

**Youth Weekend**  
So the Next Generation Will Know

Song: *The Blessing* (Numbers 6:22-27, Exodus 33:14)

**Senior recognition (blessings videos)**

\*Summit – worldview and apologetics camp (counselor in college/took students summer 2019)  
*So the Next Generation Will Know* (Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace)

**Nick** – commissioning prayer time

Last week review: No other gods (*If God is not Lord of all, He's not Lord at all*)

Context

See vv. 1-3 (follow God's commands that it may go well with you...)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

<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. <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. <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.”

-The Shema – (*hear*) it was often recited along with Deuteronomy 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41 as a morning and evening prayer

Breakdown:

<sup>4</sup>“**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

-Last week's sermon again: There is one God, and there is to be no other gods before Him  
-Foundational for God's people...

Commentary: to give expression to what was the heart of Israel's confession, namely that Yahweh was not a pantheon of gods, but *One*. He was, therefore, to be the sole object of Israel's faith and obedience. Nor was she to forget Yahweh or attempt to share her allegiance with other gods in days of prosperity. Moreover, she was to ensure continuity of this allegiance and this covenant faith by diligently teaching her children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>5</sup> **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

-a positive way to describe the negative commands of the first 2 commandments of the 10.

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<sup>1</sup> Thompson, J. A. (1974). [\*Deuteronomy: An Introduction and Commentary\*](#) (Vol. 5, p. 137). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

-not just a legalistic command but about a relationship based on love (different than Islam/Allah)

### **God is love (I John 4)**

-Described by Jesus as the first and greatest commandment in 3 different gospels: Matthew 22:36-38, Mark 12:29-34, and Luke 10:27-28

Secret Church: true happiness and a fulfilled life found in Great Commandment (David Platt)

-The extent of a man's love for God was to be total. Israel was to love God with her whole being.

-The expression *with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might* is a favorite one in Deuteronomy (4:29; 10:12; 11:13; 13:3; 26:16; 30:2, 6, 10)

-The *heart* was regarded as the seat of the mind and will as well as of a wide range of emotions. The term *soul* seems to refer to the source of life and vitality, a living being or living soul

-a man is to love God with unreserved devotion.

**Q.** Who/what do you love?

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

-They become part of who you are

-The test of a man's love for Jesus is that he keeps his commandments: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15, 1 John 5:2).

-And only a love that is undivided can be called love in its truest sense.

**<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.**

Contextualize – today authority is viewed differently than in the past. This has its pros and cons, but ultimately, *relationship* is the most important aspect of teaching the next generation the truth of Gods' Word. It should permeate all of life, whether at home or out and about.

1. **Relationship** (parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, counselors, etc.)

**Q.** Parents, are you giving your children a picture of what it means to love God and follow Him? How do you define success?

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.” -Francis Chan (Crazy Love)

2. **Godly Example** (authentic, real)

My parents and grandparents (do you practice what you preach?)

3. **Teaching**

**Q.** What to teach? (stories of Scripture, the moral laws of God (**bookmark**), the way of salvation, the teachings of Jesus, how to follow Him and help others to follow Him, etc.)

-an ongoing topic of conversation in the home, picking up where you left off each time...

-The command to teach the family the laws of God was repeated multiple times throughout the book of Deuteronomy and throughout Scripture and that is something I take very seriously.

\*My family dynamic and our heart's desire to pass on the faith to our children (**show picture**)

-God has given my wife and I young men to raise...

-Devotion before school (reading the Psalms)

-Meals together, free from television and devices (when we can)

-Learning Scripture through our Awana program and applying verses accordingly (**Sheila**)

-Reading the Word before bed (sometimes they ask for this first)

-Answer their questions, no matter how big or small, easy or hard

See vv. 20-25

<sup>20</sup> “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ <sup>21</sup> then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.<sup>22</sup> And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. <sup>23</sup> And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. <sup>25</sup> And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.’

-Obey God's commands not just because he said so, but because it is for our good always, our preservation, and it will be righteousness for us

-When Jesus came, he fulfilled the law, and gave His righteousness to all those who believe in His name and his perfect sinless, sacrifice for us

**<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.**

-If this was a metaphor, Jews eventually took this literally and placed small scrolls (with the Shema written on them) into leather cubes called *phylacteries* that could be worn on the body

-Also placed in containers that would be fastened to doorposts of house and/or gates

-Unfortunately, like many practices, this became an issue of legalism that Jesus even addressed.

-For today, the Word must always be before us.

\*Verses posted in your house or places you will often see (but also memorize)

Why is being inundated with the Word such a big deal?

1. History of Israel's failures to pass on God's laws and commands
2. The church today is on the brink of doing likewise (less than 50% in church)

-statistics of a post-Christian culture

-those who walk away from the faith (60-85%)

\*Gen Z statistics (Barna): 13% claim atheism as opposed to 7% from the generation before. 33% attend church, 9% are engaged Christians but only 4% hold a truly Biblical worldview.

"If we do not consciously equip young Christians with a Biblical worldview, they will unconsciously absorb the ideas of today's culture. -Sean McDowell

-Now when it comes to teaching on God and the person of Jesus, they still (mostly) agree with generations before them. (shift in Biblical and cultural issues)

1. Increasingly godless but looking for meaning/purpose (a cause or movement), spiritual
2. And those who are spiritual have a buffet approach to spirituality (not organized religion)
3. Increased anxiety/depression today as well as suicide and violence (technology, social media, cultural shifts, godlessness, the enemy)

26% spend 8 or more hours on a screen each day. (31% spend 4-8 hours)

-First generation to say that their friend group is just as important to their sense of self as family

-1 in 6 teens today (recent Gallup poll) claim to be bisexual. Why is this? Does this mean more and more people today are bisexual or gay? (not necessarily)

-way more socially acceptable (pendulum swing from offensive to accepted to celebrated), so will try it or explore to fit in. **LGBTQ characters in kid's movies**

-Hard questions today, increased apathy, cultural shifts increasing at an exponential rate

Things dividing the church today: Politics, Covid protocol, issues of sexual identity and race relations

On top of all of this is temptation at every turn...

-Pornography issue today (hidden problem in churches today)

dangers of pornography - in this day and age we can hide it so that no one will know.

**statistics** - Justoneclickaway, fightthenewdrug, covenanteyes  
(few years old) 24 million porn websites (100,000 are illegal child pornography)  
Up to 40% of internet traffic is pornographic in nature  
51% of males and 32% of females viewed porn before they were teens  
67% of guys and 49% of girls college age consider viewing porn as acceptable behavior  
60% of Christian men and 40% of Christian women struggle with porn

40% of porn/sex addicts lose their jobs, 58% suffer considerable financial losses, and porn increases marital infidelity by 300%, can cause feelings of shame, loneliness, depression, and numbers are way up since the pandemic

**Q.** Why is porn such a big deal

-unrealistic expectations of love and sex  
-porn addiction can actually rewire your brain (in the unhealthiest way)  
-We think it isn't affecting anyone but us - studies show when we view porn, we are increasing the demand for exploitation and sex trafficking

(solutions) Accountability with others, *Covenant Eyes, Truple, XXXChurch*

Psalm 119: 9, 11 – How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your Word. I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

\*Must constantly be on our minds and hearts or we WILL stray

What do you talk about, what do you look at, what kind of environment do you foster in the home?

**Q.** Ultimately, who is your God?

Psalm 50:21 - ...you thought I was like you...

-making God in our image

-intentional discipleship in the home, first and foremost

**Q.** Are you making disciples? (there are not different levels of disciples, maturity levels yes)

\*Pursue deeper relationships, be a godly example, and teach the next generation as you Gather, Grow, Give, and Go with the Gospel

Investing in the next generation:

-Teaching in the children's/student ministry

- intentional discipleship at Edgewood
- ministry scholarship fund (**explain giving**)
- gap year program (through the church)

-The future may look bleak, but I believe it is bright!

Psalm 48:12-14

Walk about Zion, go around her,  
number her towers,

<sup>13</sup> consider well her ramparts,  
go through her citadels,

**that you may tell the next generation**

<sup>14</sup> **that this is God,**

our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

\*Is Christianity just one generation away from extinction? (God's will and purposes will prevail)

Psalm 78:5-7

<sup>5</sup> He established a testimony in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,

which he commanded our fathers  
to teach to their children,

<sup>6</sup> **that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,**

**and arise and tell them to their children,**

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments.

**Q.** Does God expect any less of us today?

-Perhaps you need to reevaluate your priorities to make sure you are loving God with all your heart, soul and might and passing it on to the next generation.

\*Communion transition – celebrate the Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11

<sup>27</sup> "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

### Guidelines

- **Consider your relationship with God**
- **Confess any sins that God brings to mind**
- **Commit afresh to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission**

We practice open communion here. You don't need to be a member of Edgewood to participate, but you do need to be born again. **Silent prayer/Corporate prayer**

**Directions for Opening Cup**

1. Hold the cup with one hand and with the other find the clear tab and pull gently to open in order to take the bread

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

**Take bread**

2. Continue to hold the cup and now find the foil tab and pull carefully to open the juice cup. Be careful while pulling – you don't have to pull it completely off

<sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

**Take cup**