

Faith at Home

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
- B. Materialism has become one of the strongest factors of our day.
- C. Subject: the Christian and moral conditions.

II. The home.

- A. Never before has there been such an assault on the home with great efforts having been exerted against the family.
- B. The family is the oldest institution known to man.
- C. Satan is attempting to destroy the family deliberately.

III. We have spiritual weapons in returning to the principle of the home.

- A. The great principles by which God works never changes.
- B. The great process is God and the unrivaled principle is love.

IV. The universal principle: love.

- A. This comes from the great Hebrew teaching called the Shemah.
- B. In the back of every line of human knowledge is God—He is the starting point of all human history.
 1. Unless you start here, you run around in endless circles of thought and end up in relativity.
 2. The only proper response to a God like this is to love Him.
 3. If you love God, everything else in life will fall into place.
 4. Man always has a god—it is always what he loves supremely.
 5. Love is a magic talisman.

V. The parental principles.

- A. In order for one's children to love God first, the parent must love God first.

B. A parent must impart information about God to their children, which is the whole range of Scripture.

C. A parent should bring natural application to the child's life.

1. The truth of God relates to everything in life, and the challenge of parents is to find when life relates and make the application.
2. Humor needs to be used.
3. Application needs to be natural without moralization.
4. Family worship may be the greatest application of this, but it can be the enemy if it becomes the only time you are religious.
5. Your deeds are to be a sign that you love God. (John 10:37)
6. No matter where this message finds you, start where you are right now.

Application questions:

1. How is it that love is the means by which one ought to relate properly to God? How does it illustrate what is supreme in a person's life?

2. Which of the parental principles stood out to you? Which one is the most difficult in your mind? Why?

3. What kind of tone should application take in the home—what ideas do you have to make application real and natural?
