

Illiana Christian High School Chapel  
Lansing, Illinois  
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Deut. 6: 4-9

***Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.***

***AND THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT.***

***And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:***

***And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.***

***And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.***

***And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.***

These are strong words. They don't need much interpretation. It is quite plain that they are meant to be taken in a wholehearted way. How often have you heard that command to love God with all your heart and soul and might? Have you ever wanted desperately to obey it? It says that we are to write these words in our heart, to talk about them when we go to bed and when we rise up. Not only that but we should put a sign over our doorway and at our gate saying "Look, a Christian lives in this house." Just how far do we go in this effort to advertise what we stand for?

Christians should and must have lots to say to each other. We must encourage one another in the faith. If we have had an answer to prayer then we share our joy. If we have a sorrow then we seek true Christian sympathy. We should never cease to praise God for the mercy of His grace.

Even though we are now in the New Testament age and the scripture we are looking at is from the Old Testament, it is still so important that we be wholehearted about our profession. If we want to be known as Christians then we must be willing to live as Christians.

If you have been born into a Christian family then you have already been set apart, separated, made a little peculiar. Do you want to be peculiar? Are you glad about it? Your parents want you to grow spiritually, as well as physically and mentally. But already you are feeling some independence and personal responsibility. Are your actions and decisions based on what you think is right or wrong, what the gang thinks is right or wrong, or on what God, in His Word, declares to be right or wrong. (You say – but – the Bible isn't that clear to us. God doesn't tell

us how to take every step. What do you mean?) I would answer – are you making a conscious effort to think in a Christian way about every matter that comes up in your personal life?

When I first heard this verse about loving God with all my heart and soul and might it was the beginning of my “world and life view.” To me it was a passionate verse. I wanted to love God in that way. It was my reason for being.

I would like to quote from a book entitled “*God Has Spoken*” by J. I. Packer:

***“It is only as we obey God up to the limit of our present insight into His will that our insight will be deepened and our vision enlarged. Live by the light you have as to the hearing of Scripture on your life, and you shall have more light; neglect the light you have and you will actually darken it, so that in the outcome you will have less. This solemn alternative faces every Christian every day of his life.”***

Head knowledge isn’t much good if we aren’t obedient.

To grow spiritually is just as remarkable and as gradual as one’s physical growth. Only we would never do to ourselves physically what we do spiritually – we simply would not go around on a starvation diet. It seems that once you are aware of a certain stage of spiritual growth you begin to thank God for the spiritual food which you receive and you know what it is to “hunger” and “thirst” after God’s word. You are thrilled when you discover that you can actually receive the “meat” of the word and that your diet is not just “milk”.

But we are surrounded by worldliness. It is always pulling and tugging at us – distracting us. We want to think in a Christian way about everything. Our habits with regard to eating, drinking, sleeping, traveling, dressing, reading, studying and working – all of them can and must be approached in a Christian way if we would really apply that verse to our lives.

For example. Let’s try to use a Christian mind when thinking about certain children’s toys. That Barbie doll – do you think that she is a Christian doll? Perhaps you haven’t given this much thought – or the idea seems ridiculous. But wouldn’t you admit that what Barbie stands for doesn’t really fit into a life committed to Christ? Barbie has held sway over the American scene for almost a generation now. If you look around you see living Barbie’s everywhere. A Christian girl can hardly be a witness to her neighbor if the first impression she gives is that of being “in Barbie”, rather than “in Christ”.

From a very early age American children become “fashion” conscious. Could there be such a thing as Christian fashions, and Christian dress designers? Or asking the question from a different direction – do you really think that many of the fashions of today could be said to give any glory to God? Aren’t women merely pawns in a giant game of sex? Surely appearance is a form of behavior. We choose what we wear and if it is in the category of sexy then there are New Testament texts which condemn that choice. A Christian girl has the responsibility of dressing in good taste. She cannot choose her clothes without holding them up to her Lord for approval.

There are so many areas of life which we must examine more closely if we want to be totally committed to our Lord and Savior, if we want to love God with all our heart and might and soul. That jungle beat music – where does it originate? Do you think you have the liberty to listen to it habitually? Your TV. viewing? Your reading habits. Your leisure time. We must be able to criticize ourselves in a Christian way and willing to be continually repenting and changing our ways as we find them out of harmony.

America is a mission field too. We live in a sophisticated civilized pagan atmosphere. The veneer of Christianity is wearing thin. This is your challenge – to live your Christianity. To be faithful in small matters. If we would speak of the love of Christ in our lives we must be willing to see Him not only as our Savior but as our lord – to be obeyed.