

Sermon Notes for October 16, 2011

**A Biblical View Of The Home Sermon Series**  
**“What Should Be the Atmosphere**  
**of a Godly Home?”**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**Changes that come when a child is added to the family:**

**A mom preparing for the birth of her children:**

- **1st baby:** You practice your breathing religiously.
- **2nd baby:** You don't bother practicing because you remember that last time, breathing didn't help at all.
- **3rd baby:** You ask for an epidural in your 8th month.

**Pacifier**

- **1st baby:** If the pacifier falls on the floor, you put it away until you can go home and wash and boil it.
- **2nd baby:** When the pacifier falls on the floor, you squirt it off with some juice from the baby's bottle.
- **3rd baby:** You wipe it off on your shirt and pop it back in.

**Going Out**

- **1st baby:** The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call home 5 times.
- **2nd baby:** Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a number where you can be reached.
- **3rd baby:** You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

**At Home**

- **1st baby:** You spend a good bit of every day just gazing at the baby.
- **2nd baby:** You spend a bit of every day watching to be sure your older child isn't squeezing, poking, or hitting the baby.
- **3rd baby:** You spend a little bit of every day hiding from the children.

**Introduction**

**A. WHAT IS A Family?**

**1. Definitions:**

- a. **Chuck Swindoll** – “Whatever else may be said about the home, it is the **bottom line of life, the anvil upon which attitudes and convictions are hammered out.** It is the place where **life's due bills come due, the single most influential force in our earthly existence. No price tag** can adequately reflect its value. **No gauge** can measure its influence for good or for ill. It is home, among family members, **that we come to terms with circumstances.**”
- b. **John Maxwell** – “Home is where **life makes up its mind.**”

## 2. Destination.

a. and yet **WHERE IS THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY GOING TODAY?**

b. Statistics:

1.. our Christian youth in **school**:

a. **74%** of Christian kids say that they cheat on school tests

b. **83%** say that they lie to their teachers

c. **93%** say that they lie to their parents

d. **63%** say that they become physically violent toward other when angry

2. our Christian youth in their **beliefs**:

a. **63%** don't believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God

b. **58%** believe all faiths teach equally valued truths

c. **51%** don't believe Jesus rose from the dead

d. **65%** don't believe Satan is a real entity

e. **68%** don't believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity

f. **70%** don't believe an absolute moral truth exists

3. Focus On The Family says that as many as 85% of high school graduates from evangelical churches leave the church after they graduate from high school.

4. **WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE DONE TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN FAMILIES?**

a. surely the family is struggling

b. does God give us any direction to help us raise our children?

## B. HOW SHOULD A Family Function?

1. We seem to be **confused** as to the roles of members of the family.

a. are the **parents in charge**?

b. are the **children in charge**?

c. as a Pastor, it is my concern that many Christian families have lost their way

2. **THE SCRIPTURES ARE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THE ROLE OF PARENTS.**

a. **PARENTS** are called upon by God to lead their children into personal faith in Christ

1. by their **teaching**

2. **AND . . .** by their **example**

b. not only for the cause of that child but for the **generations to come**

1. parents, not only will your own children suffer because of **your** lack of spiritual guidance

2. **but your great-great-great grandchildren will suffer as well because your great-great grandchildren may not lead their own children spiritually**

3. let's see what God calls the parents to be in the home

3. We will look at a very interesting text today in the book of **Deuteronomy**.
  - a. the book of **Exodus** details Moses leading the people out of Egypt
  - b. the book of **Deuteronomy** shows the people of God preparing to go into the promised land
  - c. the Jews were less than one month away from the death of Moses
    1. in a few weeks, Joshua would lead the Jews across the Jordan River
    2. there would be “giants in the land” as well as 40 other people groups inhabiting the place where God promised His people a land flowing with milk and honey
    3. **what was God’s plan to Israel as they entered the Promised Land?**
      - a. would He tell them how to **organize for a battle?**
      - b. would He establish the **leadership of the people?**
      - c. **NO, HE WOULD TELL HOW TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES**
        1. God established the critical place of the family in our culture
        2. **GOD’S FOCUS WAS ON THE FAMILY UNIT**
        3. let’s see what He told His people about the family

#### I. The SOURCE Of The Family.

##### A. God PRECEDES the Family – The FOCUS Of The Family.

Vs. 4 – “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one.”

1. **BEFORE** the Bible speaks of the family, it **speaks of God!**
2. This is what the Jews call the “**shema.**”
  - a. taken after the Hebrew word “**hear**”
  - b. it is the prayer that every Jew says every day, especially during his daily prayers
    1. Hebrew script
    2. "**Shema Yisra'el Adoni Eloheynu Adoni Ehad**"
    3. listen to the Shema
3. What the **Jew meant** by this statement:
  - a. **BEFORE** you think of anything else in life
  - b. **BEFORE** you focus on your day
  - c. the Jew **FOCUSED** his heart on the **sovereign God of the universe**
    1. the all powerful, all knowing, all pervasive God
    2. the one who rules and reigns over all
    3. the one who has given us life and who sustains us every day of our lives
    4. He is the only true and living God who is to be worshipped
      - a. He is **not Baal of the Canaanites**
      - b. He is **not Amon-Re of the Egyptians**
      - c. He is **not Marduk of the Babylonians**
      - d. **He is the one and only Jehovah God**

4. What the **Christian should mean** by such a statement.
  - a. **the Lord Jesus is the Lord, King and Master of my life**
  - b. in Him I live and move and have my being
  - c. I look to Him alone and depend on Him for EVERYTHING
  - d. **He is MORE VITAL and important to me than:**
    1. my job
    2. my friends
    3. my possessions
    4. **my FAMILY!**
  - e. we must **NOT BEGIN WITH OURSELVES**, our needs, or even our families
    1. verses:
      - a. **John 14:6** – Jesus said, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**
      - b. **IF YOU PUT YOUR FAMILY BEFORE GOD, YOU WILL BE GUILTY OF IDOLATRY AND MISS GOD’S BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**
      - c. so, a healthy Biblical family focuses on God **FIRST** – **not** the needs of the the family

#### B. **God PREPARES The Family – The FORM Of The Family.**

**Vs. 5** – “Love the LORD your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **strength**.”

1. Whereas, the shema deals with the **FOCUS** of the Christian family, these next few verses deal with the **FORM** of the Christian family.
2. God has called families and especially parents to relate to God **IN THIS WAY:**
  - a. “to love God with all your **heart**”
    1. the **definition**
      - a. the Jew understood the **heart to be the center of his emotions**
      - b. the heart dealt with the inner man and what was **most important to him**
    2. the **application**
      - a. **BEFORE** you can be a good parent, you need to decide **WHO OR WHAT is going to be number one in YOUR LIFE AS A PARENT**
      - b. you will **NEVER** be the Christian parent you need and want to be if your heart is not **TOTALLY SOLD OUT TO JESUS**
      - c. **so . . . let me ask you parents:**
        1. **Are YOU SAVED?** Have you asked Christ to be your personal Savior?
        2. Have **YOU TOTALLY** given your heart and life to Jesus Christ? Nothing can be held back.

3. Are **YOU ABIDING** with Christ daily by reading His Word and praying to Him?
  - b. “to love God with all of our **soul**”
    1. the **definition**
      - a. Jesus understood the soul to be **one’s passions**
      - b. this speaks of one’s **personality and what drives him**
    2. the **application**
      - a. **Do you have the SAME PASSIONS AS JESUS?**
        1. a passion for **His heavenly Father**?
        2. a passion for **holiness**?
        3. a passion for **others**?
      - b. notice:
        1. **Henry Ford** had a passion for cars
        2. **Thomas Edison** had a passion for inventions
        3. the **Wright brothers** had a passion to fly
      - c. **WHAT is your passion?**
      - d. how would you know if you have a passion like Jesus?
        1. like Jesus, your purpose would be the Kingdom of God, **NOT** your kingdom
        2. **AND YOU WOULD ALREADY BE SERVING IN THAT KINGDOM!**
  - c. “to love God with all of your **strength**”
    1. the **definition**
      - a. the Jew viewed strength as the power in your life
      - b. the “ability” to live for God
    2. the **application**
      - a. **you CANNOT live the Christian life in your own strength**
      - b. you will know if you are committed to Christ if you not only **WANT** to serve Him and **have the POWER to do so**
      - c. so, is service to Christ and His church a **struggle** or a **pleasure**?
3. Now, we must realize that God is speaking to parents **BEFORE** they even begin the task of parenting.
    - a. that **BEFORE** you attempt to become a Christian parent, you must **FIRST become a Christian**
    - b. that **BEFORE** you expect your child to walk in a close walk with Christ, you must **FIRST have that walk yourself**
    - c. that **BEFORE** you expect that your child put Christ first in their life, **YOU must put Christ first in your life**
    - d. **THAT’S** why some of you are failing as parents – **YOU HAVEN’T FULFILLED THE SHEMA YET!**
      1. you are not sure who is Lord of your life
      2. you haven’t died to self and given your life to Christ
      3. thus, you aren’t totally committed to the ministry of Christ . . . not really

- e. notice what the Scripture says in **Vs. 6** – “These commandments that I give you are to be **upon YOUR HEARTS.**”
  - 1. the word upon means “**in** your hearts”
  - 2. these truths must consume **you**, fill **you** and drive **you** as parents **FIRST!**
- f. so parents, many of you have a decision to make:
  - 1. do you wake up each morning shouting the Shema?  
**Deut. 6:4-6** - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.”
  - 2. if you, as parents, don’t love God this way, **DON’T EXPECT YOUR CHILDREN TO LOVE HIM EITHER!**

## II. The SANCTIFICATION Of The Family.

### A. Parents Are Called To TEACH.

**Vs. 7** – “**Impress them** on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

- 1. The **definition** of the word impress.
  - a. to teach
  - b. to sharpen
  - c. to teach incisively
  - d. to send the truth into your children as if it were a sharp knife
- 2. The **application** of the word impress.
  - a. Once **YOU** understand who God is **IN YOUR LIFE**, you are called to teach what you know about God to your children
  - b. **WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENTS TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT GOD!**
    - 1. when this was written by Moses, there were **no**:
      - a. Sunday schools
      - b. Youth Pastors
      - c. Children’s Pastors
      - d. Young Life, Campus Life
      - e. curriculum
      - f. youth conferences
    - 2. when Deuteronomy was written by Moses, **THERE WERE NO CHURCHES!**
      - a. **there was simply a group of people headed to the promised land**
      - b. the people couldn’t depend on Moses or the elders to teach their children; there were too many of them to take care of
    - 3. so, for the Christian parent, this means that I cannot and must **not DEPEND on the church** or the Christian school to spiritually educate my child

- a. The **Puritans** were right when they referred to the home as a **little church**. They were **so serious** about this that if a **father neglected** the spiritual training of his family, he could be brought before the elders for **church discipline**, and if he refused to take his leadership role seriously, he could be **disbarred from taking communion**.
- b. **Dr. Ray Stedman** – “Notice the **pronoun** that is used. ‘**You** shall teach these diligently to your children,’ not they, **you!** This is **not** the job of the Sunday School, this is not the church's responsibility, this is **your** task! The Sunday School and church cannot substitute for the parents in this realm. At best they are a supplement. Here is a responsibility that is nontransferable. **This is not a new truth**. Over twenty-three hundred years ago, **wise old Socrates in Athens** said to the people of the city, ‘Could I climb the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim, Fellow citizens! Why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, **and take so little care of your children**, to whom one day you must **relinquish it all?**’”
- c. however, as we shall see in the next verse, teaching your child about spiritual matters involves **two areas**:
  - 1. **teaching AND talking**
  - 2. **BECAUSE**:
    - a. if we only **teach our children facts and not faith**, we will produce a **Pharisee**
    - b. if we **only teach our children faith without facts**, we will produce an **emotional cripple**
    - c. balanced Biblical training involves the **“talk and the walk”**
  - 3. quotes/illustrations:
    - a. **T.G.** Preacher’s home

## **B. Parents Are Called To TALK.**

**Vs. 7b** – “**Talk about them** when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

- 1. This word “talk” suggests the natural way parents should “communicate” the Christian life to their children.
- 2. In my opinion, this part of the verse which focuses on **“talking” about your faith to your children** makes a **greater impact** than the **“teaching”** of your children.
  - a. there is something innate within a child; a heart that tells them the truth
  - b. **a child’s heart is so trusting, so believing and so unsuspecting . . . UNTIL THEY ARE GIVEN A REASON NOT TO BELIEVE**
  - c. so that when you teach a child something with your mouth, **but contradict that teaching with your life**, you are **ACTUALLY** teaching your child how to “effectually live as an unbeliever”

- d. THAT’S why God places so much emphasis on **“practicing what you preach”**
- e. notice what **John 13:14-15** says: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”**
- f. **Pastor Terry Coomer** - Ways to **“walk your talk”** with your children:
  - 1. Make sure your children **hear you pray**, and in your prayer let them hear you calling their name to God. **Teach** your children how to pray.
  - 2. Make sure you **show your children how to do personal devotions** and that **they see you read the Bible**. Make sure you read and explain the Bible to your children.
  - 3. Make sure you **put God first in your life in giving**. Make sure that you explain that all money is God's money not just 10 percent. As your children are given money or work for money **make sure they understand that giving begins at an early age**.
  - 4. Make sure your children **see you submit yourself to the Holy Spirit**.
  - 5. **Make sure you share your personal testimony of salvation with your children**. Tell them **how you got saved**.
  - 6. Make sure your children **hear you give a clear presentation of the gospel to an unsaved person**. Teach your children **how to give that presentation**.
- 3. Notice **HOW** God calls us to live our lives before our children. We are to “teach them” when:
  - Vs. 7b** – “Talk about them when you **sit at home** and when you **walk along the road**, when you **lie down** and when you **get up**.”
    - a. “When you **sit at home**.”
      - 1. perhaps you are at the **dinner table at a meal**
        - a. I do not believe that this text is talking about family devotions particularly
        - b. instead, it is a time spent around the dinner table eating and talking or on the front porch
        - c. but the Lord is **SUCH A PRESENCE** and influence in your family that the conversation **naturally shifts to spiritual matters**
        - d. as Christians, every conversation at the dinner table does not **HAVE** to be on spiritual matters, but if you **NEVER** speak of the Lord or things of faith at meal times, I have to wonder if the Lord is a priority at all!
          - 1. if **ALL** that you speak of is UT sports
          - 2. if **ALL** that you speak of is gossiping about others
      - 2. perhaps you are sitting around **reading the newspaper or watching television**
        - a. and you read about all of the events of our world today



1. October 1987 – the market crash; me in Memphis
2. September 11 – the crash of the Twin Towers
- b. don't you wonder what God is "up to"
  1. if we believe in a Sovereign God, then what has that Sovereign God allowed to happen?
  2. what is the Biblical response of a Biblical Christian?
- b. "When you **walk along the road.**"
  1. it is strongly implied here that this is simply a walk to or from somewhere
    - a. the Jewish father is not carrying the Torah from which to read
    - b. there is no set time for the father to teach his children while they walk to town
    - c. maybe they are on a hike and are overwhelmed by nature
  2. **the time together is not established as a teaching time and yet the parent "naturally" speaks of the creator God:**
    - a. the child learns that to speak of spiritual matters ALL THE TIME is normal
    - b. **my story – When first saved, I was impressed at how other people talked of spiritually matters just like they were "talking about baseball"**
      1. had a "crush" on a girl; walked on the beach; she would not stop talking about Jesus!
      2. walked in a room full of high schoolers PRAYING!!!
    - c. THIS IS HOW OUR CONVERSATIONS MUST TAKE PLACE:
      1. naturally
      2. unforced
      3. from the heart
    - d. **Brad, on a golf outing – asked me a great spiritual question**
- c. "When you **lie down.**"
  1. is the writer referring to that time at the end of the day when a child is put to bed?
    - a. a time when a child will have a million questions
      1. some children use this as a "stalling tactic"
      2. while other questions come from a child's inquisitive heart
    - b. don't miss the "**open-window phenomenon**"
      1. that time when a child "lets you into their heart"
      2. teenage daughter to her mom – "Mom, did you go to prom?"

- a. is this a question about the mother?
    - b. or is this a question about the daughter?
  - 2. bed time seems to be that time when all of the questions and pressures of life come to bear
    - a. you're finally quiet
    - b. the day and its competition for your time has ended
    - c. it is a perfect time to talk
  - 3. I love what Edith Schaffer says: **“Do you have a rocking chair? A sleepy child, a feverish child, a sad child, a child full of fears? A child needing some special closeness can't have anything quite like a parent rocking him or her with a quilt thrown around both people.”**
- d. **“When you get up.”**
  - 1. our relationship with Christ will be most clearly seen **when we get up in the morning**
    - a. if we are committed to Christ and His Lordship, we should face the day and say . . .
      - 1. **“Lord, this is the day you have made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**
      - 2. **“How do you want to use me today?”**
    - b. **if we are not committed to the Lordship of Christ, it will simply be another boring, predictable day**
      - 1. **I dread the day ahead.**
      - 2. **WHERE IS YOUR BELIEF IN A LIVING, SOVEREIGN GOD?**
  - 2. what a time to teach your children about expecting God to move that day!
    - a. **what does God have in store for me today?**
    - b. the **FIRST** thing that I will do before I head out the door is spend time with Christ and then face the day with Him

### III. The SUCCESS Of The Family.

#### A. The FAILURE Of Jewish Literalism.

**Vs. 8-9** – “Tie them as **symbols on your hands** and bind them **on your foreheads**.

Write them on the **doorframes** of your houses and on your **gates.**”

- 1. The **MISTAKE** that the Jews made concerning these verses is that **THEY TOOK THESE WORDS LITERALLY.**
  - a. when God's Word said – “Tie them as **symbols on your hands.**”
    - 1. the Jews thought that God **LITERALLY** meant to take these words and verses and tie them around your hands and foreheads
      - a. so they built little boxes called **phylacteries**, put these verses in the boxes **AND TIED THEM ON THEIR WRISTS AND FOREHEADS!**

- b. so, today, before daily prayers, you will see the Orthodox Jew with these little black boxes tied to their wrist and forehead
    - c. show slides of phylacteries
  - 2. DID GOD MEAN FOR THE JEWS TO TAKE THIS LITERALLY?
    - b. and, when God said “Write them on the **frames of your houses** and on your **gates**”
      - 1. they built a box called a **mezuzah** and attached it with the Scriptures inside to the doorpost of their homes (show slide 1 & 2)
      - 2. once again, the Jew “LITERALLY” fulfilled God’s commands
- 2. The Jews never seemed to make the connection between their beliefs and their actions.
- 3. God, however, meant for His people to take these verses “PERSONALLY,” NOT LITERALLY!
- 4. **Dr. Ray Stedman** - In this connection, perhaps I can say a word about **family devotions**. A number of people have been concerned about this. In fact, a lady in the congregation wrote to me this week and suggested very graciously that I not say anything which would give the impression that I am against family devotions. I am not. As long as family devotions grow out of this kind of **universal, life-related exposure to the nature and power of God, it is entirely proper**.  
 But what **I am against** is the **mechanical imposing** of this observance upon the family as the **only time when you are "religious."** It is **hurtful, damaging, deadly**, to insist that you have family worship at such-and-such a time every day, and **yet never to mention God or think about him otherwise**, but to allow secularism to pervade the rest of life. **Then it is terribly wrong.”**

## B. The SUCCESS of Biblical love.

- 1. What God **DID NOT MEAN** by His words?
  - a. while we ARE to be committed to truths of Scripture
  - b. the “method” of talking to your children in such natural ways about spiritual matters **PROVES** that our spirituality **is not about following some list of rules!**
    - 1. how absurd it was to think that God meant for parents to teach our children theologically **ONLY!**
    - 2. and that your hearts did not have to match the words that were put into those little boxes!
    - 3. as Christian parents we believe:
      - a. in the **Bible**, but do we read it and meditate in it?
      - b. in **prayer**, but do we actually pray, especially with our children?
      - c. in **evangelism**, but we never tell another person about salvation?
      - d. A dog once wandered to a Preacher’s home, and his three sons played with it, fed it, and soon became quite fond of it. It just so happened that the dog had three white hairs in its tail. One day, the Preacher and his

sons spotted an advertisement in the city newspaper about a lost dog. The description of the stray they had taken in matched perfectly. **The minister later said, “In the presence of my three boys, we carefully separated the three white hairs and removed them from the dog’s tail.”** The real owner of the dog eventually discovered where his stray pooch had gone and he came to claim him. The dog showed every sign of recognizing his owner, so the man was ready to take him away. **At that point, the minister spoke up and asked, “Didn’t you say the dog would be known by three white hairs in its tail?”** The owner, unable to find the identifying feature, was forced to admit that this dog didn’t fully fit the description of his lost dog and he left. **Years passed and the minister noted with sadness, “We kept the dog, but I lost my three boys for Christ that day.”**

2. What God **MEANT** by His words:
  - a. the Word of God should be on our **hands** because
    1. Christ in our lives should **“touch” everything**
    2. and we don’t touch anything without Christ affecting “that touch”
    3. when we “touch” our children, we would touch them as Jesus touched children
  - b. the Word of God should be on our **mind**
    1. and we don’t **think about anything** without Christ directing our thoughts
    2. He is constantly in our minds
    3. we can’t help but think “Biblically” about everything!
    4. when we make decisions, we would think about it the same way that Jesus would
  - c. and the box on the **doorposts of our homes** suggests:
    1. you are **entering a Christian home where people are:**
      - a. in love with Jesus
      - b. where we are attempting to live a Godly life
      - c. where you can see the gospel in action
    2. and that the world is **INVITED** into this Christian home
      - a. so that they can **SEE** what the gospel does to people
      - b. the only “box” that the gospel is in is in the “box of your heart” or the “box of your home”

### **Conclusion:**

1. Parents. God is telling you that it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to teach and talk to your children about Jesus.
2. But it all must **FIRST start with you as PARENTS.**
  - a. do **YOU** have that **vital, real, growing relationship with Jesus,**
  - b. that **is SO AFFECTING YOUR LIFE** that you can’t help but tell it and **SHOW** it to your children every day?

- c. your children will **not have to be “taught” the gospel**, for they will **“SEE IT”** in the everyday lives of their parents
3. But, parents, it is NOT enough for you to simply “teach” your children, your children must be able to see Christ in you as a living example.
  - a. After all, parents, what you are **“living with your life”** is far louder than what you are **“saying with your lips.”**
  - b. “Many years ago a farmer had an **unusually fine crop of wheat**. Just a few days before the wheat was to be harvested, a **terrible hail and wind storm came**. The entire crop was destroyed. After the storm was over, the farmer, with his little son, went out on the porch. The little boy looked at what was formerly a beautiful field of wheat, and then, with tears in his eyes, he looked up at his dad, expecting to hear words of despair. All at once his father started singing softly, **“Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in Thee.”** Years later, the little boy, now grown to manhood said, **“That was the greatest sermon that he ever heard.”**
  - c. **John Maxwell - Twenty-one Laws of Leadership**
    1. The first law is the **“Law of the Lid”**
    2. **The Law of the Lid says that you can never take people farther than you have gone yourself.** You can never lead them where you have not been.
    3. What “kind” of child are you trying to produce? Let me ask you parents . . . where are **you** in your spiritual walk with Christ?