

Instill A Biblical WorldView (Part 2 of 3)

ParentHood- Week 4

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Introduction:

They are watching!

This morning we're going to talk about one of the most important roles you will ever have. If you do well here, generations will be impacted. You can impact your grandchildren by doing well with your children in this area. You can impact society. You can change culture. You can expand God's Kingdom.

I want to talk with you about instilling a biblical worldview into your children. Did you know that *The Barna Group found in a USA survey that the worldview of most people was established by the time they are 13, and that only 4% of adults have a biblical worldview.*

On May 15, we said that job #1 for a parent (or anyone that knows and loves children) is to connect to their hearts. We must sew our heart to theirs. We must connect with them and through us they will see God's love. They will see God's goodness. They will see that God breaks through sin to make their salvation possible. But, today we want to build on this foundation... job #2 is to instill a biblical worldview.

Why is this important?

The truth is this: ***If you don't teach and model a biblical worldview for your children- someone else will lead them to a different worldview. And whether that someone is another adult...or culture...or the media... or a teacher... or a school system...your kids will get a worldview... we all have one...and the question is this: ARE YOU GOING TO SHAPE YOUR CHILD'S WORLDVIEW AROUND GOD AND HIS WORD OR IS SOMEONE ELSE GOING TO SHAPE YOUR PRECIOUS CHILD'S WORLDVIEW AROUND THEIR AGENDA?***

This morning, we're going to continue to look at an amazing passage on parenting. One of the main thrusts of this passage is that parents must teach their children to love God and follow Him. This isn't a role that can be left to the church or to the school system (Christian or public) or to another adult—The Bible says the chief spiritual influence in a child's life is to be mom and dad.

What is a worldview?

From Answers In Genesis

(<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n1/biblical-worldview>)

A worldview is the way we see the world—the lens through which we interpret the events and circumstances around us. A biblical worldview interprets the world from a biblical perspective, understanding that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, that God is the almighty Creator and sustainer of the universe and that our present world is suffering the effects of the Fall. Our worldview influences our understanding of God, morality, history and even ourselves.

Every person has a worldview.

Deuteronomy 6 is our passage- let me just set the context. It's following Deuteronomy 5. In Deuteronomy 5, Moses had just revealed the Ten Commandments, the big ten that God would challenge His people to live by. Speaking of these commandments, Moses gives, really, one of the greatest teaching on parenthood in all of scripture.

He says this (Deut. 6:1-2), *“These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ² and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.”*

Do you realize that as a parent, God has put within you the power to change generations and generations to come? Through applying what we discuss today- you can impact your grandchildren and their children... Think of the power of influence you have over generations to come!

How can you leave a godly legacy? Here are two simple ways to instill a biblical worldview in your kids.

Two keys to instilling a biblical worldview: (We're going to look at the first one today and the second one in next week's message.)

1. Love God

Deut. 6:4-5:

⁴ *“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

God is saying through Moses: *Moms and dads...your first priority is to love me. You must love me with your whole being. **Moms and Dads must LIVE the worldview they want their children to adopt.***

God wanted His people to know Him. But, God wants His people to more than know about Him. He wants their hearts. He wants their souls. He wants their strengths. He wants all of them. ⁵ *And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

With how much of your heart should you love God? *Would you say it? "All".*
With how much of your soul should you love God? With how much of your strength should you love God? **ALL!**

As parents- we can't kid ourselves. **Half-hearted commitment to Jesus will send a significant message to your children.** *Do your children see you reading your Bible? Do they see you pouring your heart out to God? Do they hear you verbalizing your faith at home and in public? How important is our involvement in church?*

Instead of a half-hearted commitment- your kids need to see you living out Ephesians 5:1: ¹ *Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.* They need to see you meeting with God, growing in God, taking the principles of the Bible and applying them to your everyday life, talking about God's principles and honoring them, using your gifts and financial resources to support God's work, speaking honorably about people that get under your skin...

They also need to see in you and hear from you some key things about God and His Word.

Here is what they need to get from you for their worldview:

- a. **God exists.** Kids need to know that there is a God. This sound simplistic... but just think how important this is. Because God exists, there is order. There is hope. There is more to life than our short existence breathing on earth. There is dignity to human life. All other truth stems from this.

Deut. 6:4-5:

⁴ *"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.* ⁵ *And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

God gave the Jews a system for teaching key truths about Him to their children. This was a tool for Jewish parents to model and teach their children about God's existence and God's Lordship over their lives.

Verse 4 is a phrase that a devout Jew would say three times a day, morning, noon and evening. ⁴ *“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. Literally (NASB): ⁴“(E)Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the (E)LORD is one!*

Kids must understand that God exists and that God transcends them and is in authority over them. Godless kids have no basis for character, no understanding that they are not in charge of the universe, no dignity to life, no eternity to live for.

In Romans, Paul shares the danger of not acknowledging the existence of God. Listen to this from Romans 1:

¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.^[i] ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

*²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. **As a result, their minds became dark and confused.** ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

It is so important that you teach your kids that God exists. Their hope for eternity, their sense of right and wrong, their self-esteem all builds off of this central truth. There is a God.

Illustration (Include picture of Seth sleeping with iPod):

Kids are attracted to music. I drive a different school bus route almost every day. Almost every route- the first question is: *Can you turn the radio on?* Kids love music. One of the things we have done in our house that has worked well so far is to expose Seth to worship music.

I love seeing him plugged into his iPod and singing along because what I hear is worship. I hear God's goodness. I hear God's power. I hear mission as he listens to songs from the Passion Worship movement or Hillsong United... *he's getting "God exists" through music.*

- b. God is One.** ⁴*(E)Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the (E)LORD is one!* God wants your children to know that He is the only one true God. There is to be one ruler of their lives. There is to be one source of truth for right and wrong. There is to be one focus for their worship. Other people will teach multiple Gods. Most people will make a god (small "g") out of themselves. Our children must know that there is One true Father, One true Creator, One true Savior.

It is so important that we model for and teach our children that there is one God to whom they should turn for wisdom, help, comfort, and salvation. God is their help. He is their resource. He is the source of their salvation. He has the answers to their problems. They CANNOT find what they need for peace, for security, for real wisdom, and especially for salvation outside of God- not in themselves, not in love, not in sex, not in money, not in friends, not in substances, not in the perfect job... There is one God who satisfies our souls.

David got this. 2 Samuel 22:1-4:

David sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul. ² *He sang:*

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior;

³ *my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.*

*He is my shield, the power that saves me,
and my place of safety.*

*He is my refuge, my savior,
the one who saves me from violence.*

⁴ *I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and he saved me from my enemies.*

This sets up the key truth in Acts 4:12: ¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. One God provides the only Savior. Our kids need to see and know this truth.

c. God is Creator

Genesis explains the origin of everything except God Himself. This has huge ramifications for so many important areas of life.

- God created the earth. Believers should care for nature because it is God's.

- God created human life. God gave us dignity. God gave us eternity. Here begins teaching on the sanctity of human life.
- God made each person special. Your kids need to know that they are a unique design- with a God given purpose, God-given gifts, God-given/stamped personality, appearance...

In all of these truths, but especially this one (God as Creator), we need to not only teach our children a biblical worldview, we need to equip them to do battle in defending it.

I read an article this week (by Jay Wegter at <http://www.frontlinemin.org/teachworldview.asp>) that opened my eyes to this. Listen to this:

Biblical worldview equips students for effective evangelism by instructing them how to conduct a ‘clash’ between worldviews. Unlike evangelism in the recent past; our struggle now involves a ‘worldview clash’. The unbeliever’s faulty worldview must ‘collide’ with the timeless truth of God’s Word so that the unbeliever sees where he opposes God. It is only the Word of God that is capable of deconstructing the unbeliever’s faulty worldview.

This ‘clash’ between worldviews is necessary because in today’s world knowledge has been privatized into personal opinions without absolute truth. And, without truth claims there can be no objective sin or evil—one is left with a domesticated God who does not judge, govern, or redeem (D. A. Carson, “Reaching Postmoderns with the Gospel”).

We now live in a world in which religious truth and error are no longer mutually exclusive—they are just different ideas with no one ‘view’ constituting absolute truth. Pastor Tim Keller comments on this phenomenon: “The Western world now is a mission field never faced before—it is ‘ex-Christian’. It has been inoculated; but retains only a distorted memory of Christianity; a memory of Christianity as the age of prejudice. With the memory of prejudice comes the commonly held notion that Christianity cannot be credible because there cannot be one true religion to the exclusion of all others” (Tim Keller, “Evangelizing Postmoderns”).

This is why biblical worldview is so desperately needed—it instills boldness in believers. It enables them to step out of ‘privatized Christianity’ and into effective evangelism. Biblical worldview imparts a pervasive confidence that there are biblical answers to every important life question.

Let me ask you a serious question. *What do the people that have influence in your child's life believe about "God Is Creator?"*. You've got to know the answer to that question. We have to do the work to find out what teachers or people of influence in my child's life believe here. Because it will come out in their influence on my child. I need to know where truth will be taught and where I need to be ready, as a parent, do lead a "worldview clash" for my kid.

- d. God has revealed Truth.** Culture will tell us that truth is whatever you make it to be. Whatever you want it to be- that is truth for you. You are god of yourself and therefore you can decide what is true and what to believe. Your kids are going to get that message on TV, they're going to hear it from their friends, and get it driven home in school.

We need to be absolutely clear with our kids that God exists and God has revealed Himself and absolute Truth to us in His Word. Our kids need to understand that there is objective truth outside of themselves. It is found in God and God's love letter to us. There is right and wrong. There are standards to live by.

- e. God has provided standards.**

I find myself trying to explain to my kids that I must punish them when they do wrong because God had given them a mommy or daddy to teach them to obey. One of my central roles is to model for them and teach them God's instructions for life. Since God exists, and He is Who He is—He has the right and He has given us right and wrong.

Kids need to know why we have the standards we do. A few weeks ago we had this great interaction with Seth. He spoke to his sister in a way that wasn't encouraging. We were talking with him about his mouth and the importance of guarding his words and so we used it as a learning opportunity to know why we teach what we do. We got out the Bible and had Seth read ALL 32 verses of Ephesians 4. In there we see things like verse 1:

I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

And verse 29:

²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Our kids need to know that God has given us instructions to follow.

f. **God has made a way for salvation.**

g. **Life is best when loving God and following His ways.**

Here's something that we must drive home in the minds of our children: ***Life is best when following God's standards.*** Because God loves us so much and wants the best for us- He has given us rules to follow that are for our own best life. Our kids need to understand that there is more peace, more joy, more fulfillment, more meaning to life when they are following God' plan and not the world's plan.

Look at how Moses describes this to the parents he is lecturing:

Listen to how Proverbs describes this in Proverbs 3:

2. Lead Well

Deuteronomy 6

⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

So, moms and dad, anyone that wants to impact children—what you first have to do is **commit yourselves wholeheartedly to God's ways.** Have you done that? Will you do that?

Then, you do verses 7-9. I really like how the NIV renders verse 6 and the first part of verse 7: *⁶ These commandments that I give you today **are to be on your hearts.** ⁷ Impress them on your children.* God's words should be on our hearts. If this is true, they will come out of our mouths. And, we are to speak God's words and impress them on our children.

We talk about them when we sit at home, and when we walk along the road, and when we are driving to school or to T-ball practice. When you lie down and when you get up, tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates. Spiritual talk becomes, not just something we do on the weekends on the way to church or youth group or connect, it becomes a part of seven days a week, of everything that is going on.

To live out these verses, you:

- **You connect (to God and your children)**

To impact a child's heart, we must have their attention. We get their attention by spending time with them, listening to them, knowing them, and looking for importunities to plant seeds of truth into their lives. When we take this role seriously, this goal begins to drive our parenting. I don't just want to feel close to my child so I feel good or they feel good or so that things are going more smoothly in my household- *I want to connect to my child so that I have their ear when I am trying to communicate truth.*

It is almost like my level of relationship with them determines the level of their spiritual receptivity. If I can foster an atmosphere of love and trust and listening—my child's heart will be more soft. If I'm fostering an atmosphere of anger, unresolved conflict, frustration, etc.- their hearts are going to be hard towards me molding a biblical worldview in them.

We have got to figure out how to connect to our children AND communicate truth.

Barna: Your impact on your children's lives is proportional to the depth of the relationship you have fostered with them.

- **You lead your home (your kids do not)**

We must establish a culture in our homes where moms and dads are the leaders.

I like the quote that Edward, Duke of Windsor, said this about America. He said, "The thing that impresses me most about America is the way the parents obey their children." I want you to think about that for a minute. The thing that impresses me most is the way that parents obey the children. Parents, question: Are you leading your children, or are your children leading you? Think about that.

If you are going to be an effective leader, you must lead intentionally.

- Have you articulated standards for behavior?
- Have you communicated standards for language?
- Are you providing some sort of family focus on spiritual truth (family devotions, etc.)?
- Do you kids understand how you spend money and why they can't have everything they want?
- Are you serving God as a family?
- Moms and Dads- do you have boundaries- date night? Is your bed a sacred place?

Is your home child centered or parent led?

- **You set the agenda (culture does not)**
 - We must seek God for what sort of education is best... home, private/Christian, public
 - We must seek God for how many activities are healthy...
 - We must seek God for how we handle entertainment choices...

I like the single mom who was struggling with knowing what to do with her teenager, who always wanted to see rated-R movies with his friends, and he says, "But, there's just a little bit of bad stuff, just a little bit. It's not that bad." And the mom was praying, "God, what do I do?" And God gave her an idea, something that I thought was awesome. She said, "I'll tell you what. You can go see this rated-R movie, but first, you have to help me make some brownies." And the teenager's like, "Oh, I love brownies, as long as I can lick the bowl." And she said, "Sure you can. What I need you to do to contribute is, would you go out and find some of our dog's dog poop, and give me one spoon full of dog poop." The son was like, "That's nasty, mom." "No, no, no. Just one small scoop. That's all you need. Just bring that in, help me make the brownies, and you can go to the show tonight." And the son was like, "Well, whatever," and he came in with a spoon full of dog poop that he was holding out like this, and he gave it to his mom, and his mom said, "Oh, that's too much," and she took a little knife and cut it in half and dropped just a little bit of dog poop down into the brownie mix and stirred it up. And he said, "Mom, we can't eat that." She said, "Oh, sure." She poured it into the bigger bowl and said, "Would you like to lick this bowl?" He's like, "No, that's disgusting." And she said, "But what you don't understand, son, is it is just a little bit of poop." And all of a sudden, he realized that just a little bit of ungodliness is too much.

- Parents- are you teaching/modeling how to treat people of the opposite sex by how you treat your spouse? Biblical love...biblical marriage is counter-cultural today!

Conclusion:

Parenting is job one. See Barna ppgs.24-25

What is a spiritual champion? Barna's description on xvi-xvii

ClearView Challenge: