

Title: Developing a biblical family culture through love

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What is culture?

A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviours, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

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- Listen, Learn, Love, and Leave a Legacy.
- We are the 'true Israel', a family of families, the covenant community of God.
- If we make God's story our story instead, we are putting the emphasis on the wrong syllable.
- At the heart of the OT (Deut 6:5) and the NT (Mark 12:30) is a love relationship with God.
- "The one God, Yahweh, should be the centre of our universe, and love for Him should be the gravity that keeps us in orbit around Him."
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Complete Devotion

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

- Love is not just an emotion!
- Loving God with ALL your head, heart, and hands implies complete devotion.
- 'The best thing you can do for your children is...'
- Love for others is only an expression of love for God.
- Love = ultimate motive 1 Cor 13
- Complete devotion to God is not possible in our own strength.
- Read Deut 10:12-16; 30:1-3, 6.
- Deut 30:6 And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

- "God creates what He commands." - John Piper

Areas of Discipleship

- Head, heart, and hands are also the main areas of discipleship.
- Sometimes we tend to emphasize the one at the expense of the others.
- Rank head, heart, and hands.
- The solution - like Joseph and his brothers.
- Love for God is caught and taught.
- We must express our love for God in head, heart, and hands
- Head: remember God in everything and think through the implications of decisions.
- Heart: be aware of and deal with your 'shadow values'.
- Hands: serve God joyfully and invite your children to join in.
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Conclusion

- Receive the grace to love God with head, heart, and hands.
- Disciple your children in head, heart, and hands.
- Think about this: If we don't listen, learn, and love, we will still leave a legacy, but what kind of legacy will it be?