

Date : 8 October 2023
Theme : Possessing our Inheritance
Topic : Learning and Teaching God's laws
Key Passages : *Deuteronomy 6*
Key Verse : *Impress them on your children Deuteronomy 6:7*

Introduction

God has given us His Word, not just for ourselves but to pass it on to the next generation. The antidote for turning the godless tide in our culture lies in the hands of God's people in His church – how do we pass on God's laws effectively to future generations. To help our children reimagine a different future, from God's perspective, I wish to focus on two key words: Impress. Express.

To impress another, you must first be impressed with God's Word, which is...

- God's timeless truth

King David prayed ...*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful (behold wondrous kjv) things in Your law... Psalm 119:18*

The Holy Spirit's full-time job is to show...*all truth...* (=show you the wonder of His Word *John 16:13*), especially to reveal the truth about the beauty and wisdom of God, the Son.

You will be able to receive the Spirit's revelation of truth when you make time to meditate on the Word.

- God's endless treasure

Jesus said your store room should be full of treasures old and new.

Your heart to be a store room of these treasures. *Matthew 13:52*

- Old treasures are truths about God's promises / commands which had impacted you before.

- New treasures are truths about the Lord you have recently acquired.

You have treasures to give away from your store room, when you are an effective learner.

- The prophet Isaiah wrote (of our Lord Jesus). ...*The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue (the tongue of the learned kjv) to know the word that sustains the weary... Isaiah 50:4*

How did the Lord impress the 2 disciples on the evening of His resurrection?

He opened the Word (from His treasure store room) to them. Were they impressed?

What did they say after that encounter with Jesus? ...*were not our hearts burning within us when He talked with us on the road and opened (impressed) the Scriptures to us?... Luke 24:32*

1. Why impress God's Word on the young?

- Leave an impress of God's love in their hearts

Parents can help their youngsters make decisions they will not regret.

It is common to see tattoos impressed on bodies of the younger demographics. According to statistics, around 17% of those regret getting them. We see some people paying hard-earned money to get tattoos removed while other teenagers work so hard and save to get one.

Instead of tattoos impressed on the bodies, we can leave an imprint of God's love on their hearts, through the sharing of God's Word.

- Teach for the perpetuity of the church is at stake

A decade ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, warned that Christianity in the UK was just a generation away from extinction. God's Word in Deuteronomy says that cultural irrelevance or low church attendance is not the driving force of this extinction. The real threat is not on them, but us – our own failure to pass on what we have learned and believed to those who come after us ...*the next generation, the children yet unborn, their children... Psalm 78:6-7*

2. When and How do we seek to impress God's laws? *Deuteronomy 6:7*

(Start early, regularly, all the time, every situation, use all opportunities to share the Word).

- Focussed time...*when you sit at home... Deuteronomy 6:7*
Specific time – daily, weekly, age-specific, 15-30 mins per session per day.
Sit with your children and open your bibles together (no digital bibles, please)
- Travel time ...*when you walk along the road... Deuteronomy 6:7*
Captive audience – in the car, train etc (no headphones, please)
Alone time before children's teen years.
- Bedtime ...*when you lie down... Deuteronomy 6:7*
Listening to their stories of the day
Talking before bed
Reading from Proverbs, age-appropriate books.
- Start of the day...*when you rise up... Deuteronomy 6:7*
Seeking God's wisdom for the day
Doing devotions with children
Depending on season of life (eg. newborns)

How do we seek to impress God's laws? *Deuteronomy 6:7-9*

- Talk about them
Not only believe privately but talk/teach/reach your family in the home at appropriate times.
- Tie God's commandments on your body=Have it near you all the time 24/7.
Have God's commandments in view and in mind.
- Testify in public...*write on door posts and on gates.*
(Most houses in Israel did not have gates. Gates refer to city gates=gates of the cities)
 - Writing God's laws on door posts of houses and on gates implies sharing God's laws to the community, making public so people become acquainted with the laws of God.
- Open a conversation to questions asked.
Be ready with a clear answer to question connected with God's laws.

Question:

What is the meaning behind all the ...*stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded?... Deuteronomy 6:20*

Answer with a view to bring God's story into our life's history

- i) Our situation: We were slaves to sin and under the enemy. *Deuteronomy 6:21*
- ii) Our Deliverer: ...*the Lord brought us out of Egypt (bondage) and brought us to our inheritance... Deuteronomy 6:21-23*
- iii) Our Lord's command: – obey all His commandments and fear the Lord our God.
Deuteronomy 6:24-25
- iv) Our changed status
God has promised we will be righteous in His sight, if we carefully obey all His laws always.

3. Express God's Laws as God's love language

a) How do we leave an imprint of God's love on young hearts?

- Share what this means from God's perspective.
The Lord God has expressed His love for us by rescuing us from slavery and enemy domination and to give us an inheritance. He then explicitly makes known how we can respond by loving Him in a covenantal relationship. He values our love when we express it with all our heart, soul and strength. All our heart, not half-heartedly; all our soul means our choices; all our strength is the effort we exert for His glory. This response of wholehearted devotion from our hearts is the love language He treasures.

b) How do we express God's laws through the Bible's historical accounts.

They are God's judgements which help us see how His laws apply.

Example 1 Moses first encounter with God at the burning bush

How should the story be told to highlight His law on holiness and obedience?

Example 2 He heard their cry as slaves and wanted to deliver them.

- o He appointed Moses to be a partner in His work.
- o Moses initially rejected His will and did not want to obey.
- o Why was God angry when Moses started giving excuses?

God was angry because Moses did not acknowledge His Lordship.

God answered Moses that He created man in His own image, He had the right to be revered as Lord and to be obeyed. God's intention was for the good of the entire nation.

Example 3 Commandment No. 1 – No other gods. How do we identify the One true God?

The One who, through the miracle of creation, manifested Himself and expressed it with His love language of relationship, communion and intimacy when He created mankind.

c) What is the Teacher's challenge in expressing God's love message in the Bible?

i) How to impart enthusiasm for excellence.

- o All my Heart

Love the Lord wholeheartedly through meditating about God through His Word.

Take it to heart. Give weightage to God as the Lord, put Him first.

- o All my Soul

Choose to direct all my attention and enthusiasm to appreciate His love language.

The soul is the seat of my affection. Express my love in the language God appreciates = my obedience. *John 14:21*

- o All my Strength

M.O.V.E

- **M**ove with maximum effort (attention to details)
- **O**vercome inertia (from spectating to participating)
- **V**alue God's presence, favour (not take for granted)
- **E**nergised by God's Spirit (not depend on own talents)

ii) How to inspire learning by my own attitude.

- o Personal enthusiasm in expressing the wonders of God's Word.
- o Avoid routine and taking this task as duty only
- o Tell whys before the hows
- o Benefits God has promised.

iii) How to instil the correct attitudes for learning.

Application

- How would you share God's love language through the following bible narratives?

- o Creation – God is love because

- o God creates man – God shows His love when He

- o God forewarns Noah about the flood – God.....