

How to Win Your Children to Christ

Deuteronomy 6:1-15

Please open your Bible to Deuteronomy chapter six. I would like to read verses one through fifteen and use the passage as a launching pad to discuss the important subject of how to win your children to Christ.

The primary focus of this message is aimed at parents who are now engaged raising children at home. However, the important truths in this message will help you influence your grandchildren or perhaps other children in the community. With that in mind, let's turn our attention to Deuteronomy chapter six and verse one . . .

6:1-2 Please note the connection between “fearing the Lord” and “prolonging thy days.” Also, note that the Lord expected each succeeding generation to maintain a “fear of the Lord” (“thou, thy son, and thy son’s son).

6:3-5 These verses separated Israel unto a strict monotheism in contrast to the other nations of the world. Israel was to love the Lord with all her heart and maintain an undivided loyalty to the only true and living God. In so doing Israel would be a powerful witness to the rest of the world.

6:6-9 Verse six speaks first to the adults of the nation. The Word of God was to be in their heart. Of course, this required the adults to respect the Word of

God and embrace obedience from the heart. The people were to love Him with all of the heart. God's word needs to be in the mind, but it must travel on down to the heart! Knowing the will of God is one thing but only love for God will motivate one to actually walk in the will of God. God wants his word to find a place in your heart!

Next, take note of God's command to teach his word diligently to the children of the nation. It is right at this point the Lord laid out Israel's hope for future blessings on the nation. Failure at this critical point would result in an increasing loss of the fear of the Lord across the nation. It was clearly the will of God that every child in Israel be raised with diligent instruction in the word of God. In fact, godly instruction was foundational for Israel's future prosperity. So, this command was serious business. Listen, whenever God gives a command, it is to be taken seriously.

Next, notice that the Lord illustrates what he means by the word "diligent." He says to "talk of them when you are sitting in your house." Clearly the Lord intended that his word be at the center of family life. Then he says to talk of them "when you walk by the way." In other words, parents were to apply the word of God to everyday life as they moved about their day. Again, the word of God was to be at the center of life decisions and purposely taught outside the more formal home setting. Then the Lord says that his word was to be taught at the end of the day (when you lie down) and then the whole process was to start again when they got up the next morning!

Such diligence was to keep his word ever before the children as they grew to maturity. Verses 8 and 9 picture keeping the word of God constantly before the children in three different ways. First, they were to "bind them for a sign upon the hand." Let me give you a simple illustration here to help us see the point the Lord is making. Many people enjoy wearing bracelets for different reasons. Most of the

time bracelets have little significance beyond complementing the outfit worn that day. But suppose you placed a bracelet around your wrist to remind you of something very important. And every time you looked at the bracelet you were reminded of a special event, or the special person that gave it to you, or an award that recognized a special accomplishment in your life. As long as you wear the bracelet it would be very difficult to forget what it was connected to. In fact, it is doubtful you would ever forget. This is the spirit of the Lord's instruction here. The Israelites were never to forget God's word! In that sense they were to bind those words to the hands of their children.

Next, his word was to be as frontlets between their eyes. Literally, a frontlet was a headband that held something across the forehead. No doubt you have seen individuals in various cultures wearing such headbands and quite often there was some piece of jewelry or other design that was positioned right between the eyes. The lesson here is that the Israelites were to always keep the word of God front and center in the thinking of their children (of course, in so doing for their children parents would also benefit).

And finally, the Lord instructed them to write his words upon the posts of their houses and on their gates. In this case they literally did so! In so doing prominent teaching of Scripture was always in plain view of their children.

6:10-15 Please note the warning of verse 12 again . . .

Now, here are several practical things that you must do to win your children to Christ. As you will see, most of them are very much related to the spirit of the verses we just read from Deuteronomy six.

1. Clearly confess your faith in Christ to your children. How can you win your children to Christ if they do not know that you love him yourself?

2. Demonstrate a fervent love for Christ before your children. If Christ is not important to you, then how can you hope to win your children to him?

3. Make it your sole priority to win your children to the Lord Jesus Christ. Place their walk with the Lord above everything else. At the end of their childhood when they transition into adulthood, they should know the Lord. They may not know how to play ball, and other things may not be so important to them, but if they have a manifest love for Christ that is all that matters. Of course, knowing Christ is the very foundation of a truly successful life and the Lord will lead them into an abundant life. But don't neglect this matter. Be diligent!

4. Recognize that your child must be led to Christ on purpose. He or she is not seeking the Lord. In fact, a child goes astray from its mother's womb. All children are sons of Adam and are thus fallen. With purpose you must "bend" your children toward the Lord. How do you do that?

5. First, from the youngest age they should be taught the word of God diligently. Children can learn the Scriptures if exposed to them. And we learned from our text today that the Lord intends for children to be saturated with his word.

6. Trust the power of God's word: faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

7. Trust the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of your child. Watch for the work of the Spirit and never discourage your child from confessing Christ!

8. Pray boldly for the salvation of your children and expect to see them saved at an early age.

9. Separate your children from the ungodly and clearly teach your children that they must forsake this world. This is a matter of the heart. Ultimately your children must make a choice between serving Christ and loving this world.

10. Do not assume your child is born again especially as they enter the teen years. Neglect of spiritual instruction during the critical ages of 13 to 18 is one of the major reasons many precious souls will never be saved!

11. Love the house of God and build your family life around the church. Serving Christ far outweighs anything in the world. You should train your children accordingly.

12. Apply God's instruction to be diligent in your home life. Why are you not reading the Bible in your home? Why are there no family devotions? Why is the Lord never in your conversations? Don't drop the ball here!

13. Get serious about Christian education. There may be more than one way to skin the cat so to speak, but the Lord expects you to build the education of your children upon the Word of God. The tutors of your children should be godly, committed to Christ, and examples your children can emulate. Those tutors should themselves be well versed in Holy Scripture and demonstrate a love for Christ. And you as a parent must see to it that the content of the instruction from whatever source it may be is built upon the Word of God.