, they must give some of us leave to hold it in serious debate. When a man's heart is really right with God, and he himself has been saved from the wrath to come, and is living in the light of his heavenly Father's countenance, it is certain that he is anxious about his children's souls, prizes their immortal natures, and feels that nothing could give him greater joy than to hear his children walk in truth.”

-C.H. Spurgeon, from a sermon titled “The Parent's and Pastor's Joy,” delivered on Dec. 21, 1873