

Foundations in Parenting (part 2)

The Lord's Day, September 18th, 2011

I. BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS (DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25)

1. God teaches us through His law.

v.1—*"Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it."*

2. We and future generations would fear God, keep His commands, and live long.

v.2—*"that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long."*

3. Successive generations would maintain obedience to God's Laws and be blessed.

v.2,3—*"Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey."*

4. We and future generations would love the Lord with all our hearts.

v.4,5—*"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."*

5. God's Word would be on our hearts.

v.6—*"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."*

6. Fathers would diligently teach their children.

v.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."*

7. We would have a close relationship with our children, imparting to them God's law.

(v.7)

8. God's Word would be at the center of all our daily activity.

v.8,9—*"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."*

9. God's grace, blessing, and provision would be on our lives.

v.10,11—*"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.”

10. We are not to follow after false gods.

v.12-16—“*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.”*”

11. We are to remove the enemies of God from our lives.

v.17-19— “*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.”*”

12. We are to share with our children the mighty works of God in history.

v.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.'”*”

II. CHILD TRAINING PLAN

Our Mission: As parents we are called by the Lord to train and equip our children to fulfill their God given life purpose.

By God's grace we will do this by:

1. Making Jesus Christ the Lord of our home and family.
2. Biblical principles and teaching as the final authority in our lives for faith and practice.
3. Maintaining oneness in our marriage by submitting to one another as we submit ourselves to Christ. This will help our children be secure and develop a positive attitude towards marriage.

4. Accepting the God given responsibility of discipling our children. We will do this through Bible reading, Bible study, scripture memorization and meditation, times of prayer, family worship and by our own example.
5. Praying for our children's salvation, wisdom on how to prepare them for their Kingdom life purpose, and life partner.
6. Heart-focused, grace-based, discipleship lifestyle with our children. We will do this through:
 - Enjoying our children as individuals (they all need to feel like the beloved son or daughter).
 - Loving them unconditionally (especially when they fail).
 - Meeting their Spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.
 - Praising the unique characteristics of who they are (spiritual gifts, passions, godly character traits, etc.).
 - Understand them when they are having emotional difficulties and help them return to joy.
 - Motivate our children with a loving attitude, encouraging their faith, bringing hope, reverence for God, and appealing to their conscience in discipline. Instead of fear tactics, anger, shame and condemnation.
 - Teach them God's Law and their constant need for Christ and God's grace in their lives.
 - Teach them about Godly character through our own example, Scripture, reading good books, historical leaders and examples in our current day.
 - Enjoying being together as a family (glad to be together).
 - Being glad to be with them in what brings them joy.
 - Teaching and training them in their gender-specific Biblical roles.
7. By training them to be self-governing individuals. The principle of self-government is God ruling from the heart of the individual. We will do this through:
 - Helping our children to communicate their needs by allowing them to feel comfortable sharing what they think and feel about things and life.
 - Help them evaluate the consequences of their behavior and learn what satisfies. They need to understand what satisfies themselves and honors God.
 - Encourage them to do difficult tasks they do not feel like doing.
 - Provide opportunities and tools to develop their unique talents and interests.
 - Guide them in discovering the unique characteristics of their new heart in Christ.
 - Educate our children regarding God's redemption plan through history (Israel, NT Church, Reformation, America, our own family).
 - Train them in Biblical worldview vs. Humanistic philosophies.
 - Provide opportunities to participate in "life giving" group activities.
 - Encourage them in difficult times (As teenagers they need to remain hopeful and have a vision for something bigger than themselves).
 - Provide a positive environment and activities where life giving peers can bond (projects and activities that build into life purpose, interests and gifting are priority).
 - Teach them how their behavior impacts others and history.
 - Provide opportunities for them to be involved in important community tasks (sacrificially serving others & evangelism).
 - Enjoying being together with other families.
8. Teaching them key Biblical concepts of self-government.
 - God's Sovereignty—the Lordship of Christ.

- God’s Diversity—Individuality of and from God.
- Christ’s Law of Liberty—Internal government of Christ (Holy Spirit).
- Christ’s Image—Character of Christ (New Heart in Christ, Identity in Christ).
- Christian Discipleship—Growth in Christ.
- Christian Stewardship—Responsibility in Christ.
- Christian Covenant—Unity in Christ.

9. We are committed to learn as a family. We will do this by:

- Enjoying the learning process. Learning will be enjoyable if it is used in fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives.
- We as parents set an example of life long learning.
- Learning as a lifestyle. We will apply a Biblical worldview and incorporate learning into every aspect of life. We will learn from our tests, trials, and training for life purpose, relational conflicts, home life, and community.
- By applying the “Four R’s” to our learning process. (Research, Reason, Relate, Record)
- Family learning activities and trips.
- Read aloud times together.
- The use of learning tools. (Primary sources, reading good books, electronic media, Webster’s 1828, computer, etc.)