

A group of people are gathered around a table, holding hands in a circle. The table is cluttered with several books, white mugs, and papers. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source from the left creating a strong glow. The overall atmosphere is one of community and shared purpose.

RELATIONSHIPS

thriving in God and caring for one another

Today's Scripture Reading:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

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⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

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WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL IN PARENTING?

- Is it to mold our children into God's image?
- Is it to conform them to the 10 Commandments or some NT version of a moral code?
- Is it to secure obedience to the Gospel?

Although these ideas hold a piece to the puzzle of developing children into adult maturity, I propose that our job as parents is to give opportunity, tools and an environment whereby our children have, as level a playing field as possible, so they can make righteous choices and decisions.

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PARENT WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

RTD

Train - Prov 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Heritage - Psalm 127:3

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord

Image Bearers - Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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1. We are to provide Gospel environment by offering a variety of stimuli. We give opportunity for our children to see God's kingdom in action on earth.

a. Healthy marriage

i. God uses marriage as an analogy for His relationship with us.

ii. When we express this relationship in our earthly union, it shows them a flesh and blood example of a covenant that can be transferred from what they see here to what we teach them about a covenant relationship with the creator.

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- iii. Single parents-you're not left out. God speaks that He will be your spouse and you can express that concept in acknowledging daily your partnership, dependence and submission to Him.
- b. Gospel taught and discussed regularly in the home
- c. Participation by the family in righteous activities.
 - i. Service in; church, home, extended family
 - ii. Missions, gives a healthier expanded world view
 - iii. Community
 - iv. Self-sacrifice

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- d. Fruit of the Spirit alive and in action within the family unit.
 - i. Love, Forgiveness, Kindness, Repentance, Generosity, Humility
- e. Individualistic personalities and giftings should be encouraged as expressions by image bearers whose goal it is to honor and represent God on earth as His witnesses.

**"an informed conscience can be trustworthy as it draws on God's word"*

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2. At an early age, parents need to nurture, allow and encourage children to exercise faith, so they will have a personal experience seeing God in action in their lives. Tithe, self sacrifice, obedience, specific prayer, Gods moving in everyday day life recognized
 - a. Children need to see and hear faith exercised.
 - i. End of the Spear
 - ii. Mack families
 - iii. Mack or other church expressions

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- b. Pray and trust God for great things, ones that are impossible for us to manifest within our own power, ability or resources.
 - i. Missionaries experience miracles and flesh and blood interventions by God Himself. Why? They put themselves in situations where they are helpless, hopeless and powerless. George Mueller, Gladys Alward

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d. When prayers are answered; acknowledge and applaud, when they are not in the form we had hoped for; pay attention to how the situation does work out and instruct children accordingly.

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1. *Responsible*

Galatians 6:7-8: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

a. Sow and Reap

- i. Allow children to experience good and bad consequences.

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2. *Think*

- a. We want to teach our children how to think, not what to think.
- b. 8x in Matthew, Jesus asks-"What do you think?"
- c. Gather facts, don't assume or presume, ask questions, play it out, "what do I gain or lose?"

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3. Decisive

Joshua 24:15: And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”,

James - wisdom, Holy Spirit - Instructor

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3. *Decisive*

John 14:26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

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3. *Decisive*

- a. Provide environment where failure has consequences but doesn't cost "too much" - safe and secure
- b. Foster an environment of openness, honesty, freedoms vs authoritarian, security-where questions are welcomed-where an eternal mindset is encouraged, and patience is the norm.

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d. Discern

i. Individual personalities

ii. Individual giftings

iii. Weaknesses

iv. Offer disappointment

v. If not square peg-round hole

vi. We must learn how to transfer the “love, trust, obey” that we nurture in parental roles, to the universal parent-God.

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APPLICATION

- How can you develop an eternal mindset so life, conversations, actions express that to your children?
- Determine to be an involved mom and dad, family first.

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