

## Sermon Text Discussion 7/10/2016

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Deuteronomy 6:1-7: "Family as Faithful Community" by Eric Bobbitt

### Overview

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One of the most recognizable passages of Scripture in the Old Testament is the Shema from Deuteronomy 6. It is here that a foundation for the family as faithful community is laid. From this text it is clear that the Lord desires unbroken generations of faithfulness from His people. This was His intention and desire from the beginning. In this text, we see that the family is to play an integral (but not solely determinant) role in raising up new generations of God's people by following God's commands to:

- 1) Hear God
- 2) Know the Lord
- 3) Love Him
- 4) Fully Devote
- 5) Teach your children

While the raising up of future generations happens largely within families, it requires the participation of all peoples of all ages contributing to the community.

### Quotations

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"The church is a beautiful, intergenerational tapestry of relationships." -Eric Bobbitt

"What does 'teaching our children' really mean? Too often, even today, a Christian's first thought when someone says 'teach' is 'convey biblical information.' This is a part of teaching, but only a part. Actually, if this is mistaken for the whole of Christian teaching it invariably leads to a warped and lifeless Christianity. Perhaps the synonyms of train, guide, discipline, lead, and share will help to fill out its meaning. Especially when we add one transforming word – life! You see, Christian teaching involves training in a way of life...This is why we stress the home as the center of Christian education. We are merely recognizing a long and well known truth – that it is in living with his family that a child learns how to live.

-*Sharing a Living Faith*, Harold Waggomen

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) What is the architecture of a mature person's life?
- 2) Beyond basic needs, what do children need most from parents? From other adults?
- 3) Looking at the text itself and the outline above, what observations can you make about the order of the commands given in the Shema?
- 4) After referencing Ephesians 6:4, what is the danger to being an overbearing or overly strict caretaker of children?
- 5) What benefit is there to an adult who is able to provide commentary and dialogue (or a family able to have conversations) about what is happening in a wide variety of situations?
- 6) How can a single adult be a major contributor to the creation of another family's quest to create a biblical family culture? Conversely, how can a large family contribute to the life of a young professional?
- 7) As you consider your role in God's call to raise up future generations of faithfulness, where do you need to refocus your efforts? How will you address the areas in which you are particularly lacking? What actions will you commit to taking?