

Instill A Biblical WorldView (Part 3 of 3)

ParentHood- Week 5

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Introduction:

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.

We've been looking at Deuteronomy 6. Here, Moses is encouraging his people to teach God's commandments to their children. Speaking of these commandments, Moses gives one of the greatest teachings on parenthood in all of scripture. The first few verses of Deut. 6 talk about the fact that when we teach a respect for God and His principles to our children- we will not only impact our children, but their children, and our grandchildren's children... God's truth will positively impact 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:*

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.***

Along with demonstrating a love for God in our words, thoughts, and actions, our kids 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. Kids must understand that God exists and that God transcends them and is in authority over them.
- b. **God is One.** God wants your children to know that He is the only one true God. **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.**
- c. **God is Creator**
 - God created the earth.
 - 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.

d. God has revealed Truth.

e. God has provided standards.

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.

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?

What are you committed to, wholeheartedly? What gets your highest allegiance? What do you spend the bulk of your time on? Your money? What do you think most about? These will show where your heart is.

God is instructing us- make my Word the focus of your heart.

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. What is so important about this is: **If I have God's words on my heart, they will come out of my mouth. If I have God's words as the focus of my heart, His principles will be lived out in my life.** And, when I speak God's words and live God's principles... I am set up to speak God's words and impress them on my children.

The Bible is saying that we should talk about God's words everywhere...we should incorporate God's words into every part of life at home-- 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.

In Old Testament times, God's people took these verses literally. They actually made little containers called Phylacteries. Phylacteries contained passages of key Scriptures (like Deut. 6) on parchment. Then, they would take these containers filled with Scriptures and strap them to their foreheads. They did the same thing on the doorposts of their homes and anytime someone entered or exited the home, they would touch the pouch of Bible verses as a sign of respect to God's Word and a sign that God's word was honored in that home.

You might not tie a box of Bible verses to your head...but you can live out these instructions in every day life. To live out these verses, you:

1. You connect (to God and your children)

Here's the truth: **you can't live out Deuteronomy 6:6-9 without spending a lot of time with your kids. This is true for at least two reasons:**

1. 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.
2. To direct a child's worldview towards God, it means you have taken advantage of the countless times throughout the day where there are opportunities to apply God's principles to everyday life situations. I must be present in my children's lives in order to be there when the opportunity presents itself to tell them about God or relate a life experience to God's Word.

When we take this role of connecting to our child's heart seriously, it 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.*

Here's a truth to parent by: **My level of relationship with my children 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, disconnection, loneliness, 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 (Revolutionary Parenting, pg.19): Your impact on your children's lives is proportional to the depth of the relationship you have fostered with them.

In speaking of traits of parents of spiritual champions, Barna writes (pg.33): *The research revealed an amazing insight into just how much time was spent in dialogue between parent and child on a typical day. The figures ranged between 90 and 120 minutes... To place that in context, the typical American family registers less than 15 minutes of direct parent-child conversation each day. Imagine what a difference it would make if you had six times as much daily verbal interaction with your child!*

2. 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.

This is one of the most central issues in parenting. Who is leading the home? This is always a huge red flag to me- when I observe parents who are beholden to their kids. The kids decide where the family is going to eat dinner. The kids decide what's on the TV. The kids decide when they are going to bed. The kids decide whether the family will go to church or not. The kids decide what is for dinner. The family revolves around what Johnny and Sally want to do or don't want to do.

Obviously, the problem with this is that kids don't know what is best for them. They don't always know right from wrong. They don't have a long-term perspective. They don't understand the dangers of selfishness.

Mom's and Dad's- it is our job to lead. It is our job to set standards. It is our job to expect obedience. It is our job to set our hearts on God's word and structure the life of our family according to it's principles.

Here's the truth: **kids are little sinners.** If left to themselves, they're going to choose what feels good. They are going to choose what is easy. They are going to choose what is best for them without regard for what is best for their sibling, parents, or playmate. **It is our job to lead them. To train them. To direct their hearts towards God's principles.**

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

- a. Have you articulated standards for behavior?
- b. Have you communicated standards for language?
- c. Are you providing some sort of family focus on spiritual truth (family devotions, etc.)?

READ Barna pg. 31

- d. Do you kids understand how you spend money and why they can't have everything they want?
- e. Are you serving God as a family?
- f. Moms and Dads- do you have boundaries- date night? Is your bed a sacred place?
- g. What the standards for entertainment in your house?
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.

Is your home child centered or parent led?

3. You set the agenda (culture does not)

The reality is- if you are going to raise spiritual champions... you are going to live counter culturally.

- a. Culture will say- Parenting isn't so much about character development as it is "providing" for your children. The way this plays out is that we can rationalize working all kinds of hours and having both parents working out of the home because we need to maintain a certain standard of living. Culture says maximize work time and look for "quality time" with kids.

The problem with this, as we have said already, is that you can't instill a biblical worldview in kids with out spending **quantity** time with them. **Parents who want to raise spiritual champions recognize that their main role in life is parenting- not climbing the corporate ladder.**

While writing about conditions for successfully raising children that love God and serve Him with their lives, George Barna writes ([Revolutionary Parenting](#), pg.24):

A final condition for success that we discovered is that those who produce spiritual champions embrace parenting as their primary job in life. The nature of who their children will become assumes such importance that these parents recognize that their career is a means to an end of raising progeny who please God. Combined with the realization that effective parenting is conducted "in the moment," this means that parenting is their full-time job; the job they get paid to do is simply an addendum to the most important work they will do in life.

- b. Culture will say- "It takes a village to raise a child". This African proverb was magnified in 1996 when Hillary Clinton wrote a book by the same title. This is highlighting our tendency to pass off responsibility or key roles in parenting to others. Parenting is hard work. Add to that how busy most of us are and it's just plain easier to hope kids will learn what they need to learn about life through all kinds of extra-curricular activities, school, church, day-care, etc.

We must be clear with ourselves- *God has given my wife and I the responsibility of directing the hearts of 4 little people to Him. It is no one else's job. In fact, God gave them to us because He wanted us to guide them.* **By God's grace, and with God's Word, you have what you need to raise your children!**

- c. Culture will say- you must expose your children to as many activities as possible. They should try every sport. They should play a musical instrument. You should check out dance and acting. After all, ***what if you don't try something and then miss the fact that your kid would have been an all-star in that pursuit?*** Isn't that the thought that haunts every American parent?

Here's the reality: we have filled our schedules so full that there is little time for discovering God's word together. I mean really, on a typical day- you get home from work, you get dinner, you do all the hours of homework (because of course homework is more important than family Bible learning), you fit in all the trips to everyone's sports (sometimes more than one per kid per night!) and then get everyone cleaned up to do it all again the next day- **there's no time for what's most important.**

Living counter-culturally means that we make time to pursue God together, got to church together and worship, and serve God together **before everything else.**

We could go a lot farther with this... but the point is **if you want to raise your kids according to God's plan... you will look different.** You will have different standards than your neighbors. You will have different goals.

4. You model what you want your children to live.

- How do you treat members of the opposite sex?
- How do you speak about people when they aren't around?
- Do you forgive? Do you ask for forgiveness?
- Do you have integrity in everything?
- How do you handle money? Are you generous? Does God get priority?
- What do you watch? What do you read?
- What are your personal habits of growing with God?
- Are you serving in the church?
- Are you sharing your faith?

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!

5. You celebrate God's faithfulness as a family. Psalm 78:1-8

Conclusion:

What are you going for? What is your goal? What traits do you want to see instilled in your children? What will they believe? What will their character be like? What is your plan for getting there?

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

ClearView Challenge:

Map your path to developing spiritual champions:

- What will they believe?
- How will they act?
- How will you teach these values and model these traits?