“...teaching them...”

Education and the Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 145:4

There was a precursor to this week’s message in last week’s questions. Psalm 145:4 declares God’s purpose that “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” This is not an option...it is a command and a responsibility God gives his people!

I. God’s people are commanded to TEACH the next generation.
   A. The subject is God’s COMMANDMENTS, (Deuteronomy 6:7; Matthew 28:20).
   B. The intended outcome is OBEDIENCE, (Deuteronomy 6:1-3; Matthew 28:20).
   C. The process is CONSTANT, (Deuteronomy 6:7-9; Matthew 28:20).

II. The motive in teaching is a RELATIONSHIP with God.
   A. People are related to God by COVENANT, (Deuteronomy 5:1-6; Matthew 26:27-28).
   B. God’s covenant should result in LOVE toward God, (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37).
   C. It is love toward God that MOTIVATES, obedience, (Deuteronomy 6:5-9; John 14:21-24; Galatians 2:19-20).

III. Who bears the teaching RESPONSIBILITY?
   A. Believing PARENTS, (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4).
   B. The believing COMMUNITY, (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 28:19-20).
   C. Believers in specific RELATIONSHIPS, (2 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 5:12).

Given the emphasis God places on teaching, it seems obvious that believing parents and the believing community would not only teach, but intentionally and creatively pursue opportunities to declare God’s truth and “mighty acts” to the next generation. As we enter the “back to school” week, consider how you can best fulfill your responsibilities to be “...teaching them...”

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Explain in your own words the difference between keeping the commandments as duty or obligation, and obedience motivated by and prompted by a love relationship with the commandment-giver.
   --How does this distinguish “religion” from the nature of true Christian faith?
   --How does this (or should this) relate to the parent-child relationship?
   --Thinking back to the recent message on discipline, when is obedience out of obligation important as one journeys toward obedience motivated by a love relationship?

2. Teaching was to involve the commandments, in both Deuteronomy 6 and the Great Commission of Matthew 28. But one generation was also to declare to the next the “mighty acts” of God.
   --Why would this be an important parallel to teaching the commandments?
   --What “mighty acts” should be declared? List a few you would for certain want to communicate to the next generation.
   --How are you, or how is the community of believers you are involved in, declaring those mighty acts?

3. In our day, much of education is intentionally kept separate from, if not outright opposed to, God and the truth of his word.
   --What are some of the dangers of education that is kept separate from God’s truth?
   --We may affirm that all true truth is God’s truth. Is it enough to teach truth without identifying the source? Why or why not?
   --How does God respond to the suppression of truth, Romans 1:18?

4. In 1 Corinthians 8, the apostle discusses a situation in which knowledge alone can be destructive.
   --What attitude might the “learned” or well-taught develop?
   --What needs to be taught along with information to avoid this potential?

5. “Everyone teaches.”
   --Explain what is meant by this statement, and how it is true.
   --What aspects of your life should you be careful with, if in fact you ARE teaching?

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