



from the desk of

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Let it be on your hearts....

Last week we talked about *Parent Power*, about the obligation we have as parents to teach our children God's ways.

We continue that thought this week, with some further instructions God gives the people through Moses. After Moses goes on to review God's law he goes back to the theme of teaching the children, this time with more detail:

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.

We'll take these on one phrase at a time, beginning with "are to be upon your hearts."

According to the *Biblical Background Commentary*,
In English, "heart" is used metaphorically for the seat of emotions, in contrast to logic and reason. Hebrew uses it as the center of both emotions and reason/intellect.

So our first directive is for the commands of God to be on our hearts, in both meanings of the word.

God's commands are to be so ingrained in our lives that even our emotions are driven by them. One could look at this as part of a *Christian worldview*. That is, the way we even perceive the world around us is flavored first by our basic Christian beliefs. Before we even consider options, in fact, it even drives the options we come up with. Then, as we consider our options, having a Christian worldview doesn't even come up with options that would go against God's commandments.

We've all seen stories of what seems to be a faithful worker, even for some nonprofits, that over a course of time embezzles tens of thousands of

dollars from that organization. We think, “Why do you do that, and how in the world do you think you could get away with it?” The thought of doing something like that just never comes to mind.

It never comes to mind because of your Christian worldview. The morality and ethics you have been taught just eliminates such actions.

This isn't to say that we don't need to continue a study of God's Word (more the importance of that being evidenced in our lives next week). We live in a culture that wants to constantly chip away at our moral foundations. We live in a society that is more and more drifting away from Godly values.

So, parents, first we need to recognize and embrace the worldview we have as God's children, and through study continue to keep that strong in our lives. If you yourself want to learn something, you don't go to or reference someone who knows less than you do. You are the primary agent of Christian education for those entrusted to you. Keep your focus strong by faithful devotional time, regular worship, prayer and study of God's Word. You've got to be there yourself before you can ever expect to positively influence your children.

Next week: Leaving a mark on your children (which is what the word “impress” means).

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