

**I. Introduction.**

**II. God comes first (even before your family). Deut. 6:5-6**

**A. Some get God and family out of balance.**

1. Some neglect their families because they think they are serving God. I Ti. 3:4-5
2. One can also sinfully put family ahead of God: *Familiolatry*. He. 10:25

**B. Love the LORD your God wholeheartedly. v. 5**

1. Your loyalty to God may create conflict within your family. Luke 12:51
2. Your relationship with God enables and equips you to love your family.
3. The way you run your family is an expression of your love for God.

**C. God's Word must first be in your heart before you can train your children. v. 6**

1. Family worship and teaching is the natural outflow of a life of worship.
2. You can't train your children to be stronger Christians than you are. Lu. 6:39f
3. Your children will catch your values.
4. Parental hypocrisy is a cause of rebellion.

**III. You are responsible before God to train your children. v. 7a**

**A. It is assumed that God's people will gladly have children. Gen. 1:28 Ps. 127-128**

1. Children are a blessing from God.
2. In addition to disciplining and training your children, enjoy your children.
3. Your objective in training your children is God-centered: hoping your children will carry godly values into future generations. Deut. 4:9-10 III John 1:4

**B. Train your children to live a life of godliness and wisdom. Eph. 6:4 Pr. 4:1-8 22:6**

1. Some who discipline their children fail to adequately teach them. Pr. 17:10 29:15
2. Teach your children to have a comprehensive biblical worldview.

**C. You cannot delegate the training of your children to anyone else.**

1. It is not the job of the government to train your children.
2. Nor have you fulfilled your duty if you put your children in a Christian school.
3. Nor is it the job of the church to train your children.
4. Parents are to be the primary influence in their children's lives.
5. Husbands and fathers are particularly called to be spiritual leaders in the home. Eph. 6:4 5:25-28 Josh. 24:15 Is. 38:19 I Sam. 3:13 2:12-17,22,27-36 8:4 I Ti. 3:4-5  
Why do many fathers neglect their responsibility?
6. What if there is no Christian father? I Tim. 3:14-15 Pr. 6:20-23 I Cor. 7:14

**D. You are responsible for all of the influences (teachers) to which you subject your kids.**

1. You may choose to use a conventional school, but you are responsible for what your kids are being taught. Psalm 1:1 Col. 2:8fr Rom. 12:2 II Cor. 6:14-19 10:5
2. Home-schoolers also use outside teachers and influences. Gal. 3:24-25 Pr. 5
3. Also, keep watch over your children's friends, entertainment, etc. Ps. 1:1  
I Cor. 15:33 Prov. 13:20 22:24-25 Gen. 34
4. You should also seek to bring positive influences into your children's lives.
5. As your children mature they will have to make more of their own choices. I Cor. 13:11 Gal. 2:24-25 Luke 15:11f
6. Families should respect the choices made by other families.

- E. What is the place of our church in training your kids?
1. We encourage children to be with their families in the worship service. Eph. 6:1f Ex. 10:9 Josh 8:35 Neh. 8:3 12:43
  2. We offer Sunday School and Youth Programs as a supplement to the training which takes place in the home.
  3. Church leaders need to be careful not to overstep their authority.
  4. The best thing the church can do for families is to train fathers to lead and teach their families.

**IV. The Bible tells you how to train your children. v. 7b-9,20-25 4:9**

- A. Teach your children in formal settings. v. 7b
1. We have a rich heritage of family worship. Gen. 4:3-4 4:26 12:1-2 Ex. 12:21 Acts 16:15,31-34 20:20
  2. Family devotions and teaching times.
    - a. Keep it brief. Eph. 6:4
    - b. Maintain your children's interest by speaking at their level and by teaching interactively and creatively.
  3. A specific suggestion.
    - a. Sing a song or a hymn.
    - b. Read a short section of Scripture together and invite each family member to make a comment or ask a question, starting with the youngest.
    - c. Pray together using a list.
  4. The book of Proverbs is a model of parental instruction.
  5. Teach them diligently.
- B. Teach your children informally. v. 7c-9
1. Fill your home with reminders of God's Word.
  2. Take advantage of opportunities to apply the Word of God to life as it happens.
  3. Interact with your children about God's truth. v. 20 Pr. 20:5
  4. Teach them by your example. Phil. 4:9 I Pe. 5:3 I Cor. 11:1
  5. Don't turn every situation into a sermon.
- C. Teach your children about the blessings of redemption. v. 21-25 Eph. 6:1f
- D. Prepare your children for the responsibilities of adult life. Pr. 7:7f 14:15

**V. Concluding applications.**

- A. Parents train your children in godliness.
- B. Children, embrace your parents' teaching. Prov. 6:20-23 10:1 23:24-25 12:21,25

**Discussion Questions**

1. Is it possible to make family too important?
2. Why is it necessary that God's Word be in your heart before you can teach your kids?
3. To what extent can parents delegate their responsibilities to others?
4. What is the place of the church in training children?
5. What is a good pattern for family worship?
6. How can you teach your children in the course of daily life?
7. What is the most important thing you need to teach your children?
8. Does faithful training ensure the salvation of our children?
9. What responsibilities do children have?