Jan. 24, 2021 a.m.

Teaching and Affirming our children

Reading: **Deut. 6:1-9**

**Teaching our children**

* It is a part of the training/discipline and it should begin early as well as the use of the rod.
* This is the role of fathers and mothers. (**Eph. 6:4**; **2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15**)
* *“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children ….”*(**Gen. 18:19**)
* **Deut. 6:7** provides a good example of a principle that’s always been God’s plan, that parents have the primary role in teaching their children.
* We can’t leave the teaching to others – bible classes 1½ hours a week
* ‘We never talked about the bible at home.’ (Lauren)
* “A steady diet of daily bible study and prayer must be an integral part of family life. At the supper table, around the coffee table, before the fireplace, in the automobile the scriptures must be read, analyzed and applied. If children are to remain free from the garbage of secular values, parents must shut off the TV, bow in prayer with them, open the bible, and take a little time each evening to teach them some spiritual truth. Do it, daddy and mama, when the children are babes and as adolescents they won’t be embarrassed by it and it won’t seem like ‘church stuff’ that is out of place in the home.” (L. A. Stauffer)
* Some scheduled teaching – some good habits – length of time varies by age
* There will be many great teaching moments/opportunities as life happens.
* In the car, in the stands, at the supper table, laying in bed, etc.
* Talk about God, Jesus and their Word in everyday conversation.
* “We should be able to talk about the Lord and His greatness as easily and naturally as we talk about the weather, food or sports.” (Billy Smith)
* Balance in our teaching concerning grace and works. (God’s goodness & severity)
* When children asked about the Passover, what did the Lord tell the fathers to say?
* See **Deut. 6:20-25**
* When our children ask us why we eat the Lord’s Supper, our answer should begin with, *“We were sinners and the Lord saved us by His grace.”* To be reminded.
* Therefore *“we observe all these statues ….”* (**Deut. 6:24**)
* Teach them why we obey.
* We love him (keep his commands) because He first loved us**.** (**1 John 4**)
* Did our children grow up with a steady diet of teaching (at home and in the assemblies) why others are wrong? We can become really good at exposing error and not see it in ourselves.
* On the other hand, if we emphasize grace and love to the neglect of sound teaching about how to establish authority for all we do, why we worship together the way we do, what the contribution is for, the organizations of local churches, we have gone to the other extreme. Raise children who lack convictions. (see **Eph. 4:14**)
* *Teach (them)* *the fear of the Lord* (**Ps. 34:11**) – respect for His word (all of it)
* Teach them to walk in truth (**3 John 4**)
* Love, peace, joy, meekness, forgiveness are doctrines of Christ just as are how we spend the contribution and how we worship. (all doctrinal matters)
* Teach them that God is, that Jesus is the Christ and the bible is true – evidences for their faith – vitally important in our day. We want their faith to be their own and not ours.
* Warn them (**1 Cor. 4:14**) – the book of Proverbs – so they will not be naïve – sexual immorality; ungodly friends; work ethic; handling of money; use of the tongue (teens)
* John in his first epistle – writing to *little children*
* Teach them not to sin but when they do, know they can be forgiven. (**2:1**)
* Teach them to *abide* in Jesus and have confidence in Him (**2:28**) Know the truth.
* *Meno* - abide, continue, dwell, endure, remain, stand
* Teach them that to love is to do so in deed and in truth. (**3:18**)
* Teach them what they should do and not just what they must not do.
* Learn to serve – see **v. 16-17**
* Teach them to keep themselves from idols/gods. (**5:21**)
* Athletes, entertainers, rulers, sports, money, fame, material things, honor, fame, own desires, whatever or whoever pulls our devotion away from the Lord.
* Vie for our time, attention, devotion

**Positive affirmation**

* Do we praise as much as we condemn or criticize? Mostly negative? Rarely positive?
* Our words can do great good or great harm. (edify or destroy, **Eph. 4:29**)
* “Never ridicule, mock or laugh at your child’s ideas, creations or ambitions.” (Michael Pearl)
* One woman in her adult years said her father never affirmed her. She brought home a straight-A report card in high school and her father said that it must be an easy school.
* A few years ago, Bill Russell (11 NBA Championships with the Celtics, league MVP 5 times, won 2 NCAA championships at the University of San Francisco) was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011, the highest civilian award for service to the nation. David Feherty him asked if this was the greatest honor he had ever received. He smiled and said it was a close second but it was not the greatest. The greatest was when his father, who was about 75 years old at the time, told Bill, "You know I'm proud of you and I'm proud that you're my son. And I'm also just as proud that I'm your father."
* And all she really wanted was a hug, maybe a kiss from her father, telling her how much he loved her, how proud he was of her. Yet through the last 22 years, all she really wanted was a hug and a kind word from her father. The hug came on the night of April 2, 1995, in a Minneapolis hotel suite. Friends, parents, players and family had gathered around Summitt, to console her after a second-half comeback by Connecticut had beaten Tennessee, 70-64, in the NCAA championship game. Richard Head, 72, approached his daughter. Finally, he hugged her. “You’ve got nothing to be ashamed of. . . . I’m proud of you,” he said.[[1]](#footnote-1) (She was 43. UT head coach 1974-2012)
* *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (**Mt. 3:17**) (after being baptized)
* Affirm our children’s spiritual lives – their growth in understanding and obedience

1. https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-03-15-sp-47444-story.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)