The New Testament Church Christian Education Sunday

Generational Continuity September 13, 2020 – Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Shema

- A. Set in the context of generational continuity Deuteronomy 6:1-3
 - 1. Fear the Lord, and keep all His statutes and Laws
 - 2. "you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged" (see also Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- B. The Shema (hear) Deuteronomy 6:4-6
 - 1. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God; the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
 - 2. Marvin Wilson in Our Father Abraham writes "A careful navigation of early sources suggests that Deuteronomy 6:4 must have been the first portion from the Hebrew Bible that Jesus committed to memory. According to the Babylonian Talmud (Sukkah 42a), Jewish boys were taught this Biblical passage as soon as they could speak. Since the Talmud specifies that 'the father must teach him' (i.e., the son), we may confidently assume that Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, was responsible for fulfilling this task."

II How does Generational Continuity work?

- A. The greatest moves of God in history connected three consecutive generations
 - 1. The enemy works to separate generations; Eph. 6:12 indicates family lines a stronghold
 - 2. Malachi 4 indicates God's desire to turn the hearts of fathers to children
 - 3. Though the family is the root of generational continuity, it is not its limit (consider *Joseph* who made an impact when single, *Jeremiah*, *Paul the Apostle*, *John the Baptist*, *Anna (widowed)*, *Martha*, including *Jesus!* God gives grandparents influence, often through story-telling)
- B. Note how the torch is passed effectively it must include heart, head and hand Dt. 6:7-9 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - 1. Hebrew education is set in the context of the family heart to heart; yet we know the same dynamic of heart to heart impartation can take place in churches / other contexts with teachers
 - 2. Hebrew education establishes wisdom (not only knowledge) heart, head, hand
 - 3. Hebrew education was practical and lived out in an occupation (not theory)
 - 4. Consistency in the simple outline of Deuteronomy 6 is for optimum success

Heart	Head	Hand
Talk about them when sitting in your house, walking on your way, going to bed, rising up	Teach (lamad – make a mark in the mind; principled reasoning) them diligently	A sign on your hand (behavior), between your eyes (confidence), on the doorposts of your house (your occupation)

- 5. We live in a culture today which is the result of not imparting to the next generation!
- 6. Make it your goal to impart, inform and inspire those within your influence!

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