

Theme: "Teach Your Children Well"

## **Teach Them to Love God**

Mark 12:28-44

PROPOSITION: It is fundamental and extremely important that parents teach their children to love God.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. In the quest for what is first, a lawyer asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" (Mark 12:28).
2. "Love the Lord your God" is what Jesus considers to be the most important instruction and commandment God has ever given to people.
3. That being the case, it is fundamental that parents teach their children to love God by example and actual word-of-mouth lessons.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. The Eloquence of Examples**

- A. God provided good examples for us and has maintained them before us (Acts 1:1; Ezra 7:10).
- B. The two-part approach to leading: doing first and teaching next.
- C. Children can detect pretense, especially in their parents.
- D. Dad and Mom should love the Bible and be daily students of it (cf. Psa. 119:97, 103).
- E. Dad and Mom should be faithful Christians (Rom. 6:17, 18; 10:16; 1 John 1:7).
- F. Dad and Mom should be in the lead when it is time for Bible classes and worship.
- G. Children should be able to see in Dad and Mom a couple who are "both righteous" (Luke 1:6).
- H. Children should be able to see in Dad and Mom a couple who love God and each other.
- I. Children should be able to see in Dad and Mom a couple who live in faith and die in faith.
- J. Children should be able to see in Dad and Mom a couple who love the souls of men.
- K. Children should be able to see in Dad and Mom a couple who are benevolent.
- L. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27) should be the picture that every child sees in his father and mother.

#### **II. The Power of Precepts**

- A. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...."
  1. The "heart" is where the emotions rest.
  2. Our love for the heavenly Father must touch our "hearts."
- B. "You shall love the Lord your God...with all your soul...."
  1. The word translated "soul" is also translated "life" (Matt. 6:25).
  2. Our love for God must motivate us to serve Him.
- C. "You shall love the Lord your God...with all your mind...."
  1. The "mind" is the seat of the intellect.
  2. The New Testament emphasizes devoting the best of our minds to the Lord (Acts 17:11).
- D. "You shall love the Lord your God...with all your strength."
  1. One's strength is his abilities, talents, and energies.
  2. Christianity is an active, doing religion.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. You want the best for your children, so teach them to love God.
2. When Mary chose to learn from Jesus, she chose "the good portion" (Luke 10:42).

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