

## The LORD's Covenant Command to Raise the Next Generation Deut. 6:1-9

### The Covenant Command of the LORD v.1-3

1. The LORD's Covenant command is given in the context of specific circumstances. **v.1**
  - The original audience of Deuteronomy: Moses is writing to 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Israel preparing to enter Canaan.
  - The command is for *these* people and circumstances. *that you might do them in the land you are going to possess*
  - The command is for *us* in *our* circumstances.
2. The LORD's Covenant is intended to be generational. **v.2**. Deut. 4:9, 10; 11:19; Eph. 6:4
  - The effects are intended for *you and your son and your grandson*.
  - Moses: "I taught you" (see v.1); "you shall teach them" (see v.7)
  - NT: Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:2) *the things you heard from me entrust to faithful men who are able to teach others*
  - Perspective in parenting/raising the next generation: I am raising the parents of my grandchildren.
3. The LORD's Covenant is rooted in Creation before the fall. **v.3**
  - The creation of man in God's image includes the command to have children and take responsibility. Gen. 1:26-28
  - Satan's questioning of the truth of God's word: "Has God said?" Gen. 3:1
  - The influence of sin in the world's message to us today: Don't have children and don't take responsibility!
  - The provision of God for Adam and Eve was one of both word and deed. Genesis 3:15, 21
  - Therefore, our provision for our children should be one of both word and deed.

Summary of v.1-3: We are people in covenant with God. "I am a man who is part of a covenant with God. Consequently, my children are therefore part of a covenant with God." We are PEOPLE IN COVENANT COMMUNITY.

### The LORD of the Covenant Command v.4-5

1. Who is God? The LORD is God. **v.4**. He is Lord (Master, King). LORD = Yahweh, the covenant God of Israel.
2. Whose God is He? The LORD is *our* God.
  - THE message for us *and our children*: Yahweh is our God! Not some other god, not you, not me – but the LORD!
3. Therefore, our response has to be a totality of love with a totality of life. **v.5**
  - with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might

### How to keep the LORD's Covenant Command v.6-9

1. Internal **v.6**. *these words...shall be on your heart*
  - How is this accomplished? YOU cannot do this on your own heart or the hearts of your children (inability of man).
  - This is something only the LORD can do.
  - PRAY! For you and your children. Do the angels of heaven recognize the names of your children?
2. Practical **v.7**. (Parallel instructions repeated in Deut. 11:18-21)
  - Here are specific ways. Not so much 'orchestrated' or 'manipulated' as it is to be *intentional*.
3. External **v.8-9**
  - "Sign on your hand" Rf. Exod. 13:9, 16; Prov. 6:20-21; 7:1-3. Eg. wedding ring
  - There is a real sense in which we are called to impose God's covenant upon our children.
    - Like He did with us. (Infant baptism is a picture of God's extending the covenant into the next generation.)
4. Personal priority v.6 to 7, 8 to 9
  - Notice the progression from self to children; self to family; self to others
    - v.6—written on *your* heart...and you shall teach them diligently to your sons (v.7)
    - v.8—on *your* hand, on *your* forehead...and on the doorposts and gates of your house (v.9)
  - In other words, the best thing you can do to pass along the faith to your children is to grow in your own relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Spurgeon: "no wolf prays for his offspring to become a sheep"

A few practical applications:

- Greeting children on Sunday mornings—they are part of our corporate worship. Be patient with them.
- Pray for the LORD to put 1-2 other godly men and women into the lives of your children.
- Intentionally set out to know a couple other families in the congregation (children's names, birthdays, etc.)
- Talk openly about the Lord at home—as if He Himself actually lived there among you (He does!)
- Memorize Scripture together as a family. Dad, (or mom if a single parent) write it on a 3 X 5 card and pull it out at the dinner table several times a week.
- Go to the parenting Conference next weekend. Worship the Lord, meet others and learn from each other.

## Thoughts from fellow pilgrims...

***I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*** (3 John 4)

“. . . I fear that many, even among professors of religion, could not truthfully repeat my text; they look for other joy in their children, and care little whether they are walking in truth or no. They joy in them if they are healthy in body, but they are not saddened though the leprosy of sin remains in them. They joy in their comely looks, and do not inquire whether they have found favor in the sight of the Lord. Put the girl's feet in silver slippers, and many heads of the families would never raise the question as to whether she walked the broad or the narrow road. It is very grievous to see how some professedly Christian parents are satisfied so long as their children display cleverness in learning, or sharpness in business, although they show no signs of a renewed nature. If they pass their examinations with credit, and promise to be well fitted for the world's battle, their parents forget that there is a superior conflict, involving a higher crown, for which the child will need to be fitted by divine grace, and armed with the whole armor of God. Alas, if our children lose the crown of life, it will be but a small consolation that they have won the laurels of literature or art. Many who ought to know better think themselves superlatively blessed in their children if they become rich, if they marry well, if they strike out into profitable enterprises in trade, or they attain eminence in the profession which they have espoused. Their parents will go to their beds rejoicing, and awake perfectly satisfied, though their boys are hastening down to hell, if they are also making money by the bushel. They have no greater joy than that their children are having their portion in this life, and laying up treasure where rust corrupts it. Though neither their sons nor daughters show any signs of the new birth, give no evidence of being rich towards God, manifest no traces of electing love or redeeming grace, or the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, yet there are parents who are content with their condition. Now, I can only say of such professing parents that they have no question whether they be Christians at all, and if they will not question it themselves, they must give some of us leave to hold it in serious debate. When a man's heart is really right with God, and he himself has been saved from the wrath to come, and is living in the light of his heavenly Father's countenance, it is certain that he is anxious about his children's souls, prizes their immortal natures, and feels that nothing could give him greater joy than to hear his children walk in truth.”

*-C.H. Spurgeon, from a sermon titled “The Parent's and Pastor's Joy,” delivered on Dec. 21, 1873*