



Keswick Convention Seminar 29 July 2021

Faithfulness in Reaching the Heart of our Children

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Introduction and Welcome

Hearing: what family is, biblically

Becoming: focused on the heart, not on simply changing or managing behaviour

Serving: the wisdom of building relationships, and connecting before directing

Family Life

No formula, roadmap, or guarantee

Always in flow, never stationary – “TATT”

What are you tracking and training towards, in your parenting, in mid-2021?

What are you wanting to track towards?

“Heavenly Father, after whom all families in the world are named, help me as a

parent to track towards _____

by the daily power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus your Son, Amen.”

Deuteronomy 6:1-12 (NIV)

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ **These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.** ⁷ **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.** ⁸ **Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.** ⁹ **Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**

¹⁰ When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² **be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

Psalms 78:1-8 (NIV)

¹ My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
² I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
³ things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,

**which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,**

⁶ **so the next generation would know
them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their
children.**

⁷ **Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.**

⁸ **They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.**

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

⁴ Fathers, **do not exasperate** [lit. 'don't bring to anger'] **your children**; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

...by the daily power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus your Son, Amen.”

How do we love well?

As God *the Father* loves us...

Exodus 34:6-7

Zephaniah 3:17

As God *the Son* loves us...

Matthew 11:25-30

Matthew 18:10-14

As God *the Spirit* enables us to love....

Galatians 5:22-25

Reaching the heart – how?

The link between our hearts, emotions, thoughts and behaviours: Proverbs 4:23

Seek to know our children well...

Psalms 139

Building relationships

Loving our children as *saints, sufferers, sinners and sojourners*.

What does that look like in practise?

Untangling sin, weaknesses and needs

Nurturing meaningful conversations

Connect first before we direct or correct

Discuss/Reflect:

Think of times when you were able to connect with your child. What helped and what made it difficult?

Are there some things you struggle to understand about your children? What might help you understand? How would these approaches shape your interactions with them?