

Black = textual exposition and insight

Blue = Life application questions

Red = Illustrations and thoughts to help understanding

Opening: Think back on your own childhood. If you did not come to Christ until adulthood, think back on the days prior to your new birth and to your early days in Christ.

How did your parents, grandparents or spiritual mentors impress God's love on your heart? Was it with words? Was it with deeds or demonstrations? Was it intentional? Discuss.

1. The Shema

A. The oneness of God.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"The Lord is one" - Why is this so important? Why is this so important in our culture today? (Hint: How many people in culture at large believe there is only one way to heaven or one true God?)

Isaiah 45:5 - "I am the LORD, and there is no other ; apart from me there is no God." (See also Deuteronomy 4:3; 1 Kings 8:60; 1 Chronicles 17:20; Isaiah 46:9; James 2:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

God is the only one eternally existent.

Exodus 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

All others who are called "god" or "gods" are false gods. They are created beings that are fallen angels (demons) or are simply imaginary gods.

Though there is only one God, He has revealed that He is also three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity (not a term in the Bible). Though the human mind cannot fully understand or explain this truth, we accept it by faith because God revealed it to us in His Word.

These are truths we need to teach our children and grandchildren in a pluralistic and politically correct culture. They will not hear this in public schools, with most other neighborhood children, on television or in the movies, in popular music and certainly not later in college. This will not be "impressed" upon them in common culture or by accident. It must be done intentionally by you as parents (grandparents) and by other significant Christian adult influencers

B. Loving God completely

Where did Jesus emphasize the next part of this passage on loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength? Answer: Luke 10:25-37. How did this exchange with the lawyer seeking to justify himself likely impact him?

First how does loving God with all these parts of your being exhibit itself in **your** life?

Heart - your passions, longings

Soul - your entire being - no split personality

Mind - with what you think and study and then rehearse in your mind throughout the day and even as you lay in bed at night?

Strength - with what you do for others (Matthew 25:31-46 - what we do for others in need we are doing for Jesus).

Second, how does loving God with all of these parts of your being exhibit itself in **your parenting?** (or time spent around children)

Heart - Do you long more than anything for your children (or grandchildren) to believe in Jesus and be faithful to Him. Is it your passion to lead them to the Lord and a faithful life to Him?

Soul - Is there any part of your life that would lead children away from Jesus or confuse them about what it means to follow Him? Is there consistency in your life for children you influence to see what it means to follow Jesus? (Matthew 18:1-9)

Mind - Are you actively teaching children you influence about the truths of God and salvation in Jesus? Are you well trained in the Scriptures to be able to answer the questions they ask you as they grow up or to help guide them when you see them confused or going off track of God's will?

Strength - Do you serve those in need with your children to show them the things that serving others is one of the most important things in life?

We are to not only have the Word of God on our own hearts but to impress them upon our children ALL THE TIME and in many contexts (at home, on the road, when it is time to lie down, in the morning ...)

1. How do you do this with your children, grandchildren, etc?
2. How can you do better? What is at least one consistent daily way you will do this with your children or constant way you can do this with your grandchildren?
3. Is there a way you can do this with children who are not part of your immediate family? Have you considered working with Compass Kids?

2. Faithful to the process but leaving God responsible for the results.

Brian said something in his message that should resonate with every parent of adult children ...

"But friends, you need to hear this: it's not your job to make sure your children turn out a certain way. In fact, think about this: the Garden of Eden was a perfect environment and sin still found its way in. Does that help alleviate some of the guilt you might be feeling? So I'll say it again: it's not your job to make sure your children turn out a certain way. It IS your job to be faithful and let God do the rest!"

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

There is much debate about what the term "in the way they should go" means. Many see something along the lines of "according to their God given personality and bent." Others see the traditional understanding of leading them in the right godly path.

This verse is taken by many as a guarantee that if we raise our children in the Lord, they will remain Christians or come back to their faith later in life if they depart temporarily. This has done untold damage in the church to parents who faithfully raised their children in the Lord but ended up with one or more children who left the faith.

This comes from a misunderstanding of the difference between a PROVERB and a PROMISE. Proverbs are general wisdom sayings that are **generally true**. Promises of

God can always be counted on. Proverbs 22:6 is generally true, but it is not a promise of God. Just as many of the other proverbs from Solomon, if we adhere to them, our life is likely to be more fruitful, trouble free, God honoring, etc. However, they are not always true. Some people who save money faithfully for years as the Proverbs () tell us still end up poor because of someone stealing their well saved money or the economy having a drastic downturn, etc.

The same is true of our children. If we raise them "in the Lord," faithfully teaching them of the faith, guiding them to Jesus, exhibiting consistent godly character to them, being an active part of a healthy biblical church, etc., we can generally expect they are more likely to follow our faith and be followers of Jesus themselves. However, each child grows to have their own free will. Some will choose to go against all the good wisdom, teaching and example of their parents. Some of those may return to their faith later in life, but there is no PROMISE that they will

3. Focusing on your responsibility in the home

In Lesson Two of the sermon, Brian said that, *"The church can help my kids grow BUT it is ultimately my responsibility to lead them to find and follow Jesus."*

This is so true. Never treat the church as a place to "drop your kids off" in order to "get some religion." The community of the church and the resources they have should **assist** you in your own resolve to lead your children to faith in Jesus.

Remember the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Notice all the times it uses the word "you" in reference to how you raise your children with the Word of God.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Notice also the command to "Impress them on your children." Brian shared how this word for "impress" was used of an engraver making a permanent and deep impression in rock or metal. To make a permanent impression on our children will take a lot of ...

That requires, consistency, repetition, creativity, modeling, etc.

1. How have the circumstances of COVID-19 helped you to see that teaching and modeling the Christian faith to your children is primarily a task for parents?

2. How can you do this more intentionally beginning this week? Name three activities you can incorporate into your daily or weekly routine to impress the word of God deep into your children's hearts and minds.

3. What will you do to insure that when the pandemic is over, you will still have a plan in place to make sure you have the time with your children to impress the truths of God upon them and lead them to faith, using Compass Christian Church as a supporting asset in the process?

4. Regarding the four phases Brian referred to in parenting, which phase(s) are you in with your children (grandchildren)? Do you need to make an adjustment with one or more of your children to another phase that would be more appropriate?

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5. Maybe you have completed all of the parenting stages that were mentioned in the message (commander, coach, counselor, consultant). – Does that mean your work is done, or are you still following this commandment? How?

6. We can always pray. When all of the other phases & stages of parenting ends, this one remains. – Are you praying for your children?