SERMON NOTES

Developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the Lord, whether in your heart or your home, requires structure. The framing structure of one's physical house determines the form or shape of the home. As we attempt to build a great generation, what form do we desire this generation to take? What will the finished product look like?

The commandment to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might," provides the structure within which the Israelites would express their devotion to God. Exclusive love for God is a central theme throughout the book of Deuteronomy. Our devotion to God must be characterized by singleness of purpose, undivided allegiance, and total concentration.

Key thought: Loving God must be the greatest priority in life!

THE DEFINITION OF STRUCTURE… (V. 5)

God's demand of this exclusive and intensive devotion to Himself is what Jesus called "the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37, 38; Mark 12:29, 30; cf. Luke 10:25-28). **It is the heart principle of all the covenant stipulations.**

Our goal is to stimulate love for Christ, not develop well-informed, well-behaved children who become religious adults.

Does this goal shape the content and process of the way we are discipled and/or the way we disciple our families, other people?
   a. Everything in your life must be shaped by the priority of loving God

   b. Everything in your life must be shaped by a passion for loving God

THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRUCTURE REQUIRES… (VS. 6-7)

a. You to intentionally conform your life to the Word of God

b. You to intensely consume your life with the Word of God

THE DESCRIPTION OF A LIFE WITH STRUCTURE REVEALS… (V. 8)

a. The Word of God is a natural part of your conversation

b. The Word of God is a natural part of your every consideration

THE DISCIPLINE OF STRUCTURE REQUIRES… (V. 9)

a. Love for God must be shared purposefully in the home

b. Love for God must be shared publicly in the community