



## Deuteronomy 6:4-9

THE POWER AND  
PURPOSE OF  
FATHERHOOD

# Establishing the context

- ▶ Deuteronomy records Moses restating the Law to Israel
- ▶ The Law is relevant and practical for New Covenant followers of Jesus
- ▶ In chapter 5 of Deuteronomy, Moses restates the 10 Commandments as the baseline of operation for Israel as God's people
- ▶ Verses 1-3 of chapter 6 provide the connection of the importance of the Law in the daily lives of God's people

# Establishing the context

<sup>1</sup> “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup> that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

- ▶ Understanding and obeying the commands of God is essential
- ▶ Understanding and obeying the commands of God helps His people to fear Him
  - ▶ Jesus doesn’t save us because of our fear of personal failure or the fear of what others may say or do
  - ▶ Jesus saves us from the wrath of God because of our sins and selfishness
    - ▶ Matthew 10:28
  - ▶ The Law of God shows us that we are to fear God and demands that we trust His mercy and grace to deliver us from His glorious justice
- ▶ Sanctified fear of God that trusts in the Lord alone and puts faith in action is what fathers pass on to sons and grandsons so that families are led in Biblical truth and righteousness
  - ▶ 2 Timothy 2:1–2



# Men and fathers must walk in exclusive devotion to the One true God (6:4-5)

<sup>4</sup> *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

- ▶ *“Hear”* – carries the idea of hearing and heeding
  - ▶ Verses 4-9 are known as the Shema
  - ▶ This instruction has a context – what comes before and what follows
- ▶ *“the Lord is one”* – one in essence (not polytheistic or pantheistic) and one in exclusivity
- ▶ *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might”* – love of the Lord our God is more than affection, but it is not less than affection
  - ▶ There is emotion and feeling in our love for God
  - ▶ Love includes our devotion, focus, and effort producing unwavering obedience
  - ▶ Jesus proclaimed that this was the first and greatest commandment
  - ▶ Matthew 22:35–40
- ▶ Fathers, this is your privilege and opportunity in life
- ▶ This is not a command of human retreat but of God-empowered resolve

# Men and fathers must support the all-encompassing authority of the Lord (6:6-9)

*<sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> 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.*

- ▶ Men, husbands, and fathers, you have a God-given purpose in life
  - ▶ Your purpose goes beyond being a provider and protector of your wife and children, although you are commanded to do these things
  - ▶ Your purpose includes taking dominion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – being an ambassador of His kingdom in your home, church, and community
- ▶ What about wives and moms?
  - ▶ A man's wife is not left out or separated from the saturation of truth in belief and practice
  - ▶ A wife is fully united with her husband, and the father of their children, as he blazes the trail of the Lord's authority in all of life
- ▶ This is not an oppressive task
  - ▶ Galatians 2:20
- ▶ This purpose will bring you and those in your life fulfillment and joy
  - ▶ Psalm 40:8

# Men and fathers must support the all-encompassing authority of the Lord (6:6-9)

- ▶ There are no places the authority of the Lord does not reach
  - ▶ Matthew 28:18–20
  - ▶ The authority of Jesus Christ and His gospel is not restricted to **sacred** aspects of life, leaving the **secular** arenas mildly influenced from a distance
  - ▶ Every ounce of Christ is viable for every nook and cranny of life
  - ▶ Just as the Lord makes an indelible impression on your heart with truth, so you are to indelibly make impressions on the hearts of your children with truth
  - ▶ This is done through consistent repetition of truth and application of truth
- ▶ Our children are to become offensive weapons of truth and righteousness
  - ▶ This is the result of obedience and purposeful fatherhood
  - ▶ Psalm 127:1–5
  - ▶ Are you training your children to be weapons of war for the cause of the Lord?

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*<sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

- ▶ What you do, what you think & see, and where you go must be impacted by Biblical truths and principles
  - ▶ Your life and influence as a father are not just about beliefs and teaching
  - ▶ Your life and influence as a father are also about Biblical behavior
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 3:14–15
  - ▶ Learning Biblical truth is necessary and good
  - ▶ But how are you understanding and applying what you've learned?
- ▶ We need to have solid beliefs, but we also need to learn how to behave in the household of God
  - ▶ Hebrews 5:11–14
- ▶ When we say Jesus Christ is Lord, it is not that we make Him Lord
- ▶ Men, husbands, and fathers, welcome and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ



# Men and fathers must support the all-encompassing authority of the Lord (6:6-9)

## **Ladies, wives, and moms**

- ▶ The man who is your husband and the father of your children needs your respect, encouragement, and support in this Christ-centered endeavor
- ▶ Don't ignore or become bitter over his weaknesses and needs, come alongside him and help him overcome them

## **Children**

- ▶ The Lord has specific instructions about the way you are to respect and respond to your parents, particularly your father
  - ▶ Ephesians 6:1-3
- ▶ Children, there may be some things you need to confess and repent of today



# Men and fathers must support the all-encompassing authority of the Lord (6:6-9)

## Fathers

- ▶ Ephesians 6:4
- ▶ The atmosphere of your fatherhood needs to be Biblical truth upheld in an atmosphere of a Holy Spirit-controlled temperament
  - ▶ Passivity will eventually produce fleshly aggression
  - ▶ Men of God, take these truths and teachings to heart
    - ▶ James 1:22
    - ▶ James 4:17
- ▶ Men, husbands, and fathers, a life of purposeful fulfillment awaits you
- ▶ God has given you the power and purpose of fatherhood
  - ▶ John 13:17

# Questions to Consider

- ▶ Children, what attitudes and actions do you need to confess and repent of with regard to your respect and obedience to your father?
- ▶ Wives and moms, what attitudes and actions do you need to confess and repent of regarding your husband?
- ▶ Ezekiel 22:30
- ▶ Men, husbands, and fathers, how are you sensing the press of God upon your heart to stand in the gap as God pours out His judgment?



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