

Pass It Down

Deut 6:1-15

1. A Pledge of Allegiance (vv.1-4)

- a. God commands that Moses teach the next generation of Israel the same laws that he gave their parents
 - i. The statues represent prescriptions--this would include things that are positive (affirmation), as well as things that are negative (prohibition)

ii. But also the judgments, which are the consequences

iii. We can't just tell our children or the world only about the positive things God has done and will do.

iv. If we are responsible representatives, we will also be honest about the potential and promised consequences that come with moving ourselves away from God's revealed truth

b. Moses says the goal is that you do (carry out) the commandments in the land where you are headed

i. Moses tells them this because the culture they will encounter is different than their own and will challenge their thinking

ii. Keeping children around those who are like them in many ways can be helpful, for a time

iii. However, God never intended for his people to enter into eternal incubation--where they never encounter anyone who thinks, looks or believes differently than they do

iv. To do so is to create a crippled generation that can only function in special or convenient circumstances

v. The goal is to place the truth of God's Word in them so that WHEN they encounter what the world has to offer-- they would see it for what it truly is because they have already been prepared by and through the Word

(1) The first time they are told they are smart
shouldn't be in school

(2) The first time they are told they are valued, shouldn't be on a job or in the world

(3) The first time they are told "I Love You" shouldn't be from some young boy or girl trying to kiss them

(4) They should already know they are affirmed and loved because there is a God who has created them and bled for them

vi. I believe parenting (and generational rearing) for some Christians has become too experimental and less intentional (Psa 127:3-5)

(1) We allow them to raise themselves just because they have access to more information than we did

(2) But knowledge plus immaturity only produces educated morons

c. The Fear Factor (v.2)

i. A healthy fear of God is somewhere in between respect and sheer horror

(1) Respect is too casual--you can respect someone and not care about a thing they say

(2) Horror might be a bit strong, though, when God thunders and causes the mountain to quake in Exo 19, it was on purpose--thus fear can be motivational too

d. The commandments are to be kept for the whole of one's life

i. The truths are not to be foundational and then vacated at a certain age

ii. They are to be taught, applied, and demonstrated so that knowledge is transformed into lived experience--
Do as I do, not Do as I Say

iii. A benefit of keeping God's commandments was long life, which was not the norm, and judging by what this generation had to experience with seeing their unbelieving ancestors laid low in the wilderness, would speak volumes

iv. But quality of life was also in view