

Sermon Sentence: As parents we carry the very image of God in one of the most delicate positions of honor we could receive.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Exodus 20

The Bible tells us that we are to teach God's law to our Children. The law has always been a written expression of God's character. In the Old Testament the law was handed down to the Israelites to set them apart from the rest of the nations and to create a reliance on Him. The law, when followed as intended by God, makes a person like God in character. The problem is that no person can ever keep the law to the perfect standard that God requires because of our fallen condition. When we fail to keep the law, we transgress it and transgression of the law is sin.

Under the New Testament we have what appears to be different commandments.

1 John 3:23

However, the summation of the Law is love and in reality this is what the Commandments were all along, even in the Old Testament.

Matthew 22:36-40

Galatians 5:19-25

So the law is a reflection of God's character and the law is summarized as love. Then to properly parent our children we must teach them to love God and others properly. Only through the fruit of the Holy Spirit can we truly satisfy what the law requires of us.

- 1.) **What purpose does the Law serve under the New Covenant?**
- 2.) **Why do we still use it to teach our Children?**
- 3.) **Is the New Testament Christian under the Law?**
- 4.) **Are we lawless?**
- 5.) **If not, by what power does the Christian fulfill the Law?**

"Biblical Parenting "

U·chōōz

Day 2

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Let's look at some examples of how God parents in order to understand better the concept of biblical parenting.

Galatians 5:22-23 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Remember the Holy Spirit is God, so the fruits of the Holy Spirit that a Christian displays through a lifelong process of sanctification are also the very characteristics of God's character when parenting!

Forbearance (patience): a refraining from the enforcement of something (as a debt, right, or obligation) that is due (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/forbearance>)

Romans 3:25

- 1. Can you think of examples of when you have shown forbearance when dealing with your own children?**
- 2. Can you think of examples from the Bible when God showed forbearance when dealing with His children?**
- 3. What would've happened if God had not displayed forbearance concerning our sins prior to the Cross?**
- 4. Why does God sometimes forbear and other times punish?**
- 5. When parenting our own children, sometime we forbear the punishment without the child have the proper understanding to what they have done wrong, what is the danger of doing this?**

Look to the story of Jonah again and see How God used forbearance in relation to the repentant people of Nineveh and God's explanation to Jonah as to why. When we see God has a heart for all people, we can start to understand why He is slow to anger and longsuffering where man is concerned.

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Day 3

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Gentleness: mildness of manners or disposition
(<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gentleness>)

Matthew 11:29

Can you imagine if God was missing gentleness? Many times we see God taking a very patient stance when dealing with mankind.

Genesis 18:22-33

Isn't this a great example of the gentleness of the Lord? God knows everything about everything, so it is a great display of both patience and gentleness as He often leads us to an answer that He has known all along.

- 1.) **Do you display this type of gentleness when your child is arguing with you about something?**
- 2.) **Often times we already know how something is going to turn out, do you try to remain gentle and patient when leading your child to the answer?**
- 3.) **There are other times when God gives a command that needs to be heeded immediately, what circumstances generally warrant this difference?**
- 4.) **In contrast to gentleness, sometimes a firm hand is needed. What is the danger of allowing a child to feel that everything you tell them to do can be questioned?**
- 5.) **Why does God allow us to make mistakes such as in the Garden of Eden, with such a tremendous cost to Himself?**

Day 4

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Faithfulness: having or showing true and constant support or loyalty

(<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faithful>)

What do you think about people in your life that are not trustworthy? What about people that tell you things that constantly change, they tell you they are going to be somewhere and never show or owe you money and never pay you back?

Praise be to God that he is not human! Praise be to God that He never changes, never lies and always fulfills His promises!

Numbers 23:19

So when God says this is the rule, that rule will never change because God does not change! When God said the penalty for sin was death, he meant it. Praise God that He also had a plan to deal with sin and when God said it was finished, it was! God parents from a place of total trustworthiness. If He says it, it is true. If He promises, it is as good as done. And if He warns against it, it is for our own good.

- 1.) **Where would our joy in salvation be if God were not trustworthy?**
- 2.) **What would you do if you could not trust what God says?**
- 3.) **Why is it important to have clear cut rules and concrete ideas when parenting our children?**
- 4.) **We see a large part of a generation growing up apart from the principles of God's law and relying on the shifting ideas of humanism. What has been the result?**
- 5.) **What happens to a society when the ideas of right and wrong are left to the individual?**

Judges 21:25

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The overarching theme in God's parenting is love, and this is where we must parent from if we want to parent biblically.

Luke 15:11-32

Just like the prodigal son, we too live most of our lives in rebellion to God's will in our lives. What a picture of a loving God waiting with outstretched arms for us to learn our lesson and return to the safety that only He can offer.

Matthew 7:13

God knows there are a lot of things along the way to trip us up and only one way to be saved but He lovingly lets us make our decisions and waits hopefully for us to make a choice. So does He leave us to make all the wrong choices? No! That is why He has given us His word so we can avoid making many of these mistakes. This is why it is so important for us to teach His ways to our children their whole lives. It is much easier to start in the Word than to change course later in life and try to learn it.

Proverbs 22:6

Is God's patience limitless, of course not! Eventually God will react to rebellion, even to the point of destroying and recreating the Earth but He is slow to anger and His will is for all to be saved.

Exodus 20:4-6 & Psalms 103:8

- 1.) **As a parent what can you do to help train up your child in the way of the Lord.**
- 2.) **If we parent from love in everything we do, does that mean punishing sometimes as well?**
- 3.) **Can you see the sorrow that God has when He is forced to punish even after His best efforts to bring a person or nation to repentance?**
- 4.) **It is because He is a loving God that He gives us restrictions. Does God's law seem burdensome?**
- 5.) **What happens when a society ceases to parent biblically and moves away from God? Do we see this in America today?**