

**THE ART OF PARENTING
MY CHILD AND ME
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This morning Glenn and I will take a break from our Sunday Morning study in the book of Revelation to share a short sermon series on the Art of Parenting. I hope you find it helpful no matter what your age, sex, or parental status. We will return to Revelation in October.

Parenting is an art. There are four things we must know and experience to do it well.

We need to know and experience the the real God in our hearts.

We need to know and experience ourselves in our hearts (self-awareness and healing).

We need to know and experience our children.

We need to know and experience the God's principles for living in order to pass them along.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 we find the Biblical foundation for *the Art of Parenting*. Moses lays down the principles for having a godly home and for raising godly children. Notice how the four things mentioned above flow all through this passage.

1. GOD'S TRUTH MUST BE IMPRINTED IN THE HEART.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

WE MUST KNOW AND EXPERIENCE THE REAL GOD IN OUR HEARTS.

Proverbs 20:5: The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.

Proverbs 4:23: Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 26:24: A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit.

Proverbs 27:19: As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

Too many people have a dysfunctional view of God. The right view of the real God is found in the heart of Jesus dealing with the hurting and seeking—not the Jesus dealing with the Pharisees and religious leaders who would keep people from finding the true God.

It is important to help implant the real God into our children's hearts. Parents have an absolute obligation to introduce their children to Christ in their formative years.

WE MUST KNOW AND EXPERIENCE WHAT IS OCCURRING WITH OURSELVES IN OUR OWN HEARTS

We need both self-awareness and healing for our hurts and dysfunctions. You see, whatever is in our hearts will soon be in our children's hearts.

God's truth must be in the home, but what if Dad is not in the home? Single parents have the hardest job in America. Don't feel that you have to parent alone. It is possible to develop a support system.

The real issue in training our children to have a heart for God is, "Do I have a heart for God? Is Jesus Christ upon my heart?" When Jesus Christ is in my heart, it won't be too long until Jesus Christ is upon my children's hearts.

Mark The Connection, If It Is Not In Your Heart, It Will Never Be In Your Home Because Your Home Is Where Your Heart Is Revealed.

2. GOD'S TRUTH MUST BE IN THE HOME.

Deuteronomy 6:7: Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

"Children are a gift from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Too many children are unopened packages.

WE MUST KNOW AND EXPERIENCE OUR CHILDREN.

A good child is not an accident. He or she is the product of careful cultivation.

Proverb 22:6: Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

3. GOD'S TRUTH MUST BECOME A HABIT.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9: Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Moses says that the Truths of God are so important that they affect every aspect of life from the most intimate aspects of the bedroom to the most public aspect of community life.

WE MUST KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF LIFE IN ORDER PROPERLY PASS THEM ON.

Proverb 1:8-9: Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Proverbs 3:1-14 is a great place to start.

Craig Massey: "Christian parenting is infilling children with the Word of God and the life of God so that they will always respond in a predictable manner."

A righteous, well-behaved child is the product of show and tell.