

## D6 Families

Deuteronomy 6:2, “...fear the Lord your God...you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life...”

**Introduction:** What kind of family is your family? If you were to ask other people, “what is the Jones or Smith family passionate about?” What would they say? If your own children had to use just one symbol to attach to your stick figure body in a drawing, what would they choose? A golf club? A TV remote? A fishing rod? A rifle? A brief case? Shopping bags? Airplane tickets? What about a Bible? A cross? Two hands folded in prayer?

Way back in Deuteronomy 6 God began emphasizing to His people that He wanted them to be people who knew God! His nation was to consist of a certain type of families! He wanted the people of God to be a certain type of people, just as God desires of His people today (cp. 1 Peter 2:9). So, how do we make this happen? We need to be Deuteronomy 6 Families. Or, to abbreviate D6 Families! Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 and it is cited in the first three gospels (Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27). So, if it was good enough for Jesus to quote as the ultimate commandment it should be a passage and a process good enough for us to follow in leading our homes today. So, what about it? Do you want to be a D6 Family? A family who loves “*the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength*” (Deuteronomy 6:5)? Then, here’s how to make it happen.

### I. Keep God’s Commands Consistently (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

- A. God’s commands exist, not as a killjoy, but for our good!
  - 1. With Israel, God promised “that your days may be prolonged” (6:2).
  - 2. Their careful observation of His law would make “it well with you” and allow them “to multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you” (6:3).
- B. A careful look at those commands causes us to see how these commandments are for our good—God’s law is truly for the benefit of God’s people (see Deut 5:16-21)!
  - 1. Honoring “your father and mother” leads to a respect of parentage.
  - 2. The command to “not murder” leads to a respect for life.
  - 3. The command to “not commit adultery” teaches a respect for marriage.
  - 4. The command to “not steal” teaches a respect for property.
  - 5. The command to “bear false witness” teaches a respect for reputations.
  - 6. The command to “not covet” teaches us to guard our heart and be content which means having a respect for how God has blessed each of us individually!
- C. If our world could just get a grasp on those commands alone we would live in a far safer, better, more peaceful community!

### II. Love the Lord Wholeheartedly (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

- A. The reasons the Lord deserves our love are based out of how God has acted on behalf of His people in the past.
  - 1. God is not just a transcendent God, but the God “*who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage*” (20:2).

2. In other words, God deserves our attentive love because this is a God who has proven He is a God of grace, mercy and power for His people!
  3. There is a principle here... God, who redeems His people, has the right to instruct His people and they ought to trust He has their best interests at heart.
  4. These great acts of steadfast love by God motivate us to love Him for His benevolent compassion on our behalf—so love is not blind!
- C. We may struggle with telling people to love without any basis for it. But, in a nutshell, we love God because *“He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19).
1. This is not just a one-time love, a Sunday love, or an emotional love disconnected from action.
  2. Love is connected to obedience and requires all of “your heart” and “your soul” and “your strength”—the emotional, spiritual and physical man (6:5)!

### III. Communicate God’s Will Constantly (6:2, 6-9).

- A. If we truly love the Lord, we will want to speak of Him to our families!
1. So, verse 2 says, “fear the Lord... you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life...”—this is not a one-time deal, it’s a lifetime commitment!
  2. It involves not just our own personal obedience, but sharing God’s expectations with our own families.
    - i. This is to be done verbally as we *“teach them diligently... when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up...”* (Deuteronomy 6:7).
    - ii. It is to be seen externally by our clothing and even the general makeup of our houses and, most importantly, the way we behave (6:8-9).
- B. One of the biggest questions asked today is “why are we losing our young people?”
1. Here’s an idea: Somehow, we think kids need to practice their sports, their music, their academics five or six days a week but they only need God one!
  2. We’re losing our young people because we’re allowing them to focus on everything else but God six out of seven days a week and they need God daily!
  3. We are losing our children because they are not D6 kids raised by D6 parents!

Conclusion: If we want strong churches, it starts with D6 Families! Paul did a good job of summarizing what we need to see in the home in Ephesians 6. So, how about being an E6 family? *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:1-4, NKJV). Mothers and fathers, how much time are you spending in training your children in the Lord? It won’t happen by accident. So, we must point them to Jesus on purpose (2 Peter 1:3)!