

# **The Home**

*Howard Hendricks*

## I. Two experiences that marked me for life:

A. A woman promised to bring her children to church so that the church could train them up in the faith.

1. This is a fraud.
2. It gives the parents someone to blame if their child doesn't turn out to their specifications.

B. A church in the east had such a busy schedule that it left no night to cultivate a home life.

1. Is it possible that our churches are doing more to break up our homes than they are to build them up?
2. Are we engaged in a program of cooperation or competition with the home?
3. The church is not and can never become a substitute for a parent.

## II. Two divinely ordained agencies in the Bible.

### A. The Church

1. Training ground.
2. Equip parents to do their work in the home.

### B. The Home

1. A proving ground for training those who will take over places of leadership in the church.
2. Elder, deacon qualification is that he must rule well in his home.
3. The church and the home, in cooperation, have the child for 84% of his time. If they do their job that should be ample time to infect him spiritually.

## III. The Home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

### A. Historical backdrop.

1. A bad decision made at Kadesh Barnea.
2. An entire generation purged in the wilderness.

## B. Practical exhortations.

1. God's truth must be a thing of the heart. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)
  - a) Revelation always demands a response.
    - 1) Must be a response of love.
  - b) Relationship always determines reality.
    - 1) Must see the word of God worked out in your life.
    - 2) You must change so that your children will change.
    - 3) You cannot impart what you do not possess.
2. Not only must God's truth be a thing of the heart, it must also be a thing of the home.
  - a) If it is not in the heart it will never be in the home. (Deuteronomy 6:7)
  - b) Teach - formal training, structured.
    - 1) Intensive stem.
    - 2) You can never train your children unless you know something.
    - 3) One day the children will ask why, you better give it to them straight. (Deuteronomy 6:20)
  - c) Talk - Informal means of instruction, spontaneous, non-structured
    - 1) God is going to build into the patterns of your home life the greatest and most strategic opportunities to relate the truth of the word of God to the life and experience of a child.
    - 2) Teaching comes through loud and clear in this setting and no one seems to worry about when it is supposed to end.
3. It must be a thing of the habit. (Deuteronomy 6:8-9)
  - a) If it is not in the heart then it will never be in the home and if it is not in the home it will never be in the habit patterns of your children because that is where habit patterns are developed.
  - b) The word of God was to control everything they did.
  - c) The word of God was to control everything they thought.
  - d) The word of God was to control you business life.

## IV. Is God's truth upon my heart?