

Title: Investing in the Next Generation

Passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Summary:

The main responsibility for educating children is given to the parents (v.7)

Children should be taught:

1. There is only one true God (v.4-6)
2. God is central to our life and our children's lives. (v. 6-9)
3. Beware of dangers of comfort and prosperity (v. 10-13)
4. Beware of dangers of compromise and conformity (v.14-15)
5. Not doubt God when God allows trials to come (v.16-19)

Key Truths:

- We must recognize there is an ideological war on our children's minds with eternity at stake.
- We must train our children with God's Word and train them in every aspect according to His Word and love them in Christ-like way.
- We must labor and teach our children how to study God's Word.
- Be true to your convictions grounded in the Word of God. Be thoughtful in investing in the next generation.

Application:

- Be diligent and intentional with your children.
- Be aware with whom your children are hanging out with. Their friends make a huge difference.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Culture of Today

- increasing attacks on the hearts of children.
 - CDC survey: 1 in 4 of high schoolers have gender identity issues.
- More policies and laws are being promoted that are anti-Biblical and anti-life.
 - Ex: California Senate bill recently passed that prohibits school officials from disclosing a child's sexual identity to one's parents.

- What can we do?
 - It is our responsibilities as parents and those who support parents to
 - Recognize there is an ideological war on our children’s minds with eternity at stake, and
 - Train our children with God’s Word and train them in every aspect according to His Word and love them in Christ-like way.

Passage:

Deuteronomy 6:4-13

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

“You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

Context of Passage

Moses speech to the Israelites

- Deuteronomy = second law (reiteration of the law)
 - this is a second giving of the law now to the following generation that previously died off in the desert due to their disobedience.
 - Calling not only for themselves but also for future generations.

Overview

Key principles as invest in the next generation:

The main responsibility for educating children is given to the parents (v.7)

Children should be taught:

1. There is only one true God (v.4-6)
2. God is central to our life and our children's lives. (v. 6-9)
3. Beware of dangers of comfort and prosperity (v. 10-13)
4. Beware of dangers of compromise and conformity (v.14-15)
5. Not doubt God when God allows trials to come (v.16-19)

I. THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATING CHILDREN IS GIVEN TO THE PARENTS

Deuteronomy 6:7

You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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.

Contrast: Today's culture?

- the government has the primary focus instead of the parents to raise children.
 - Elevate teachers over the parents.

Why misplaced to elevate teachers over parents?

- Teachers are with children only for part of the workday.
 - Children are born into families with parents guiding them through life since birth.

Parents must instruct children with Biblical truth (and hold them to that standard).

- Cost of failure? National catastrophe.
- This cannot be delegated to surrogates (youth leaders, teachers).
- Parents cannot be passive but instead be diligent.

Question: What should we teach them?

1. There is only one true God (v.4-6)

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- There is only one God.

- God created you with intentional design. He created you with purpose.
- Contrast: Something was created out of nothing.
 - Completely unreasonable.

Psalms 139:13

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

There is only one God: only one truth.

- There is absolute truth.
- Contrast: today's culture focus: relative truth.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- we must submit to the Truth of God rather than twist it.

God revealed Himself in general revelation (in those things around us)

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

- Where do all things come from?
 - Only rational answer: God.
- Education devoid of God is like focusing on pieces of a puzzle and forgetting the overall meaningful purpose/picture of the puzzle.

God revealed Himself through special revelation (Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ)

- God had a plan from the beginning of time. He is the God of history and over all things.

2. Make God central to our life and our children's lives. (v. 6-9)

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. You shall bind them as a sign

on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- How? By studying God's Word and submitting to It.
 - All of life will find its meaning and purpose through the Bible.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- We must labor and teach our children how to study God's Word.
 - In order to do so, we must ourselves labor and study God's Word.
- If don't understand something, use trustworthy commentaries or sources of how it has been interpreted through the centuries.

Temptation: Wait for visual depictions. Reading is difficult.

- But we must be diligent to do so. Spend time together as a family to read the Bible.

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

James 1:25

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Pray together

- Pray over different church members.
- Pray over Christmas cards.
- Pray over different missions/missionaries
 - Ex: Voice of the Martyrs calendar

Resource: "Wise Words for Mom's"

- discipline by always pointing to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If Older:

- teach children to read and use a study Bible.
- Places to hear the Gospel (especially the main worship service)

Why do all this?

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

“When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ then you shall say to your son, We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’

- So children will know the heart of God and the heart of Christ.

3 Beware of dangers of comfort and prosperity (v.10-13)

Deuteronomy 6:10-13

“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

4. Beware of dangers of compromise and conformity (v.14-15)

Deuteronomy 6:14-15

You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

- Be very aware with whom your children are friends with.
 - Children can be easily swayed by the emotional connection and heart string of their friends who are in a sinful lifestyle.
- Be thoughtful and aware - not naive.

5. Not doubt God when God allows trials to come (v.16-19)

- God is always in control even if don't see Him.
- Trust Him.
 - Death is not the most tragic thing that can happen to someone. But rather it is dying without Christ.
 - For Christians, death is not

Applications

Parents: be diligent and intentional with your children.

- If your kids are in public school:
 - be aware that education is not neutral. Supplement what they are reading with Christian-based materials/perspectives.
 - Ex: Christian response to evolution.
 - Get highly involved with the school.
 - You're either at the table or you'll be on the menu...
- If your kids are in Christian school.
 - Make sure what is "Christian" in their curriculum. Be aware where you need to supplement.
 - Focus should be on Christ, not on Christian language.
- If your kids are homeschooled:
 - Spend time with the kids reading the Bible, not about the Bible.
 - Are their hearts in the right place? Or are they little Pharisees instead?
 - True transformation is through meekness and humility.

Be aware with whom your children are hanging out with. Their friends make a huge difference.

Educators: Always remember the primary responsibility to raise children are their parents.

- Always champion parents as the primary educators over their children.

Single-parents: Trust in God to fulfill your responsibilities. Invite others to come alongside.

All: be true to your convictions grounded in the Word of God. Be thoughtful in investing in the next generation.