



On this ***Mother's Day*** we are going to be discussing a topic related to the family... that being the “Old School” practice of Home Building.

Now some of you might think..... wait, Home Building isn't “***Old School***”... .. people start families and form households every single day. And you would be right... we haven't stopped having children or forming households.

But what *has* changed is our cultural perceptions about what **sort** of “Home” we aim to “Build”.



When I use the phrase Home Building I'm not talking about building the structure of the house you live in... but rather building the ***structural principles/truths*** that guide your family.

Because every family has guiding principles... some of those principles have been thoughtfully planned out and are built upon a solid foundation.

Other families also have guiding principles... but they aren't intentionally planned out, they are "shoot from the hip" and therefore built upon a shifting foundation.

And so what we are going to talk about this morning is how we can ensure that we are moving forward as families intentionally toward the biblical principles that God desires for our families.



Alright, now a lot of us got our cultural perception of Home Building not from anything **biblical** but rather from how we learn most things in our culture (unfortunately) ... from good *Old Fashioned Television*.

And you know recently TV Guide issued a survey asking, “*If you could join a TV family which one would you join?*”

For me that one’s easy... when I was a child I loved the TV show the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. In my child’s eye this was the perfect family... I mean who wouldn’t want a rich Aunt and Uncle to sweep in and fix all your problems... 😊.

Now for me it was Fresh Prince.....





But perhaps you grew up in the 50's or 60's and the ***Cleaver*** family in ***Leave it to Beaver*** modeled for you what Home Building looked like

I actually watched re-runs of this show as a child... and I enjoyed it, it was like finding a time capsule.





Or perhaps it was the **Seaver** family in the 80's hit Growing Pains.....this was the prototypical 80's American family.

I think on some level everyone who watched this show wanted to be a **Seaver**.



## THIS IS **US**

Currently a top rated show about a family is ***This Is Us***..... now I haven't seen this show but I've been told that viewers get sucked into this sweeping story of a family's fight for love across time.



Church isn't it interesting that one of our main modes of entertainment is to watch other families try to build their lives in this crazy, broken world.

No doubt many of you have recently binge watched some family dramas in our time of extended quarantine.

The point I'm trying to make is that how we go about raising a family and building a home..... these principles should not come from mass media... but rather God has given us a really good blueprint on the **Old School** foundational steps we can take today, as we Build our Home and raise the next generation.

Now for those of you who do not have children, or have yet to have children or are unmarried..... this doesn't mean you can tune this message out.





Because Home Building isn't just about the nuclear family... yes Moms and Dads play a clearly critical role in the development of future generations but so do single Sunday School teachers, and Awana workers, and Aunts, Uncles, Coaches and neighbors.....ect.

Home Building starts with the nuclear family but it extends into the church and to so many other areas of life. And so if you care about the generations to come this message is for you.

The last thing that I'll say about this for those who are not currently married with children...is that what we are going to be talking about this morning is wisdom that has been passed down for millennia, that God himself said was of utmost importance.



And so even if you cannot put all of what we are going to talk about today into practical application yourself today..... you can most certainly share this message with someone who can.

Now, the passage of scripture that Jan read this morning from Deuteronomy chapter 6 is arguably one of the most important passages in the entire Bible...now that's a strong claim but Jesus thought the same as He quoted this passage as a part of the greatest command in Mark chapter 12.

This truth from God was spoken to the people of Israel by Moses as the Nation was preparing to enter into the Promised Land.



But before they would enter God wanted to ensure that they had proper instruction/understanding before they moved forward.

And in this passage Deuteronomy 6:4-9 we find what is known as the Hebrew Shema. Shema in Hebrew means [to hear]. And our scripture text for this morning was what God wanted the Nation of Israel [to hear] as they were preparing themselves to enter into the Promised Land.

Think of this as the pep talk that the coach gives the team right before the big game.....in that instance the coach is going to say the most critical things the team needs to hear and that is what we see in this text.

Here God summarizes the essence of their faith... and His words have an emphasis on what takes place in the home.





**What truths do we build our home on?**

**How do we teach these truths in our home?**

And so in our time this morning we are going to be examining ***two central questions*** that arise from the Shema. Those questions being.....

**What truths do we build our home on?**

Meaning, what are the priorities that my home should be build upon?

And the second question is...

**How do we teach these truths in our home?**

Meaning, How do we practically teach biblical truth in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century context.

The good news is that scripture does such a good job of answering both of these questions... and I'm excited to dive back into the text to see what God has for us there.



**What truths do we build our home on?**

## **Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (ESV)**

**<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.**

And so, starting with the first question... ***What truths do we build our home on?*** In verse 4 we read, ***“Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God, the Lord is One.”***

Church the fact that God’s One is central to His character, it is one of the most important things about Him. It means that He stands **ALONE** as our creator/sustainer... and therefore **HE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN EXISTENCE.**

You see, the doctrine of there being only one God was a direct contrast to the theologies of the cultures surrounding the Israelites.

Other religious systems, including that of the Egyptians, served a wide variety of gods and goddesses. The worship of only one God made the faith of the Hebrews completely unique in the ancient world.



What truths do we build our home on?

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But you see God knows that once the Israelites cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land they will be exposed to many false gods that will lead many astray, tearing apart families as children flee THE ONE TRUE GOD to pursue, the new shiny god that ISN'T EVEN REAL.

And even though it might look different for us today... we are threatened with the same scenario in our modern context.

But instead of us being lured away by golden calves, gods and goddesses..... today we are primarily lured away by the false gods of consumerism, ego, and leisure where the focus isn't on **God being the One** but rather the focus is on **Us being the One**.





What truths do we build our home on?

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God knows that our hearts are prone to wander away from Him and so here he reminds us of ***His Foundational Oneness*** that we might remember ***His Supremacy***... .and build our homes/teach our children upon this truth.

I don't have to tell you, because you already know that our culture is moving in the opposite direction.

### Illustration:

I recently read a quote from noted Author and Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias with regards to how our culture/homes are losing their foundation.



Ravi said that while he was on a lectureship at Ohio State University. He passed their new Wexner Art Center. The staff person accompanying him said, *"This is a new art building for the university. It is a fascinating building designed in the post-modernist view of reality. The building has no pattern. Staircases go nowhere. Pillars support nothing. The architect designed the building to reflect life."*

Ravi said he turned to the man describing all this and asked, "Did they do the same thing with the foundation?" The staff person laughed because he realized, that while you can build a staircase to nowhere and that's cute (I guess), you better make sure that foundation is secure.



**What truths do we build our home on?**

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**And what Deuteronomy chapter 6 is telling us is that THE foundational truth we are to build our homes upon is the *supremacy/oneness of God*.**

And upon that foundation verse 5 tells us we are to then... ***“love the Lord you God with all your heart, soul, and might.”***

What this means is that we are to take the knowledge of God’s primacy and we are to then choose Him wholeheartedly.

The reason why heart, soul and might are listed is because this was to signify how **comprehensively** we are surrendering to Him... ..WITH EVERYTHING WE’VE GOT.



**What truths do we build our home on?**

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Verse 6, reads **“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”**

Meaning that this isn't simply mental exercise..... yes there is a level of understanding associated with this clearly, but God is primarily after our hearts.

Because God knows once our hearts are rendered towards Him.... our behaviors and actions will follow suit.

Once God has our hearts..... building our lives/homes upon His truths will not be burdensome rather it will be JOYFUL TO US.





## Illustration:

You know one of the things that has become a lot more common within the home (these days) is to have video security cameras that can record inside/outside 24/7.

And whether you have one or not imagine with me for a moment that there was a recording of everything that went on in your home over the period of a month.

And then at the end of that month that recording was analyzed to determine your families top priorities. What would be the result of that analysis?

We all CRINGE at the thought of that right!?!?! Why?

Because we all are aware of the fact that we often miss the mark and prioritize things that lay outside of God's will for our families.



You know one of the biggest blessing that I've had in my life was being raised by parents who prioritized God over everything.

My parents were not perfect, but if that camera had been in my home growing up... whoever analyzed that data would have said, ***“these people are Jesus Freaks!”***

And you know growing up with that heritage has overcome so many of the mistakes that I know I would have made in my life... had I not been shown the Gospel hundreds of time as a child.

But you see a part of the reason my parents prioritized God in our home was because they were not raised that way as children, but by the grace of God they had to work through many struggles in life in order to be in a place were they finally did prioritize God over everything.



They sought to Home Build in such a way that their children might not make the same mistakes they made... and I am preaching to you right now in large part because of their efforts.

And now Kaely and I (as imperfect as we are) are trying to replicate that process... making Jesus Christ the most important thing within our Home... building upon that foundation... leaving a legacy that (Lord willing) will live on long after we are gone.

But what about you, your family? Are you Home Building to leave a legacy? And if so, what legacy will you leave those who come after you? There are some of the most important questions we can ask ourselves.



### **What truths do we build our home on?**

- **God (Yahweh) is the only supreme being**
- **God is to be loved and obeyed with everything we have**
- **Our hearts are to be His**

Ok let's summarize.

### **What truths do we build our home on based on Deuteronomy 6:4-6?**

**God (Yahweh) is the only supreme being**

**God is to be loved and obeyed with everything we have**

**Our hearts are to be His**

Now this is an “Old School” perspective..... the post-modernists who build stair cases that go nowhere and have declared that God is dead, they will scoff at these ideas.





## **What truths do we build our home on?**

- **God (Yahweh) is the only supreme being**
- **God is to be loved and obeyed with everything we have**
- **Our hearts are to be His**

But you know the Apostle Paul said it best in I Corinthians 1:18 where he says that,  
*“The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

Church if you have tasted the gift of what it means to know God, being reconciled by the blood of the lamb, no amount of scoffing can wrestle your JOY away.

We who have been redeemed know that we are building our homes upon a firm foundation... ..so do not allow the nay-sayers to steal your JOY.

Press on toward making God the center of your home.



And this leads us back to our text because Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is basically God calling the Nation of Israel to prioritize HIM OVER EVERYTHING.

And so we answered the question ***What Truths Do We Build Our Home On?***

And so now let's move onto verse 7 where our text will begin to answer our second question for this morning, ***How Do We Teach These Truths In Our Home?***



How do we teach these truths in our home?

## Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Re-reading the text it says

**Read:**

What verses 7-9 describe is **DELIBERATE SATURATION OF GOD'S TRUTH WITHIN THE HOME.**

You know the Israelites lived in an Agrarian society and one of the implications of this is that families were together all the time.... working together in the field, eating every meal together, often 3 generations would live in one small home.

*You think your quarantine is rocky, imagine living with 3 generations in something the size of a NYC studio apartment. #notfun*

But, there were many benefits of this.



How do we teach these truths in our home?

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Notice in verse 7... the first thing God mentions about HOW TO TEACH THESE TRUTHS IN THE HOME... HE HIGHLIGHTS THE CHILDREN!

Why, because our children are our future! God's plan here was for children to grow up in an immersive culture that was focused on the MOST IMPORTANT THING LOVING HIM.

Another thing we see here in verse 7 is that we are to ***talk about God in our home***. Friends, do you have a family devotional time, do you talk with your children and amongst your family about spiritual issues? Again, what is being described here is a ***deliberate saturation*** in the things of God... IOs that the rhythm of your home right now?





How do we teach these truths in our home?



The passage goes on to describe **this deliberate saturation** going further...invading our time spent outside of the home... God being the first thing on our minds and the last thing on our minds.

Tying symbols on our hands and foreheads, and on our doorframes and gates.

And while some have taken the step to do these things literally... (here is a picture of a young Jewish boy wearing what is called Tefillin) and (a picture of Rabbi's inscribing Shema on this doorpost)

I think what God is **ultimately** aiming at here is that we move closer and closer each new day to surrendering more and more of our **heart** to Him.



How do we teach these truths in our home?



And Church this is where the Gospel comes into play.

Because you will not be able to DELIBERATELY SATURATE your home in the things of God if you are not IN LOVE WITH JESUS.

If you have not recognized His great salvation in your life and how you would be LOST without HIM.

You will be able to go to church, and dabble in ministry when it's convenient for you. But if Christ does not have your **Heart** he will not have your **Home**.

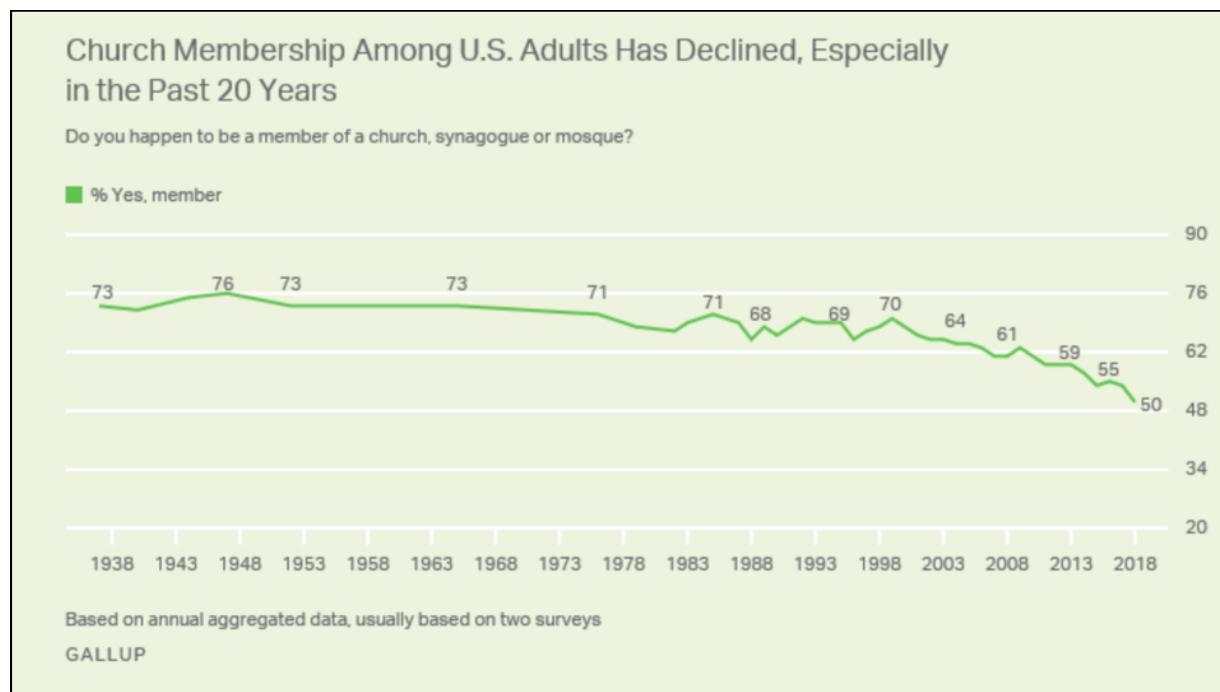
No doubt there are many who are listening to this who feel that God needs to have more of an impact on what goes on inside your HOME and I say MAKE TODAY THE DAY that you decide to make a change.



You know one of the great things about being on lockdown is that our culture now mimics that Old School Agrarian culture that is a little bit slower, where families spend a lot more time together.

Church if there was ever a time in your life to work out some kinks at the foundation of your Household NOW IS THE TIME!

Do not waste this extended time you have with your family.... DREAM about what might come if you were to place JESUS AT THE CENTER OF YOUR FAMILY LIFE. Deliberately Saturating your family in the things God.



Because here's what's at stake.

This is a graph that was developed by GALLUP that depicts U.S. Church attendance of since the 30's.

And you will notice a huge drop off starting about 20 years ago.

We've lost 20 percentage points within the past 20 years, and if that trend continues WE WILL need foreign missionaries to come and introduce our grandchildren and great-grand children to Jesus.

Now while you may be surprised by these numbers... God isn't. God has seen it all... great drops in belief and also great revivals. And I believe that a great revival is in our future.





But that revival depends on God's favor shining on us...and our resolve to heed His words here in Deuteronomy.

God knew that the Israelites were entering into foreign territory... ..and so he armed them with the truth concerning HOW TO BUILD A HOME.

And as we enter into this new cultural territory of an increasingly post-modern world MIGHT WE TAKE THOSE SAME LESSONS and build God's way.

Because (clearly) our culture needs us... friends just as the Israelites were to bless the world with the truth of (Yahweh) the **One True God**, as they were to model through their family life the proper way to build a home, we Christians are to provide that same example in our own context.



I'd like to leave you with this encouraging true story about the power the lies within our homes for the gospel.

*Illustration:*

*Jim Petersen is a Christian Missionary whose family works with the Navigators Ministry in Brazil. And Jim tells the story about a man named Mario that he led to the Lord and discipled – out of a Marxist background.*

*And about 4 years after Mario's conversion the two were reminiscing about Mario's conversion story. And Mario said, "Jim do you know what it was that convinced me finally give my life to the Lord?" And Jim though it was going to be his carefully planned devotionals, or his air tight explanations of theological matters. But it wasn't any of that.*



**“We tend to see the weaknesses and incongruities in our lives, and our reaction is to recoil at the thought of letting outsiders get close enough to see us as we really are. Even if our assessment is accurate, it is my observation that any Christian who is sincerely seeking to walk with God, in spite of all his flaws, is reflecting something of Christ.”**

**- Jim Petersen**

*Mario said, “Jim it was your family.” Mario had spent countless evenings over dinner with the family. Mario continued, “Seeing how you treated your wife, seeing how you were with you kids. It was so different from anything I’d been exposed to, I knew that you must have been onto something with the Gospel you preached.*

*This caught Jim off guard because in his recollection they were always running late on dinner and his kids were often bouncing off the walls.*

*But here is Jim’s final reflection in what Mario had to say...*

*“We tend to see the weaknesses and incongruities in our lives, and our reaction is to recoil at the thought of letting outsiders get close enough to see us as we really are. Even if our assessment is accurate, it is my observation that any Christian who is sincerely seeking to walk with God, in spite of all his flaws, is reflecting something of Christ.”*





Church may we BUILD OUR HOMES to reflect  
*“something of Christ”*...to a world that desperately  
needs to see the hope of the Gospel.

The beauty of this story is that it show us that we don't  
have to be perfect... or have all the answers... we just  
need to be obedient to what God calls us to and HE WILL  
DO THE REST.

Prayerfully consider as a family... where can you level  
up... how can you put SHEMA into greater practice for  
your own benefit as a family... but ultimately for HIS  
GLORY.

**Pray/Offering:**