

# THE DUTY OF PARENTS: TEACH CHILDREN THE TRUTH OF SALVATION AND OF THE COMMANDMENTS DEUTERONOMY 06:20–25

## *Introduction*

What is the greatest force on earth? Some military weapon? The authority of some world leader? The power of some machine? Technology? Economic power? Enormous wealth?

All these possess a dynamic force, enormous power. But they are not the greatest force on earth. The greatest force known to man is *love, true love*. If need be, *true love* drives a person to make the ultimate sacrifice, that of giving his life on behalf of the person or thing loved. Love is defined as affection, admiration, warm attachment, devotion, unselfish concern and loyalty that seeks the good of another person or cause. It means to hold dear and cherish, to be tender and affectionate toward some person, thing or cause.

No better description of love has ever been given than the one spelled out by Holy Scripture (1 Cor 13:4-8). In the words of Scripture...

- Love suffers long, and is kind.
- Love does not envy.
- Love does not vaunt itself and is not puffed up.
- Love does not behave itself unseemly, does not seek her own, is not easily provoked and thinks no evil.
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth.
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Love never fails.

The greatest commandment ever given by God is the commandment dealing with love. This is the great subject of the present passage: *The Summary of the Commandments — the Greatest Commandment of All: Love the LORD*, Deuteronomy 6:1-25.

- I. The primary charge of God given to families: to teach children to obey His commandments (vv. 1-3).
  - II. The greatest commandment (vv. 4-5).
  - III. The duty of the parent (vv. 6-9).
  - IV. The blessings promised to the faithful parent: Prosperity (vv. 10-11).
  - V. The danger of prosperity: comfort — ease — satisfaction (vv. 11-19).
  - VI. The duty to teach the truth of salvation and of the commandments to children (vv. 20-25).
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***Deuteronomy 06:20–25 The Duty of Parents:  
Teach Children the Truth of Salvation and of the Commandments***

Moses preached the duty to teach the truth of salvation and of the commandments to children. Teaching the truth to children is one of the primary duties of parents. Moses understood children: he knew that children would be asking about God and His commandments when they heard God or the commandments mentioned. This was and is, particularly true when a family focuses upon the LORD and His Word or commandments. When children asked an Israelite believer about the wonderful truth of God's deliverance from Egypt, the parents were to explain to the children what had happened. He was to explain how God had delivered His people from Egyptian slavery by miraculous signs and wonders and how God had executed judgment against the Egyptians and Pharaoh (vv. 21-22). The parents were also to explain how God had brought them to the promised land, given them the great inheritance sworn to the forefathers, that is, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 23).

But explaining salvation was not enough: the parents had to teach the truth of God's commandments to their children (vv. 24-25). The parents were to teach the wonderful promise of God — that if they obeyed God, the most wonderful results would happen: they would prosper and be preserved.

=> They would be counted righteous before God. The word righteousness, tsedaqah, is taken from the root word tsadaq or sadaq which means to be righteous; to cleanse or clear oneself; to make righteous or to turn to righteousness; to be in the right; to be justified; to be just. The basic meaning of the word righteousness is exactly what the English word says: to be righteous, noble, honest, good. Moses was declaring that the person who obeyed God would be counted righteous before God. He would become acceptable to God.

***Thought 1.*** There are two strong lessons for us in this point.

(1) Parents must teach their children the truth of salvation and the importance of God's Holy Word or commandments.

***John 21:15*** When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, LORD," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

***2 Tim 1:5*** I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

***2 Tim 3:15*** And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

***Deut 4:9*** Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

**Deut 31:13** *Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.*

**Prov 22:6** *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

**Isa 28:9** *Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?*

(2) Since, the coming of Jesus Christ, righteousness is by faith through Christ and not by the works of the law. No person can keep the law perfectly; therefore, God accepts a person only when he comes through the righteousness of Christ and through His righteousness alone. A person must approach God through Christ in order to be accepted by God. But once a person has been accepted by God, he must seek to obey God and to fulfil the commandments of God.

**Acts 13:39** *Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.*

**Rom 5:1** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**1 Cor 6:11** *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

**2 Cor 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**Gal 3:6** *Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

**Gal 3:10-14** *All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

**Gal 3:24** *So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

**Gen 15:6** *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. ■*