

***Parenting Children to be In the World but Not of the World - Deuteronomy 6:1-9***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

***Top 10 Question this week*** - *What are some ways we can parent children who are "In the world" while trying not to be "of the world"?*

We need to be honest, the culture is coming for your children. Usually I don't subscribe to much of the Christian alarmist extremism and fear about our relationship to the larger culture. Yet, the truth is that the agenda and goals the world and the devil have for our kids should be drastically different than the purposes for parents who are followers of Jesus. And lest I sound like a crazy, all we have to do is look over a few boundary lines to the state of Colorado and the recent law passed there which would take away parental rights if they choose to parent confused children with Biblical sexual ethics (search HB25-1312). More often the pressures are much more subtle yet immersive, preaching individualism and the pursuit of happiness in things via music, TV, social media, and YouTube influencers. The task is significant, yet our heavenly Father has given us principles and strategies from the Scriptures for this task.

When Jesus prayed for His disciples on the last night of His life (recorded in John 17), He asked the Heavenly Father to protect them from the world, and keep them out of the world, although He (Jesus) was sending them into the world for His mission. This is where we get the idea of being in the world but not of the world. This idea is echoed throughout the New Testament, reminding believers of Jesus that we are aliens and exiles in our current world. Our question this week is a good one, because it frames the challenge so well. Some choose withdrawal and retreat, trying to keep their families to be not of the world and not in the world. Others give their kids over to syncretism, embracing culture and send their kids freely to be in the world and of the world. Neither of these will prepare children to live for God's glory and Kingdom. The path of holiness is to live separate, distinct lives in allegiance to King Jesus while living as His representatives in the world.

I started by stating that the culture is coming for your kids. I know that sounds alarmist, but here is why it isn't. That is not new for those who know the True and Living God and lead their families with the desire to pass on their faith and mission to their children. Our text this week in Deuteronomy was given by God to the second generation of Hebrews after the Exodus. These people were children and teens, or not yet born when God sent plagues and parted the Red Sea. Their parents had seen the miracles, and God rescued them from Egypt. The problem is that God took them out of Egypt but could not get Egypt out of them, and as a result they continually embraced the idols of Egypt, disobeyed God, and complained continually in unbelief. God's judgment for that generation was 40 years of wondering in the wilderness, and they all missed the Promised Land. The book of Deuteronomy was spoken (and recorded) after this 40 years to this new generation. God is about to keep His promises by giving them the Promised Land. But before they go in the LORD is going to restate everything He spoke to their parents, and invite this new generation into a deep relationship. The problem for this group is that they are going into a land full of people who worship all kinds of deities with so many spiritualities. Our passage is called the *Shema*, from the Hebrew word "to hear" and is a call to hear, believe, and obey this covenant. But they are not only to hear and obey, God gives them the responsibility to pass these things on to their children and grandchildren so that they too will see God's glory and walk in faithfulness.

It's a great passage, one worthy of both our memorization and meditation. This passage is also the key to answering our question. So a couple quick truths to remember. First, and most important, parenting for God's glory never begins with the child. Listen, you can teach what you want, even discipline your kids when they don't obey your words. But what will actually be passed on to your children is your affections and the object(s) of your worship.

Parents who have divided loyalties, who do the Jesus thing, yet their affections and worship are split between Him and their idols will produce kids who follow their example. We pass on what and who we love. Second, we need clarity about our goal as parents. So many of us have been sucked into the cultural idolatry in terms of the goals we have for our kids. "Happy and successful," that is the mantle of the world. Crazy thing is that so few actually see their children grow up to find these things. The Shema doesn't allow for this as an ultimate goal. The goal, always in the Scriptures is to raise holy children to become Jesus loving, Bible believing, Spirit-filled, promise trusting, obedient disciples whose lives in the world are marked with the distinctness of the Gospel and who find their purpose in the mission of the Gospel. And the funny thing is, that this life, the life lived in God's Kingdom, for His glory, fully given to His mission, this is the happy and successful life. Aim at the wrong thing and you will never find it, aim for holiness and all the other things are added. Or as C. S. Lewis put it, "Aim (your children) at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth (the desires of the world) and you will get neither."

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Samuel 15	1 Samuel 16	1 Samuel 17	1 Samuel 18	1 Samuel 19	1 Samuel 20	1 Samuel 21

Reading from this past week's sermon: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Philippians 4:4-13

### **Family Worship**

Song - *Firm Foundation*

<https://youtu.be/ev0NENdX6u8?feature=shared>

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King Saul

Story: Saul Disobeyed God

Big Picture Question: Who is our King?

Answer: Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 14-15

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 25: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Answer: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

#### **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

- If you are a parent, what would you say are your goals for your children? How does this text help us frame or re-frame that goal?
- Why is what parents love and worship way more important for passing on their faith than their style and approach to parenting?
- What are some practical ways parents can model our Heavenly Father by parenting by balancing grace and discipline?
- How can parents obey this passage and teach God's word diligently to their children?

#### **Prayer**

\*Pray for your dad, the dad's at Genesis, and pray that our families would raise children who love Jesus and live for His glory in the world.

\*Pray for our partners at the International Mission Board, their task of sending people on mission all over the world, and for the over 5,000 people serving in hard places for us.