

Raising Children To Be Disciples of Christ

By

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Deuteronomy 6:1-9 New King James Version

“Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and ^[a]be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: ^[b]The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates”.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 brings attention to the important concepts for raising children to be disciples of Christ. Scriptures also reveals to us the finished works of Jesus align with these concepts. Deuteronomy 6:1-9 provides valuable principles for raising children to be disciples of Christ. We can see how the finished works of Jesus aligns with these verses. Parents, we must teach them the values gained from the finished works of Jesus.

Verse 7 instructs parents to teach God's commandments diligently to their children. The New Testament affirms the importance of teaching, instructing in the ways of the Lord and modeling the virtues in their presence. In Ephesians 6:4, fathers are especially urged not to provoke their children but to bring them up in the discipline and instructions of the Lord. This is done by teaching them about the miraculous birth, obedience to God life, atoning death, resurrection from the dead death, and interceding presence on our behalf at the right hand of The Father. By doing this we lay a foundation for them at maturity to also make a Romans 10:9-10 declaration, Romans 12:1-2 obedience, use John 15:1-8 as an example, with the power granted in Acts 1:8 to carry out the mission of disciples in Matthew 28:18-20.

Love God Wholeheartedly

Verse five emphasizes the need to love God with all our hearts souls and might. Jesus echoes His sentiment in The New Testament when He teaches that the greatest commandment is to love God with our whole heart soul and mind in Matthew 22:37. Through His

finished works, Jesus exemplified the depth of God's love for us as stated in John 3:16. As parents we can teach our children how to respond to God's love by being submissive and obedient to His word.

Constant remembrance of God's Word

Constant remembrance of God's Word Deuteronomy 6:6-9 stresses the importance of keeping God's commandments in our hearts and mind and passing them on to the next generation. The New Testament Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will remind and teach his disciples all things. John 14:26 through his finished works, Jesus provides us with the indwelling Holy Spirit who enables us to remember and apply God's word in our lives. As we raise our children to be disciples, we can teach them to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance and constantly remember and live out God's word.

Utilize Practical Reminders

Utilizing practical reminders, Deuteronomy 6:6-9 encourages the use of practical reminders to keep God's commandments before our eyes and in our homes. In the New Testament, we find examples of practical reminders used to reinforce spiritual truths. For instance, Romans 6:4 teaches that baptism serves as a symbolic reminder of our identification with the death and resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 teaches us that the Lord's Supper reminds us of Jesus's sacrifice and the significance of his finished works. By

utilizing these practical reminders and sacraments we can help our children grasp the depth and meaning of Jesus's finished works.

Fostering a Community of Believers

Deuteronomy 6:7 mentions the importance of teaching God's commandments within the context of the family. In the New Testament we see the significance of the wider community of believers in nurturing and supporting the faith of children. The early Christians gathered together and devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and encouraging one another in Acts 2:42-47.

As parents we can encourage our children to be actively involved in a local ministry and engage with other believers who can support mentor and encourage them in their discipleship journey. By aligning the principles found in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 with the teachings of the New Testament we can raise children to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The finished works of Jesus provide the foundation for their faith.

Teaching them to love God wholeheartedly, follow his commandments, constantly remember his word, utilize practical reminders and engage in a supportive community of believers. As parents we have the privilege and responsibility to guide our children toward a life of discipleship modeling the transformative power of Jesus finish works in our lives.