

Imitators of God

4 – Parenting That Pleases Everyone

Deuteronomy 6:1-9



1. It is a sensitive subject to talk about parenting because people have strong opinions about it and no parent wants to admit they're doing it wrong. Why do Christian parents struggle in this way given that we have the Word of God? What keeps them from, as Pastor Todd said, "a parenting model that pleases everyone"?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Verse 1 comes as a command for believers (restated in the New Testament) that amps up the implications of parenting as God intends. In verse 2, the objective is spelled out and it isn't well-adjusted kids. What is that objective and why does it make sense? How does this change things for us as parents?
3. The Shema in verses 4 is the recitation made by practicing Jews twice daily, and verses 5-6 contain what we know as the Great Commandment (see also Matthew 22:37-38 where Jesus discusses it with a lawyer). If we're to imitate God in parenting or any other way, loving him is at the centre. And our obedience to him and his Word flows from our love for him. Discuss the ways we struggle to obey, hear, and love him.
4. Pastor Todd provided "Seven Ways that you may not have thought of to teach your kids the Word and to love the Lord". Each of you share one or two that impacted you and why. Then pray for one another as you seek to apply this in your home.

NOTE: If you don't have children, seek to apply the parenting principles more broadly: friends, co-workers, nieces and nephews, or even in children's ministry settings.

Series: Imitators of God

Message: 4 – Parenting That Pleases Everyone

Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

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If I am to imitate God in my parenting, I must...

...live the Word (v. 1-3)

...love the LORD (v. 4-6)

Isaiah 45:5a

To hear God without putting into effect the command is not to hear him at all.

– Eugene H. Merrill

James 1:22

[The Great Commandment] ties love tightly together with the sense of obedience and loyalty.

– Earl S. Kalland, Expositor's Bible Commentary

...teach my kids (v. 7-9)

Seven ways that you may not have thought of to teach your kids the Word and to love the Lord:

- (1) Give them your undivided time and attention
- (2) Set up the guardrails
- (3) Present a united front as mom and dad
- (4) Be clear when disciplining
- (5) Admit it when you fail
- (6) Listen to the Word, not the world
- (7) Keep Jesus at the centre

Only one life, will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.

– C. T. Studd