



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – November 19, 2023

Heart to Heart...

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

These words Moses taught from the Lord God are still valuable for us today. This teaching explains a lot of what is lacking in our homes. Let's look at three things that we as parents are called to do when raising our children.

- (1) *"These words shall be on your heart."* If the teachings/instructions from the Lord are not on our heart, what are we teaching? Too many think it is up to the church to teach their children. We need youth ministers, preachers and others working to get our children to heaven is the thinking. While these provide an opportunity to help, it is still the parents, (especially fathers – Ephesians 6:4), the home is where we direct our family to love the Lord God with all our heart. If God is not on the heart and His guiding word, the children will go wayward.
- (2) *"There is a time element involved."* We are to be instructing while we sit at our home. How many homes are filled with phone/video games constantly? Little communication, little self-control and each doing their own thing. I'm not saying one can't enjoy these devices but too many are 'enslaved' to them. As a result, we aren't sitting together at home. If we are going to teach our children the blessings of God, seeking His truth while we sit at home or *"walk by the way"* (for us driving in cars), we must be with them and engaging them in conversation.
- (3) *"You shall talk of them."* This demands communication. Are we creating an environment for communication when we are with our children? It's not just about being in the same room but if the word of the Lord is in the heart of the parent, the mouth speaks what fills the heart. We must speak these things of God to them if they will develop a saving faith.

It's not about preaching "at" them but a living relationship with the Lord that has impacted the life of the parent being passed on to the child. It's real! It's lived! And the result is for all eternity as we engaged our children. There will be no cell phones, no video games, no sports or anything created in eternity. Think about it!!!

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