



*from the desk of*

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## Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads, Pt. 3

*Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon 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.*

This week we'll be looking at the third of the Scripture sections that the Israelites were to wear - Deuteronomy 6:1-8, in part below:

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

*<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

*<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

*<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children.....*

Moses passes on these commands of God as Israel is going into a land filled with people who believed in many gods instead of our one true God, a land filled with beliefs that had nothing to do with the God of the Bible.

I contend that we have a similar situation with our children today - that they are going out to be in a world populated by those who have an ever-increasing array of belief systems, values and even "gods."

Our children are growing up in a world where for many it is more acceptable to deny that Jesus is the only way to salvation than it is to deny that climate change is manmade.

In these verses, God is instructing us to pass the value of belief that He is this one true God on to our children, and the earlier and more pervasive we do it the better.

There are those in our world who contend that we as Christians are totally off base with our teachings. They say that at best we give our children "options" for their belief system. *"Today, many atheists have expressed the view that it is wrong for parents to instill their religious beliefs in their children. Chillingly, Richard Dawkins seems to go so far as to imply that the law should restrict parents from doing so: 'Maybe some children need to be protected from indoctrination by their own parents'."*<sup>1</sup>

Dawkins, in other writings, does say that it is all right to teach children *about* religion, if done in the proper context and manner. Rather than making religion a person matter, he says that *"They can learn about religion from the perspective of an anthropologist, with a proper balance of intrigue and detachment....."*<sup>2</sup>

"Detachment" is the last thing that these verses are about. Like the old saying about "wearing your heart on your sleeve," these verses say that this is exactly what we are to do with our faith - to have it out there in plain view, especially for your children to see.

My encouragement this week is to show your children your faith. Let them catch you reading the Bible or having a private devotion. Show that regular worship and Bible study are simply a part of your life. Have your faith be both "taught" and "caught" by your children. Wear your faith "on your sleeve" through your actions. After all, God's Word makes the importance of doing this abundantly clear.

DCE Randy

Next week - So just what do the children get out of all this?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ethikapolitika.org/2013/05/01/should-you-teach-religion-to-your-children/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://richarddawkins.net/2013/09/why-we-should-teach-religion-to-children/>