

# Parents are People

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

B. We are torn by conflicting views on parenting.

C. We must come back to the authority of the Scriptures on these.

1. Children cannot be raised in a totally protected environment such as a Christian school.

2. The home must be the place where this happens.

## II. What the parents are supposed to teach their children: love the Lord.

A. It is a curriculum for a lifetime.

B. It all centers on the fact of God.

1. It is based on wisdom.

2. Successful secular homes are living on the capital of faith from a previous generation.

3. God is the place to begin to make sense out of life.

C. Man's relationship to God is one of trustful obedience.

1. The beginning of knowledge is the recognition of God as the central fact and one's relationship of trust and obedience to Him.

2. Truth proceeds from the wisdom and knowledge of God.

a. Man as he is, is not what he once was.

b. Man is evil as he is now with only a potential for good.

c. The only way for man to realize his potential for good is law with love.

1) Law without love creates rebellion.

2) Love without law creates contempt.

3) Law is for the discovery of life, but love is for the realization of it.

## III. The process of teaching.

A. Parental priority.

1. The place to start is with the parents.
2. Parents must realize that children are only with them temporarily—they themselves must become what God wants.
3. Parents do not exist for their children—they exist to be people of God foremost.
4. Parents must free themselves from the responsibility of children and the children must be taught to be dependent.
5. Children follow examples and not words.

B. Personal development or relationship.

C. Life related process of teaching.

D. The ground of authority—the ultimate power parents can utilize in affecting their children.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the explanation for the gap between secular education and proper Christian education in the home? Explain.

---

---

2. What is the proper relationship between the law and love?

---

---

3. Why is it important for parents to have their own relationship with God and not just teach godly principles for the sake of their children alone? Explain.

---

---