

To Love God Personally - v. 4-6

Link to *Brand New Series* from Pastor Jeff:

<https://gogracefellowship.org/sermons-1/category/Brand%20New>

We are to Share God's Love Internally – v.7

The first assignment a parent has after loving God is to store God's Word in his heart and teach it to his children. – John Piper

These same two priorities (to your own heart and to your children) are also commanded in **Deuteronomy 4:9**: "***Take heed and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.***"

Judges 2:10b-12

and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt.

We will never stumble into godliness, especially in our families.

It is the duty of parents to seek the good of their children — to seek that the son and the son's son should walk in the ways of God all their lives. May God grant us never to be partakers of the spirit of those who think that they have no need to look after the religion of their children — who seem as if they left it to a blind fate. May we care for them with this care that our son and our son's son should walk before the Lord all the days of their life. – C.H. Spurgeon

We must, at some point, ask ourselves, how intentionally am I shepherding my family?

Christianity is intended to be generational.

We show God's love best when we are focused on being a redemptive community.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We work like it depends on us, but PRAY knowing it rests on God.

We Reflect God's Love and Glory Externally v. 9

Jesus repeated and reemphasized these words in Deuteronomy 6.

Mark 12:28b-31 ***"Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."***

Do we look at our families as "on mission" for the glory of God? The family is God's plan A to tell the nations of His faithfulness and proclaim His glory.

"The family that knows its spiritual and redemptive purpose does not need external props. It has a supernatural cohesion. Its members have no option but to stay together and build meaningful relationships, not for their own sakes, but because they are compelled by the highest of goals.

Put another way, people who understand that their family's chief aim is to testify of Christ and His life-changing power have no option to get divorced, commit adultery, abuse one another, or otherwise self-destruct. Do you want to keep your children from rebelling? Begin by teaching them from the earliest age that the family's most important calling is to exalt the name of Christ in the community by living in obedience to Him."

– John MacArthur

Isaiah 49:6b

I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

We need to come back to God's aim for the family.

Deuteronomy 6:1-4

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

We could strive for a happy family. It's the goal of many that have come up empty, but far more than a happy family, God's aim is a holy family that is set on living, loving, and displaying His love and glory together and to the world.

Action Steps:

- Redeem the dinner table: Have a phone-free family meal and talk about things you're thankful for.
- Maximize bedtime: Spend intentional time praying with your kids before bed.
- Family fun day: Do something fun for the whole family to create memories and encourage conversation.
- Family worship/devotion: Take one night a week and spend time walking through a bible study together.

Family Resources:

- *Sticky Faith* by Kara Powell
- *God, Marriage, and Family* by Andreas J. Köstenberger
- *Family Worship* by Donald Whitney
- *The One Year Praying through the Bible for Your Kids* – Nancy Guthrie
- *The Fulfilled Family* by John MacArthur
- *Family Driven Faith* by Voddie Baucham