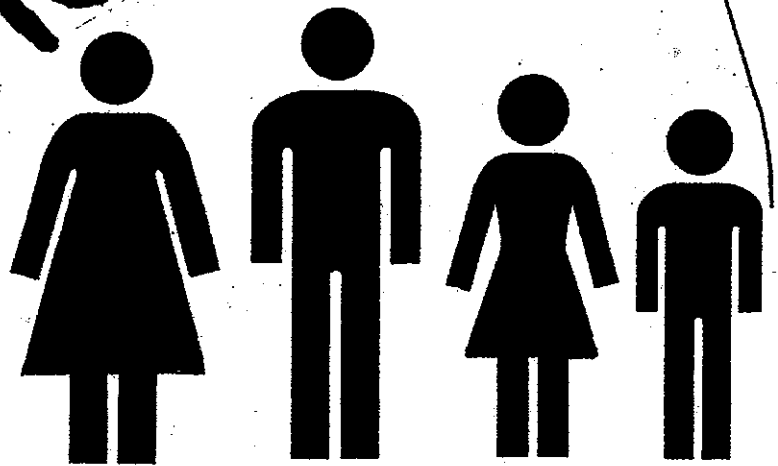


"One Family Under God"



How To: Rediscover
Solid Family
Virtue



The Publisher

OK! You are about to find within a collection of tips written by many authors.

How To: Rediscover Solid Family Virtue

Flip through chapters till something catches your interest! Read with a highlighter in hand. We trust you can find nuggets you will build into your own home!

Let's not read to see how we differ from the assorted instructions within ... rather how every hearth, home, and family can find assistance, advice, and help that will yield abundant lives and fruitful & eternal rewards.

I dedicate this booklet to Nelson and our children - Carlos, Christy, Patricia, Dion, and Dani - whom the Lord used to allow me to reach my highest earthly goals - that of becoming a wife and mother.

I also appreciate the ones that have been added to our family by marriage and our grandchildren.

I feel very blessed.

-Genee

March 26, 2011

The idea for this collection came from my desire to be a help to parents. Now, that my children are all grown, and I'm looking at my parenting years "in the rear view mirror", I can more clearly see many mistakes that I made. Also, I have a greater realization of the seriousness of the job of parenting.

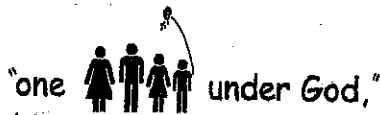
This booklet is given to you with the prayer that it will be a help in some way.

Clay

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were passed,
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently fashioned it day by day.
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart
I came again when years were gone,
It was a man I looked upon.
The form I gave him still he bore,
But I could change that form no more.

—Author unknown



35 years ago as newlyweds
We talked about wanting 6 children!
The Lord gave us 5. They are
now grown with families, homes, or
life works of their own.

Genece + I wish we'd had this
book as resource back when we
were so busy with our young
family.

Nelson

Nelson Doolittle <nelson.doolittle@gmail.com>

DEUTERONOMY

CHAPTER 6.

5 And ^a thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And ^e these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart .

7 And ^f thou shalt ² 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.

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

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

12 *Then* beware lest thou forget the LORD,

DEUTERONOMY, 4.

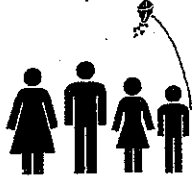
7 For ^e what nation *is there* so great, who *hath* ^f God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God *is in all things that we call upon him for?*

8 And what nation *is there* so great, that *hath* statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

9 Only take heed to thyself, and ^g keep thy soul diligently, ^h lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but ⁱ teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons:

1 PETER, 4.

7 But ^a the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

— "one  under God," —

CONTENTS

Parenting

page 1

Fathers

page 109

Mothers

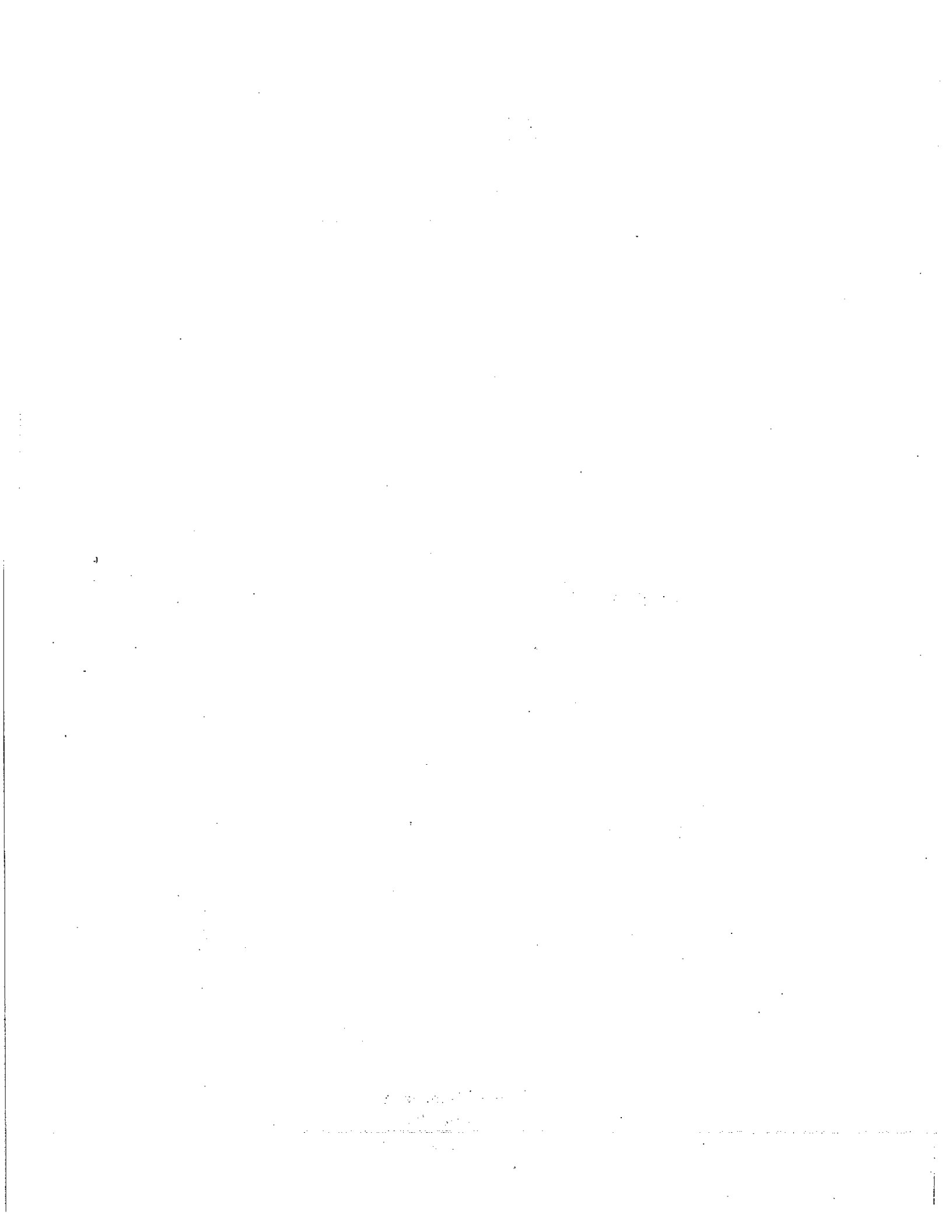
page 127


Marriage

page 151

Tid bits

page 169



"one  under God,"

HOME LIFE



"A GREEN SPOT IN MEMORY"

"Home"—that word touches every fiber of the soul and strikes every chord of the human heart with its angelic fingers. Nothing but death can break its spell. What tender associations are linked with home! What pleasing images and deep emotions it awakens! It calls up the fondest memories of life and opens in our nature the purest, deepest, and richest gush of consecrated thought and feeling. To the little child, home is his world. He knows no other. The father's love and the mother's smile throw about him a heavenly halo. Home is the spot where the child pours out all his complaints.

Ask the man of mature years, whose brow is furrowed by care, whose mind is engrossed with business, ask him what is home? He will say, "It is a place of rest, a haven of content where loved ones relieve the burdens of everyday life."

Ask the wanderer as he plods his weary way, bent with the weight of years and white with frost of age. He will say, "It is a green spot in memory, an oasis of the desert. It was once a happy reality, but now it rests only as an image of the mind."

"Home" is one vision that never fades from the soul. No man in all his weary wanderings ever goes beyond the overshadowing arch of home. Let him stand on the surf-beaten coast of the Atlantic and every dash of the waves, every murmur of the breeze, will whisper home, sweet home. Let him down amid the glaciers of the North, and even there thoughts of home, too warm to be chilled by the eternal frost, will float in upon him. Let him roam through the green, waving groves and over the sunny slopes of the South and in the kiss of the balmy breeze home will live again. Let prosperity reward his every exertion and wealth and affluence bring around him all the luxuries of the earth, yet in his palace will rise unforbidden the vision of his childhood home. Let misfortune overtake him,

still in troubled dreams will his thoughts revert to the olden home.

The home is the fountain of civilization. Our laws are made in the home. He who has no home has not the sweetest pleasures of life. He does not feel the thousand endearments that cluster around the hallowed spot. Of all places on earth, home is the most delicate and sensitive. Its fires are kindled with a spark. There is music in the word home. To the old it brings a bewitching strain from the harp of memory, to the middle-aged it brings happy thoughts, and to the young it brings up all that is near and dear to them.

The home may be old and rickety to the eye of strangers; the windows may have been patched long ago, and the floor worn through; but it is still the old home from which we looked at life with hearts full of hope, building castles which faded long ago. If we are to have a true home, we must guard well our thoughts and actions. A little word may disquiet the home for a whole day. But, like unexpected flowers which spring up along our path, full of freshness, fragrance and beauty, so do kind words, gentle acts and sweet disposition make glad the home where peace and blessing dwell. No matter how humble the abode, if it be thus garnished with grace and sweetened by kindness and smiles, the heart will turn lovingly towards it from all the turmoils of this world. And home, "be it ever so humble," will be the dearest spot under the sun. He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace at home. —Selected

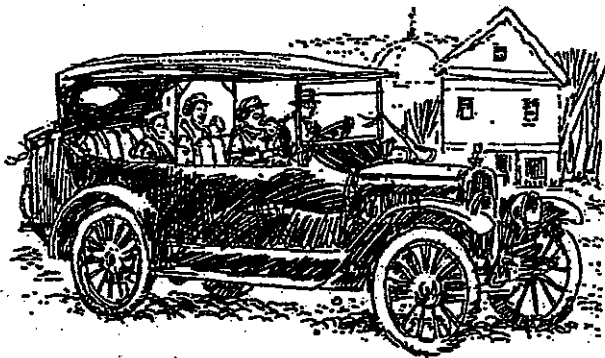
Teaching Your Child

There are different ways by which parents can teach their children, but there is none better than by the life. If you would teach your child how to live right, set it before him every day in your own life. Nothing will make such an impression upon his mind. You may teach him in word how to live right, but if you do not live like you teach, your teaching will be lost. There is power in teaching when backed up with living. If you would have your child to know and believe in prayer, make him to know, and see, and feel that there is real communion between your heart and God. When children know that father and mother have a secret place of prayer to which they often resort and from which they come with an atmosphere of heaven surrounding them, they will believe in prayer. They may go into sin, but they will always believe in prayer.

—C. E. ORR

(Taken from *The Path of Life*, 1931)

HOME LIFE



Authority In The Home

God has placed a sacred authority in the hands of the fathers and mothers of our homes. "If I do not punish you," said a mother to her little son, "God will not be pleased, for He has trusted you to me to make a real man out of you and mother must teach you or fail to obey the Lord herself." This is the true basis for home authority, *the command from God that parents should teach their children to obey and honor Him.* The explanation of this mother was not above the head of her little boy. It was in line with the lesson old Eli had to learn and it was to the little boy, Samuel, that God explained its necessity. The child himself could understand that God demanded authority and condemned the parent who failed to exercise it.

The principle of authority in the home was one of the fundamental understandings in the founding of the human race. Read Genesis 1:27, 28 and see the solemn placing of authority with the man and woman whom God first created. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

They were to be God's co-laborers in re-creation, in development and in control. By common instinct the human heart has verified this trust from God through all the centuries of its successive generations. There was never a time that we can learn when parents did not control and children obey. Even the animal world takes on the same great charge. Authority which carries with it control, limitations, dynamic for action and co-operation of individuals is the basis of any happy social order.

It is necessary for parents to agree on many things but nowhere is this agreement quite as vital or as far-reaching in its consequences as in

the principles adopted for rearing their young. Divided ideals in those overhead are apt to lead to no ideals in those beneath. "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" I Corinthians 14:8. Pathetic indeed it is to see children lose half the force of their convictions by the doubt raised when the ones who guide them are not agreed.

Undoubtedly it is intended that the father should voice the standards and govern the conduct of his own household. Paul's directions that the bishop must be "one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity" (I Timothy 3:4) was repeated immediately in the same chapter for the deacons also: "ruling their children and their own houses well." It was the general principle for ideal Christian manhood wherever his household was involved.

But get the manner in which a father is expected to govern his home in this beautiful analogy which Paul had earlier used, "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." I Thessalonians 2:10-12.

In the same chapter is given the tender training from a mother in exquisite analogy to the work Paul was trying to do with young Christians. We do not want to miss it here: "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." I Thessalonians 2:7, 8.

Neither parent can throw off the responsibility of this home training but when the first plan fails and the father does not make the standards what they ought to be there is still an opportunity for the mother in the home. Before her is the open Word of God. It can always be taken for the final authority and basis of agreement. A certain mother was crossed by an unbelieving husband and blocked by his example in the training she wished to give her children. Reverently and faithfully she went to the Word of God and made its teachings the monitor of conduct and convictions in the home. But even this had to be done with the finest tact and humility of spirit. A "thus saith the Lord" is not to be used as a bludgeon over the head of one differing in thought. The Word of God has to enter the heart along with the Spirit of God. Peter recognized such a situation as this woman

had and gave by inspiration the Christian principle involved: "Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear" I Peter 3:1, 2.

—Taken from *Building A Christian Home*
by Martha Leavell

HOME LIFE



A Word to Parents

Please remember that like begets like. What you want your child to be, be that very thing yourself in the fullest of its perfection. Correct your child correctly. Deal with it as God deals with His child. Scenes of childhood are not soon forgotten. I am now past seventy years of age and I remember distinctly some abusive words my father spoke to my mother sixty years ago. It was all because the bread was not baked to suit him.

What are the scenes in your home? Will the memories of home, when recalled in after years by your children be such as will give pleasure or pain? Your child will look at parenthood as he sees it in you. For the sake of that innocent child of yours do not stamp upon its tender mind the memory of harsh words or unholy acts. How sad that it will have such a picture hung up for it to look at all the days of its life. So live that every day you are hanging up on the walls of your child's memory pictures that are pure, holy and beautiful and it will brighten and purify the life of the child. Set such an example before your child as God sets before His child.

(Taken from "The Path of Life" 1931.)

WARNING SIGNALS FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS

Most of us who fail in our duties as Christian parents do so, not because we have deliberately chosen to fail, but we have become careless and busy with other things, and so we have not seen the warning signals that should remind us that something is wrong with our child-rearing.

If you have to answer "yes" to any of the following nineteen questions, perhaps you ought to ask the Lord to help you make whatever corrections may be necessary:

1. Do you have to tell your child more than once to (a) go to sleep, (b) be quiet in church, (c) stop crying, (d) finish a job?
2. Does your child fail to answer immediately and respectfully when you or another adult speaks to him?
3. Has your child gotten the impression that he can sometimes "get away" with disobedience?
4. Have you failed to teach your child to say, "I'm sorry. I was wrong."?
5. Do you allow your child to withdraw into a sullen and stubborn silence when he fails to get his own way?
6. Has your child failed to develop an appreciation for the rights and property of other people?
7. Is your child allowed to argue with you when you tell him what to do?
8. Is your child a habitual whiner and complainer?
9. Does your toddler ever throw a tantrum in public places?
10. Does your child prefer being everywhere else but home?
11. Does your child scoff at the things you consider important?
12. Does your child rarely or never discuss with you his dreams and plans?
13. Does your teenager make all the choices about his life without regard to your values?
14. Have you become aware that your children make no significant contribution to the home either in their help with the work, or in their attitude?
15. Are your teenagers pretty much allowed to follow the curfew hours which the world sets for its children?
16. Do you feel you are unable to trust your child's word?
17. Does your child prefer non-Christian friends and non-church activities to the fellowship and activities of the Christian people?
18. When your child has a run-in with authority outside the home, are you quick to assume the attitude that the teacher, police officer, boss, etc. "has it in" for your child without cause?
19. Are your children allowed to choose their clothing without any regard to Bible standards of modesty?

—Selected

Parenting

Affirmation and encouragement are more effective ways to parent than shame. We do need to discipline and discipline with consistency. Jim Burns

How To Rediscover Solid Family Virtue



Threats But No Action.

"Albert, you must not do that! Take your hand off that flowerpot!"

A pair of blue eyes turned leisurely upon Mrs. Harris, as she sat in the rocker on the front porch. Two chubby hands held fast to the little geranium pot on the balustrade.

"Albert," Mrs. Harris insisted, "Mother will spank you if you upset that plant. Come here now, dearie, and let me wipe your dirty hands."

The three-year-old shook his curly head. "Flowers putty," he grunted, "an' Albert wants to play."

The child began to shake the geranium pot vigorously. He was totally unmoved by the threatened spanks.

"Mind me, Albert!" The words were wasted on deaf little ears. "I'll come after you if you don't leave that pot alone!"

"Flowers putty," answered Albert, "pot shaky."

The child began to sway the flowerpot back and forth, laughing with glee. But suddenly, bang! Mrs. Harris' foot came down on the floor. Albert, in the act of pushing the geranium pot towards the outer edge of the balustrade, gave a childish start and removed his chubby hands. There was a crash, and the flowerpot toppled from its unsteady perch, and lay upon the ground broken into bits.

"Albert!" exclaimed Mrs. Harris, "I told you I would whip you if you didn't leave that flowerpot alone!"

"Gone," the child fumbled at the balustrade. "Broke, Mamma." He shuffled his feet and scrambled down the steps, out to the scene of the wreck.

Mrs. Harris rocked back and forth, displeasure written upon her face—her hands resting harmlessly in her lap.

Albert's father came home at six, and found his three-year-old son still toying with the pieces of flowerpot. The mother still sat in the porch chair, her heart full of unhappiness.

Upon seeing his father, Albert rushed into outstretched arms. Once safely hoisted on Mr. Harris' shoulder, he pointed with glee at the crippled pot. "Broke," he said, "Albert let fall."

"You broke that pot?" the father frowned. "I'll have —"

"Mamma have to spank, but Mamma don't," interrupted Albert.

The father said no more. He saw his wife as he climbed the steps.

"I told Albert a dozen times to leave that pot alone," the mother exclaimed, "but he kept right on until it fell."

"Let's not talk about it before him," answered the father.

"Did you threaten to whip him?" he asked later.

"Yes, but he didn't mind."

"Each time you spoke to him you threatened to spank him if he didn't leave the pot alone?"

"Yes."

"And you didn't punish him?"

"Why, no, I—"

"You just kept threatening, is that it?"

"I thought I'd frighten him away by pre-tending."

"Frighten! Frighten! Marie, a mother isn't supposed to be a bear to her child, she's supposed to be a parent."

"But, I didn't want to spank him, I wanted to coax him away."

"You can't coax by threats; you coax by candies and fruits."

"Of course, I wouldn't bribe him! I wished to be firm."

"You accomplished the opposite of your aim, Marie. You made Albert think that you were wishy-washy. You threatened to whip him and you didn't keep your word. You gave him to understand that you were all bluff, and children can't be bluffed."

"Well," sighed Mrs. Harris, "you're home now. You can punish him."

"For what?"

"Playing with the geranium pot."

"It's too late now," said Mr. Harris. "The thing's gone, and I'm afraid Albert's confidence in you is also gone."

—Selected



Needed: Obedient Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Ephesians 6:1

The general disrespect for authority today stems in part from a breakdown in the home. The root of rebellion often gets its start when parents do not guide their children in paths of truth, or when they fail to punish them in a kind and gracious manner for their waywardness. Obedience is basic to acquiring learning skills and becoming responsible citizens in society.

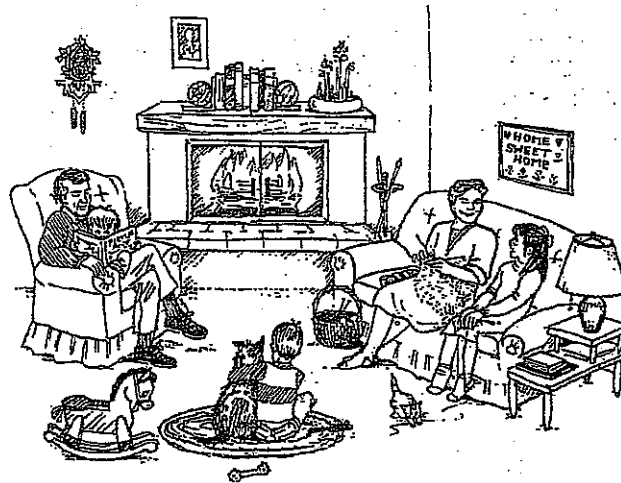
Anne Sullivan, who tutored the blind and deaf Helen Keller, once said, "I saw clearly that it was useless to try to teach her a language or anything else until she first learned to obey me. I have thought about it a great deal, and the more I review my actions, the more certain I am that obedience is the gateway through which knowledge, yes, and love too, enters the mind of a child."

A businessman who needed help advertised for a boy. When the paper came out, so many applied that he didn't know which one to choose. So he decided to run another ad, but this time it read: "Wanted, to assist in my shop, a boy who obeys his parents." Only two teenagers came. After a few searching questions he quickly recognized which one had the right qualifications:

We know that our children's peers will try to get them to engage in wrong or questionable actions. But as Christian parents, we should direct them in paths of conduct that will be beneficial to them, even though at the moment they may not understand why. If they are taught to respect authority in the home, both the church and the state will benefit. Yes, there is a great need today for obedient children! —Selected

O parents, shape your children's lives:
With love and gentle rod;
And teach them early to obey
The laws of man and God.

—Bosch



An Open Letter To All Parents

Dear Mom and Dad,

If I am "affectionately yours," PLEASE . . .

DON'T SPOIL ME. I know quite well that I should not have all that I ask for. I'm only testing you.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE FIRM WITH ME. I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.

DON'T LET ME FORM BAD HABITS. I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.

DON'T MAKE ME FEEL SMALLER THAN I AM. It only makes me behave stupidly "big."
DON'T CORRECT ME IN FRONT OF PEOPLE IF YOU CAN HELP IT! I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.

DON'T NAG. If you do, I shall have to protect myself by ignoring you.

DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES. Remember that I feel badly let down when promises are broken.

DON'T FORGET THAT I CANNOT ALWAYS EXPLAIN MYSELF AS WELL AS I SHOULD LIKE. That is why I'm not always very accurate.

DON'T BE INCONSISTENT. That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.

DON'T PUT ME OFF WHEN I ASK QUESTIONS. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

DON'T TELL ME MY FEARS ARE SILLY. They are terribly real to me and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.

DON'T EVER THINK THAT IT IS BENEATH YOUR DIGNITY TO APOLOGIZE TO ME. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm toward you.

DON'T FORGET I LOVE EXPLORING. I couldn't learn without it, so please put up with it.

DON'T FORGET HOW QUICKLY I AM GROWING UP. It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do try.

DON'T FORGET THAT I CAN'T THRIVE WITHOUT LOTS OF UNDERSTANDING LOVE, BUT I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU, DO I?
YOUR CHILD

Love Permits Pain

"No!", said her little daughter very defiantly when she was asked to pick up the dust pan and put it where it belonged. Mother looked at her daughter who stood there with a rebellious look. It had not been too long before this that she had jumped out of bed after awaking, and ran to her mother for a good-morning kiss and hug. Her mother dearly loved her beautiful little girl. She was their first child and their joy. She still could almost feel those chubby arms around her neck and her warm love that cheered her very heart. Then as she looked at her daughter standing there so determined not to be obedient, her mind raced ahead to the years to come. She would soon be in school and she would meet authority, and, oh, the trouble she would have if she had not learned to obey! Then when she became older, she would meet the laws of the land and again trouble would come to her if she had not learned to respect authority. And there was her God and Maker. She would face Him. If she disobeyed His commandments, her soul would land in hell. And if her daughter didn't learn while young and grow up with a deep respect for her parents' word, love them for their deep care and discipline, she would surely bring them great grief and get into trouble as she went out into the world with other unruly young people. Her mother also knew of others who were not taught obedience that had a lot of heartaches and even some ended up in the reformatories and penitentiaries.

Knowing her duty toward her daughter and her soul, and knowing the girl needed to be conquered while young, she picked up her switch and gave her some good swats. Again she asked her to pick up the dust pan. She again refused. Her mother had given her only enough to make her mad. So with tears her mother prayed to God to conquer her and to break this stubbornness. She again gave her a spanking, while asking her if she was going to mind. All of a sudden, that stubbornness gave way and her rebelling ceased. She was a broken little girl and she picked up the pan and put it where it belonged. Her mother sat down, took her upon her knees and talked to her about how Jesus wanted her to mind her mother. Mother and daughter kissed each other.

Love permits pain. It was because she loved her daughter that she wanted to conquer that disobedience, so as to spare her of great troubles as she grew up. Of course, her mother had to do this again and again, but she kept at it and her daughter grew up as an obedient student at school and at home with a love and respect for God's laws and the laws of the land. Love will cause parents to punish their own flesh and blood so as to spare them many troubles and heartaches in this world.

"For God so loved the world." What kind of a world did God love? It was a world of people that were liars, murderers, adulterers, etc. The people were headed for hell. How could they be spared such an awful ending? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Love permitted pain. The love of God caused Him to permit His one and only Son

to die on the cross so the wicked people of this world might be spared eternal destruction and damnation. Oh, such a great love! "Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure—The saints' and angels' song. . . . God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin." Love permits pain. It melts our hearts in love for our God and we love to keep His commandments and please Him. His love broke our rebellious heart and caused us to be obedient to His laws.

Lazarus was sick. Jesus tarried. Lazarus died. Then Jesus went to Mary and Martha. "Oh, if you had been here, Lazarus would not have died," cried Martha. As He saw their sorrow and because of His great love for them and Lazarus, Jesus wept. Love permitted this pain to come to this home. Jesus wanted them and also others to believe Him to be "the resurrection and the life." Jesus would have rather spared those He loved from pain, but how could they be convinced and others know that He truly was God's Son that had come to give them eternal life and teach them about salvation and the resurrection? Martha did believe and saw the glory of God manifested. Lazarus came forth. "Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him." John 11:1-45.

Bro. D. S. Warner, who was publisher of the "Gospel Trumpet" and a chosen vessel of God to herald this "evening-light" truth, was permitted to be severely tried which, he said, was from God. His wife was swept away from him into a great deception. She left him and openly renounced him and his teachings. She asked him to come and get their child, as she didn't care for him. Later, she remarried after getting a divorce, in which Bro. Warner did not appear against her. Through this suffering and "in one long sleepless night of parching fever and inward pain a portion of his hair suddenly turned grey. What a wonder that the 'Trumpet' during this period was sometimes late in reaching its readers or that for four months it failed to appear at all." ("Birth of a Reformation," page 316). But God brought him through this terrible heartache in which he felt that part of his own flesh had been severed and he felt the reproach that Satan's vile slanderers used to try to hinder His work for God. But God's love permits pain. Victory came to his soul, and "he took it all for good and felt that by it he would experience all the more of Heaven's riches in his soul." We further read of how God blessed his labors in a mighty way as he continued to uncompromisingly declare the whole counsel of God. We read that "marvelous healings were common . . . power over devils . . . and a great outpouring of [God's] Spirit."

As a child of God, may you dare to believe in the wisdom of God which is unmerited, yet unchanging. Suffering and pain bring to us faith, confidence, and experience, and we are able to comfort others with the comfort wherewith we are comforted.

D. S. Warner wrote:

"We would not cast away the gold
We've gathered in the furnace flame,
Nor would we wish again the cross
Here purged in our Redeemer's name."

—Sister Marie Miles



I Carried With Me A Picture

Several years ago five young men left their homes in western Pennsylvania and went out into the great Northwest. They found things quite different from what they were in the old home town, and the temptations were many. Some time later all returned to their former homes. Four of the five showed that they were much the worse because of their experiences in a strange country. But the other young man came back seemingly all the stronger and better because of the experiences through which he had passed.

When asked why he, too, had not gone the way of the other four, he calmly replied, "Because I carried with me a picture."

"Oh, yes, the picture of some young maiden back home, I presume," remarked a friend.

"Oh, no; not that kind of picture," said the young man. "It was a picture of quite a different kind. It was my last morning at home. We all sat down to breakfast as usual; Father at one end of the table and Mother at the other. As they realized that there was to be a breaking of home ties in a few hours, conversation was not very brisk that morning. After breakfast, as was my father's custom, he took down the old Bible and started to read the morning lesson. But he didn't get far. A lump kept coming up in his throat, and he was so blinded by tears that he could not read, and handed the Book over to my mother, motioning to her to finish reading.

"After she finished the chapter, we all knelt to pray. Father started the prayer, as was his custom, but he didn't get far until that lump came up in his throat again and choked back further expression. Then Mother reached over and put her hand on my shoulder and began to pray, saying, 'O God, we thank Thee for our son. We thank Thee that Thou hast kept him true and faithful, and that we are able to send him out from our home chaste and clean. Keep him pure and clean, and may his feet never stray from the paths of virtue, purity, and the truth in which we have tried to bring him up.

Bring him back to us as pure and true as he is going out from us.'

"It was the vision of my last morning in the atmosphere of a godly home, and the remembrance of my precious mother's prayer. I could not bear the thought of breaking the heart of my father and mother and dishonoring my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whom they taught me to love."

—Selected

January, 1988

What Some Men Have Said About Parents

"Honor thy parents, those that gave thee birth, and watched in tenderness thine earliest days, and trained thee up in youth, and loved in all. Honor, obey, and love them; it shall fill their souls with holy joy, and shall bring down God's richest blessing on thee; and in days to come, thy children, if they're given, shall honor thee, and fill thy life with peace."

—Tryon Edwards

"Parents who wish to train up their children in the way they should go, must go in the way in which they would have their children go."

—Francis Bacon

"Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain."

—John Locke

A suspicious parent makes an artful child."

—Thomas Haliburton

"The father and mother of an unnoticed family, who in their seclusion awaken the mind of one child to the idea and love of goodness, who awaken in him a strength of will to repel temptation, and who send him out prepared to profit by the conflicts of life, surpass in influence a Napoleon breaking the world to his sway."

—William Channing

'We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves. When we first bend over the cradle of our own child, God throws back the temple door, and reveals to us the sacredness and mystery of a father's and a mother's love to ourselves. In later years, when our parents have gone from us, there is always a certain sorrow, that we cannot tell them we

have found it out. . . One of the deepest experiences of a noble nature in reference to the loved ones that have passed beyond this world, is the thought of what he might have been to them, and done for them, if he had known, while they were living, what he has learned since they died."

—H. W. Beecher

YOUR CHILDREN

Take time to laugh and sing and play,
 To cuddle them a bit.
 Tell them a story now and then,
 And steal a little time to sit
 And listen to their childish talk,
 Or take them for a little walk.
 You do not know it now — but soon
 They will be gone — the years are swift —
 For life just marches on and on,
 And heaven holds no sweeter gift
 Than a small boy with tousled hair,
 Who leaves his toys just anywhere.
 Take time to hear their prayers at night.
 To really cherish and enjoy
 A little girl with flaxen curls,
 And the small wonder of a boy.
 They ask so little when they're small,
 Just love and tenderness — that's all.
 —Vermont Home Guards

Parents and Children

Taken from *Home Health and Success*
 by Thomas Nelson

What are your children to you? What are you, and what should you be, to them? Upon the right understanding of these important questions and upon your acting accordingly, hinges the happiness that you may reap from your children, as well as their good and future usefulness. Or rather, it hinges upon the last question; for if we are what nature and God intended we should be to our children as parents, they will hardly fail to be what they should be to us. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" is the saying of the wisest man that ever lived. I am sure he is right about it.

Very few realize to the fullest extent what they should be to their children, and for this reason many children are not what they should be to their parents and the standard of home is lowered from one generation to another. Every father and mother should apply themselves diligently to learn their duties and privileges in this matter; and when we become pupils, it pays to employ the very best teachers that we can find. There are two sources from which we can draw reliable and useful information more than from all other sources combined. Those two are nature and the Bible. These we shall always find in full harmony with each other in all their teachings; for the same God is author of both. Other teachers may, and generally do, disagree, thus leaving us to wonder who is right or whether any of them are really correct; but when we make nature and the good Book our

teachers, we know that all the lessons we learn in their school are good and correct. We, therefore, recommend them to parents as the best and only reliable source of information in regard to the rearing of children. The question, therefore, will be, What does nature and the Bible teach that parents should be to their children?

When a child is born, the foundation for a life has been completed. Upon this foundation a structure, high or low, broad or narrow, strong or weak, will be reared, according to the home training in childhood and youth, and the after-life of the man or woman.

It is clear that although the child possesses every member that makes up the man or woman, yet none of these members are developed so that child can make use of them on its own responsibility; and this development is a gradual process carried on until full maturity is reached. It is also both natural and reasonable that the parents should supply what the child lacks in this development, in order that it may be safely carried through the periods of childhood and youth, or until it is able to fully do for itself.

This really shows the duties of parents to their children as well as the duration and extent of these duties. This is a very particular point, however, and much wisdom will be needed in order to determine how much responsibility to hold to and how much to turn over to the child. It can be determined only according to our discernment of the constant development of its different faculties. To an infant the mother must really be everything—hands, feet, ears, eyes, will, mind, etc. True, the babe possesses all these faculties and members, but they are undeveloped and therefore can not be used; and it is easy to understand that the Author of nature intended that the parents supply the lack of the helpless infant.

But this helplessness does not continue long. In a year or so the little feet begin to walk, the tongue to speak, etc. To the extent of development the parents can and should let the child make use of its physical and mental faculties; but, remember, no farther. The undeveloped mind and will of the child is not to have the say-so-about this matter, but it must be determined by the mature mind and good will of the parents. No parents should ever let the child have its own way when contrary to what they understand to be good and wise. Some parents are entirely too slack in this respect, to the ruination of home and children. The parents are not to be in

subjection to the children, but the children are to be in subject to the parents; and right here it might be well to let the Bible determine how far this subjection and obedience shall go—"Children, obey your parents in all things." Col. 3:20. This is spoken to the child, but it is the duty and privilege of the parents to see that it is carried out; and it is for the very best interest of the child, not to govern, but to be governed. A good servant makes a good ruler, but one who has never learned obedience will never know how to bear rule. The wise man says, "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child!" Eccl. 10:16. And we will add, woe unto the home that is governed by the undeveloped mind and selfish will of the child!

This government begins at birth and ceases gradually as the child through growth and training has no more need of it; but it does not fully cease until full development, or until manhood or womanhood is reached; or, to make it a little plainer, not until the children leave the parental home to found homes of their own.

It is clear that both nature and the Bible teach that parents must be the governors of their children; therefore it is the only right way to have it in any home, and to have it otherwise will prove disastrous to both parents and children. You can and must govern your children, insomuch that you will never let them have their own will or way in a single thing that your judgment tells you is not for their good. To say that you can not is to acknowledge yourselves weaker in mind and body than your undeveloped child. It is not love, but weakness of manhood and womanhood, that causes parents to let a child have its own way to its hurt; and yet how often do we find parents that time after time yield to their children's stubborn and rebellious wills rather than be firm and do their duty towards them, as parents should.

We will relate a little incident that came under our observation some years ago. A fond mother of an only child, a bright little boy, who was at this time about five years of age, heard some lessons on parental government, and seeing that she had been very slack, she determined to do better in the future. However, this

was not so easily done, for the little fellow had already developed more in self-will than in mental comprehension. One day we were visiting the home. Just as we had sat down to a table well spread with many good things to eat, the little fellow took a notion he wanted certain things that his mother thought not best for him to have. This at once brought trouble, insomuch that the child got a very stiff backbone and slid under the table. The next thing was screaming and kicking, and pounding of a little head against the floor, which only increased every time the mother told him to stop and come out from under the table. The whole affair ended with the mother's giving in and coaxing the child



out by telling him he could have the things he wanted. There are no doubt hundreds of similar cases in our land, either to the fullest extent or in a less degree. We will say to such parents that you are cultivating something in your children which may some day put them behind prison-bars, and that you can and must do differently if you really love your children and desire to do your very best for their good.

Knowledge, wisdom and government are three things indispensable to parents, and you should do your very best to possess them to the extent needed. If you are Christian parents—if not, you should be—you have this good promise: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5. If you are determined to do your part and to make a success of rearing your family, you will find need of asking for wisdom; and the Author of home and family is always ready to give it, for He is interested in children.

Remember, then, you are to be to your children all that they can not be to themselves because of a lack of development of body and mind. You must labor for them, first wholly and then partially, until their hands are strong enough to labor for themselves. You must think and decide for them until they are able to rightly and wisely decide for themselves and therefore no longer need your help. At the same time, do

not forget to let them exercise their own faculties in every line; and let your guiding and training help the development that nature carries out through growth. It must not be forgotten that the mind and understanding do not, for several years at least, develop so fast as the body, and that the whole being in every part must be trusted according to development. Let me also say that more time and more efforts than are usual with most parents will have to be spent in learning and doing our duties so that we may do well our main work in life. And again let me say, it is a well-paying work and is therefore worth doing well.



Unselfish Living

by Wayne Murphey

One day an elderly man was seen planting some fruit trees. Someone said to him, "You will not live to see the fruit of those trees."

"I very well know that, my friend, but others will, after I am gone."

This insight was sensible, unselfish, beautiful and Christ-like. It is also the perfect illustration for parenthood. Being a parent provides a multitude of blessings, but to bring forth the fruit of those blessings requires the daily practice of sacrificial living. The everyday demands of meeting the constant need of children will test the patience and endurance of parents, for their investment of time and labor does not lead to immediate reward. If this is expected, there will not be enough grace on hand to do a proper job.

Every person of merit today was once a child who had to have his nose wiped and his manners molded. Even Christ came into this world as a baby in need of the most basic attention. The load for Mary was lessened as she pondered in her heart that one day, as the angel had said, her child would be the Savior of all mankind.

As parents, don't become weary and disheartened at the daily toil, but be diligent to continually provide those things which are necessary for your children's physical welfare. Supply an abundance of love and consistent, gentle pressure to mold their attitudes. Also, if you will include them in your prayers and supplications to God, it will give you hope that their lives will bear eternal fruit and blessings. You may not always be rewarded as promptly as you would like, but future value for others will spring from the investment of your labor.



"Home, Sweet Home"

I have heard home defined as, "The father's kingdom, the children's paradise, the mother's world." Every day father and mother stamp their character upon their children's lives, mold their manners, conscience, and future by the measures with which they direct their household.

As our Creator beheld man in his first home in the garden of Eden, He said, "Behold, it was very good." It is God's plan for every home to be good. This cannot be said about many homes today.

There is much honor connected with a good home and family ties. Let the wife see that she reverence and obey her husband; the husband is to give honor unto the wife as the weaker vessel; the children are to honor the father and mother. This type of home honors our Father in heaven. To see this lived and practiced is a beautiful picture to behold.

It is the privilege of every newly-wedded couple to establish a happy home. If your home is not a happy one, you are living beneath your privileges. You often hear the expression, "Home, sweet home . . . be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." We all are interested in spending our time in the things that yield the greatest profit, and nothing is more profitable to husbands, wives, and children than a good happy home. This not only holds good dividends for your present home, but will also live on in your children's future homes. The standard you hold will live on and make a happy home for your grandchildren. The way mother treats her husband is the way daughter will likely treat her husband. There is no greater heritage we parents can leave our children in years to come than precious memories of a happy home.

Our interest should be in the welfare of our children and in spending our time to make each member in the family happy. Some parents of today pay a baby sitter to rear their children while they are engaged in social affairs, clubs, vacation trips, etc. This may bring honor and pleasure to self, but it does not honor God. Riotous living will deprive a couple of home happiness.

If in every home natural affection had control, there would be no divorces, no unfaithfulness, and home would be sweet to every member of the family. Natural affection has been crushed, wounded, and even killed in some homes. It is possible this could be caused through ignorance or failing to realize the necessity of following after things that make for happiness. Love and affection is like a stream; it must be constantly fed or it will run dry.

Young people, keep in mind that neither beauty, money, nor honor can take the place of natural af-

fection. If you marry for any of these reasons, your home is likely to prove a curse instead of a blessing.

Recently we talked with a school teacher who told us that parents would be surprised to see and hear the actions and conversations that go on among the children from homes of today. She says it is harsh, hateful, and unkind. After our children have been in this sinful, unfriendly atmosphere most of the day, is home such that they can look forward to coming and feel that sweet welcome of security that will erase hurts from their hearts, and find comfort, love and warmth to make life happy and cheerful for them?

Let each family ask the question: "Is our home as happy as it ought to be?" Most of us may find there is room for improvement. The best way to improve our home is to improve "ourselves." If we find ourselves short of God's standard of a happy home, each one should strive by the help and grace of God to regain and retain happiness, and make it a life-long experience of "Home, sweet home."

—Dora Lela Belsly

COMMUNIST RULES OF REVOLUTION

In May of 1919—fifty-two years ago—at Dusseldorf, Germany, the Allied Forces came upon a copy of the "Communist Rules For Revolution."

Now, more than fifty years later, the Reds still assiduously follow these rules, and their goals are uncomfortably near at hand.

We quote from these Red Rules—and as you read the list, stop after each item and think—what is the present day situation where you live, and all around our nation?

A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial. Destroy their ruggedness.

B. Get control of all means of publicity, thereby:

1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books and plays, and other trivialities.

2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no great importance.

3. Destroy the people's faith in their national leaders by holding the latter up to contempt, ridicule and obloquy, and general discontent.

4. Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and as ruthlessly as possible.

5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit, produce fear of inflation with rising prices.

6. Foment unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders, and foster lenient and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.

7. By specious argument cause the breakdown of the old moral virtues—honesty, sobriety, continence, faith in the pledged word, ruggedness.

C. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless.

Take time to think—seriously—of all of the above. Then draw your own conclusions. Frightening how far this scheme has progressed, isn't it!

—Selected

Abortion Is Murder

In the light of God's Word, it seems there would not be any need for any person to have a question as to the right or wrong of abortion, but it seems that in this day and age when it is being discussed so freely some are thinking there might be some reason why an abortion would be all right. It is not what we think nor the excuses that we might make that count, it is what God's Word says. We each one individually will have to stand before God and give an account for the deeds that we commit. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. So when this world is on fire we do want to be on a sure foundation. We want to be measured up to God's Word and we will be safe in that hour.

Murder is mentioned in the list of the "works of the flesh," and is one of the sins that will keep us out of heaven. God also gave the fifth commandment which says, "Thou shalt not kill." Ex. 20:13. We cannot see how anyone would not know that abortion is murder. It is taking life.

Abortion means "expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is viable; miscarriage." Miscarriages which are not induced are not murder. We are dealing with having the fetus taken from the womb. "Aborticide" comes from a Latin word, "caebire," meaning to kill. (Webster) So induced abortion is nothing but murder.

One excuse is that it is to save the mother's life. According to Dr. J. P. Donnally, "Abortion is never necessary to save the life of the mother." According to Dr. B. J. Pisani, "Medical reason for provoking abortions are just about non-existent."

Several terrible methods are used to remove the fetus. It seems that any mother who has a heart or a conscience that is not seared could not think of consenting to the taking of the life of her little one in any manner. But the enemy of her soul brings her to such a state that she surely isn't thinking correctly at all.

The wanton destruction of life, either born or unborn, is a grievous sin against God, others, and one's own soul. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption." Gal. 6:7, 8. "The Lord knoweth how to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished; but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness." 2 Peter 2:9, 10.

Mothers, fathers, and the doctors who take life, or consent to it, are responsible directly to God for murder. We warn everyone that they will surely meet such actions in the day of judgment and there find God's wrath on them for this hideous sin.

—M. Miles



Family Time or TV Time?

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

My friend looked at me with eyes of wonder. "You don't have a television? With so many children at home you don't have a TV to keep them busy? How do you live without a TV?" She was sincere in her question and I answered her.

"We visit. We work together and we play together. Our favorite time of the day is supper when we all sit around the table and visit while we eat."

"You do? That may be nice. We live in such a tiny house that we take our food to the living room and eat on TV trays while we watch the evening news and some family programs. Then I make the children do their homework and get to bed."

"Well, that would be different," I replied thoughtfully. All my childhood years and then through our 20 plus married years I have always known supper time as the daily family fellowship hour. Each family member has time to relate to the rest of us some things that happened in the day. We keep in touch this way. Prayer is offered, Bible discussions take place, questions and answers are exchanged, and we all go to bed feeling snugly bonded together as friends. Eating in front of a noisy TV would be disruptive to conversation, I would think.

Others have found it so, I learned when I read: *Unplugging the Plug-in Drug* by Marie Winn, who is a contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*. By experience, she and her husband have learned that without a television, their friendship is enriched and their family bond is strengthened with their two sons. She has documented several ways in which watching television causes a negative influence on children and family life.

TV keeps families from doing other things such as visiting and listening to each other, playing fun games indoors and outdoors and family festivities.

TV hinders many children from learning good reading skills. It often deprives preschoolers of a bedtime story read by Mom or Dad.

TV contributes to children growing up less civilized. Violent programs or cartoons desensitize adolescents to the reality of pain and the value of life.

TV takes the place of play. Toddlers who spend long periods of time before the flickering screen lose opportunity in learning cognitive development from active play. These toddlers are slower in developing manners among their peers.

TV makes children less resourceful. According to some parents TV makes them "plain lazy." Children should be able to think on their own and be responsible for and aware of their thoughts.

TV has a bad effect on a family's physical fitness. Dedicated TV watchers have more of a tendency to be overweight because they eat more and exercise less while watching television.

TV has a negative effect on children's school achievement. An impressive number of research studies prove that excessive television viewing has an adverse effect on a child's academic achievement. It lowers scores in reading, an important factor in every area of learning and it takes away from homework time.

TV watching can be a serious addiction. Adults often say, "I only watch the news." "I control what I watch." But ultimately the average American spends

more time in viewing TV programs than they want to admit.

How quickly does an average American agree to leave the TV off for a week or two? It is not easy. The TV is a gravitational idol in most houses. Many families who have turned off the tube for good after having it available for so long experience psychological withdrawal “pains.” It takes time for the family to adjust to conversations, games, indoor and outdoor activities together, chatting at mealtime and reading. However, families who do take this challenging plunge report stronger family bonds and a whole new awareness of life about them.

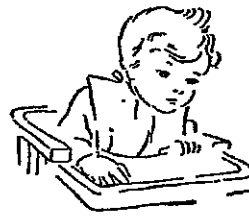
Television can complicate matters for dysfunctional families. A majority of the programs project a negative image of a husband-wife-child relationship. There are few wholesome role models for the next generations to follow. TV programs offer little hope to teens in abusive home situations.

The best solution is to never bring the television into your home to begin with. The Word of God says, “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” Ps. 101:3. “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” I Thes. 5:22. “...Whatsoeverye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Cor. 10:31. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,...honest,...just,...pure,... lovely,...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Phil. 4:8.

Several leaders who encourage good moral standards for our American society, advocate less, if any, TV for a healthy home life. Those who have stopped the television from influencing their homes are not behind times, but they are at the forefront in leading families to a happier, healthier relationship with one another.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

HOME



LIFE

Law in the Home

by Mabel Hale

Every part of the universe moves under law. Each planet in its orbit, each star in the great heavens, the sun, the moon, the earth, everything that God has made is set to law and moves in a definite course, or remains stationary, as prescribed by that law. All nature is ruled by inexorable laws. The seasons come and go with unchanging regularity, bringing seedtime and harvest, cold and heat. Every seed brings forth of its kind, and every beast of his kind. Everywhere there is law.

Mankind has found from the very beginning that government and law are necessary to his happiness and prosperity, so he has formed nations with their laws and rulers. Wherever law has been broken down, anarchy and chaos have been the result.

The smallest of all communities, and yet the nucleus of all human government, is found in the home. Here are a little company of people who are bound together for their own good and happiness by cords of love—the strongest ties of nature—each dependent upon the others, and whose interests are inseparably interwoven. Here is a little universe to itself.

Suppose that one star in the heavens should break away from the established law of the universe and go careening through space, what would be the result? Catastrophe after catastrophe would follow. And shall we wonder then if a member in the little world of home who is allowed to run contrary to law and order brings upon himself and the family untold trouble and anxiety?

Home at its best is a place of order, regularity, and justice, coupled with love and mercy. If any of these things are lacking, the harmony and peace of the home is marred. Order, regularity, and justice can only be the results of law.

To acknowledge law there must also be an acknowledgment of authority high enough to make and enforce law. In the home this power rests with the parents, and particularly with the father. Parents should be obedient to the laws they have made, and should require obedience from the children.

It is better to have few rules and have them kept than to have many rules and restrictions and have them continually broken. Some of the rules which are good in every home are those which require the children to abstain from all impudent and saucy speeches, to be respectful and courteous to all older people and to their parents, to play without quarreling and fighting, to respect the right and properties of all other members of the household, to be quiet and

respectful in family worship, and to do their part of the household duties regularly. And every one of these rules, if parent would have a moral right to require obedience in their children, have a reflex requirement on the conduct of the parents.

How can we expect our children to leave off impudence and sauciness if we speak to them and to each other in that manner, or how dare we demand of them a respect they do not see in us? If we cannot get along without contentions, why should we expect the children to do so? And if we disregard their rights and properties, how can we consistently require them to do differently?

The laws of the home are in their nature more flexible and adjustable to the circumstances of the individual than other laws, but their moral and restraining force must be felt in every home that would be happy and prosperous.

HOME LIFE



The Duty of Teaching God's Word To Our Children

Taken from, *Our Children*
by Atticus Haygood

For the children the family is a school—the parents being the divinely appointed teachers. This is not a question of mere privilege, although it is a very lofty privilege that God gives us when he allows us to teach His precious Word to our children. It is a duty, the most imperative, the most solemn, that can appeal to our judgment, our affections and our conscience. He who does not know that he ought to teach God's Word to his children—that he owes it to God, to his children, to society and to his own soul—does not know what every true father must know—does not feel as every true father must feel. It is not a question for the capriciousness of human inclination, or the arbitrariness of human choice. It is a question of law—as the Ten Commandments are law. God does not simply advise or exhort—He commands: "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."

This holy work all parents must do. God commands it. It is not a matter to be argued about—to be debated or doubted. It is a duty to be done—that must be done, if we would escape the righteous condemnation of a broken and holy law. Nor may this very sacred duty be left to accident for its performance—to be a pious amusement for our leisure, a something good enough when it is done, but that may be omitted innocently by us, and without damage to our children. We are not only to teach God's Word to our children, but to intend to do it; not only to teach them, but to take all possible pains to do it. God's Word is plain—it is unmistakable: "And thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children." He who does not understand this does not understand the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill;" he does not understand anything. No place is left for doubting or dodging this duty; for omitting it or transferring its responsibilities. "And thou"—not another, or others, how great, or good, or learned, or skillful soever they may be—"and thou shalt teach them"—not incidentally, casually, carelessly, occasionally—"thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

And it is a perpetual duty, a constant obligation, an unintermittent responsibility. It presses upon us, it commands us at home, abroad, everywhere, all the time. The sense of obligation to do this holy duty must pervade and solemnize our entire family life. No business, however pressing, no pleasure, however fascinating, no human interest whatever can affect it. It is not a duty for one man—as the man of wealth, of leisure, of learning, of piety. Nothing, among all the employments or pleasures of men, can be so important that it may interfere with this duty, hinder this work, lighten this obligation. Our condition in life; our mere circumstances of prosperity or adversity, wealth or poverty, have nothing to do with it. Are we parents? Have we been the means of bringing children into this world? The fact of parenthood settles the question of responsibility and constitutes the call to duty. If we are parents we must—not we may—teach God's Word, His will, His providence, His grace, His saving truths to our children.

How definite, how precise are the words! How imperative the command! And no wonder; the eternal interests of immortal souls are connected with the performance or neglect of this duty.

"Whom to know is life eternal?" What does he know who does not know God? What is knowledge that leaves out the knowledge of God? What is learning that forgets, or contemns, the truths of God? What is education—though a thousand diplomas certify its depth and variety—that neglects or despises the Word of God? He knows most who knows God best; he is most learned who is most learned in the things of God; he is wisest who knows, not merely the most facts, but the most truth; he is best educated whose mind is most illumined by the light of Divine revelation, whose heart is most surely enshrined in the promises of God's grace, whose conscience is most responsive to the demands of God's law, whose life is most obedient to the requirements of God's will. Will we never learn our most sacred duty? Will we never know our best and noblest work? Will we never know what is the chief good we can do our children—the richest heritage we can leave them?

No doubt we love them. We toil for them through winter and summer. We never rest. We think for them by day and

dream of them by night. They fill our thoughts; they create our anxieties; they excite our hopes; they alarm our fears. But, alas! we love them in a blind sort of way—the love of higher instinct—when we do not know that for our children the best knowledge, and, indeed, the only indispensable knowledge, is the knowledge of God.

How early we send them to earthly schools! How carefully we choose their teachers! How we seek to make them wise in the use of words that they may speak well. How we wish them to be skillful in the use of numbers. And much other human learning we think indispensable to them. We spend money, time, and toil in giving them the knowledge of this world. And this is right, so far as it goes. We have neither word nor thought to discount the value of a thorough scholastic education. But this is not all.

How many parents are solicitous about the worldly education of their children, but careless, forgetful, indifferent as to their education in Divine things! How many thousands of children have lived through infancy, and early childhood, and adolescent youth, and have died and gone into the eternal world, who, if they bear with them any account of their parents

must say, "My father toiled for me, sent me to school, taught me business, but I never heard him pray; he never told me of God, His government, or His grace?"

We have often thought that there sobs out—as a pathetic undertone—in the lamentations of David, over rebellious and lost Absalom, the consciousness of some sacred parental duties neglected, or but partially performed. In Absalom's boyhood and youth, David was sorely pressed with the cares of government. His enemies, pressing his kingdom on every side; his intractable and half-civilized people crowded his waking thoughts with anxieties, his dreams with cares and alarms. He had little time, during all this period, to watch over the morals of his children, to teach them God's words, or to train them in their duties. But Absalom—bright, beautiful, quick-witted, and ambitious—was not slow to learn. In the court and in the camp he soon learned the "words" of men, the ways of the

"He knows most who knows God best; he is most learned who is most learned in the things of God; he is wisest who knows, not merely the most facts, but the most truth;..."

world, but God was not in all his thoughts. In all his words and deeds Absalom shows himself simply a man of the world.

By and by the penalty came, as, sooner or later, it always will and must come. David little knew what a storm was brewing, and when at last it burst upon his house it well-nigh broke his heart. The loving father's heart was sorely wrung when he thought of his idolized children. There was dishonored Tamar and dead Amnon—and by a brother's hand. And now, at last, after treason and all manner of wickedness, Absalom—so fondly loved, so petted, and so spoiled—hangs dead from the thick boughs of an oak in the dark "wood of Ephraim." This time victory brought no joy to David. Absalom—his beautiful and petted Absalom—is dead and lost—forever lost!

There is nothing sadder than David's lamentation, and, as it seems to us, his conscience bleeds with his heart as he wails out his sorrows in sobs and cries. "And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

That father who is too busy to teach his children God's words and to be the priest of his

house is too busy for his soul's good—too busy to be a father. If his children, untaught and untrained in the ways of life, shall live without God and die without hope, be sure their blood will cry from the wet and sobbing earth against him. That father who is so borne down with honors and public cares that he cannot perform the duty of a father, is too great before men to be great before God. No cares of government—no necessities of civil or ecclesiastical position—modify or abridge the obligations that inhere in the very relation of fatherhood. If the king cannot rule his people and teach God's Word to his children, and be a true priest in his house, there is no room for debate; he must be no more king. There are fathers who should take this to heart. There can be in this world no more sacred relation than that of fatherhood; nothing in this world may come between a father and the duty he owes his child. Whatever hinders him in the discharge of his duty, that, if he truly fears God and wisely loves his child, he will turn from and eschew. Whatever is left undone, the duties of fatherhood and motherhood must be done. And yet there are some parents who neither think nor care. They are of this world; they build, not on God's plan, but on their own, meager and false though it is. They assume to choose and to decide. They set God's claims aside, or subordinate them to the claims of business or pleasure.

"Let parents endeavor to deserve that honor which God has commanded their children to pay them; and believe it, that they must be by greater and better offices than barely bringing them into this world; which of itself puts them only in danger of passing into worse. And, therefore, let parents remember, that as the paternal is a most honorable relation so it is also the greatest trust in the world, and that God will be a certain and severe exactor of it; and the more so, because they have such weighty opportunities to discharge it."

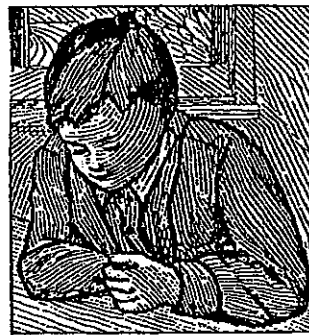


What is Sin?

Catherine Wesley gave this definition to her son, John, when he asked her, "What is Sin?"

"Whatsoever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes the relish off spiritual things, whatsoever increases the authority of your body over your mind, that for you is sin."

HOME



LIFE

Nov. 1983

A Word to the Boys

For a long time we have felt the need of a message for the boys, as the boys are among the most interesting and important classes. I will tell you why, boys, because you are to become the future men of tomorrow.

We older people should be very much concerned about the boys—and we are; that is why this message is written. There are many snares to entrap the feet of the young.

There are broken-hearted parents who go down to the grave in sorrow because of a dear boy who drinks, etc. Perhaps he is the only stay of their old age. Another, instead of being a stay to his widowed mother, tramples on her heart which is already crushed with deep sorrow.

Boys, consider. Could you only see the great army of criminals and "down and outers" all together, along with the broken-hearted wives, mothers, and children! My dear God, what a picture! Do you know, boys, that these bloated-faced, red eyed, half-crazed men who are the cause of all this suffering, were once as innocent as you perhaps are now? You have no thought of becoming like them. Not one of them reached this place in a single bound or step.

The first downward step of many a boy was disobedience to parents. For his associates he chose wicked boys who used tobacco and swore. He thought it was manly to do these things and followed them right in their steps—down, down, down.

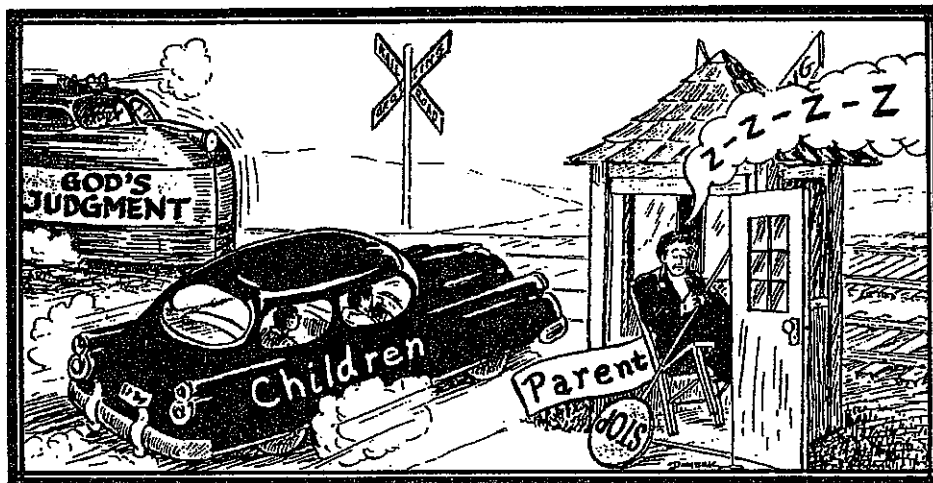
Boys! Boys!! Beware!! Do not take the first step in this downward course, for the end thereof are the ways of death. If you have commenced this way, **STOP NOW!—BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!!** Don't let Satan entrap you any further. Ask God to help you and have the courage to say, "No." God will help you if you ask Him to do so.

Dear boys, will you give this earnest thought? Look around you and notice the people who drink. Then look until you find a young man with a strong body, clean clothes, clean lips and teeth, and rosy cheeks. His very actions say "no" to all bad habits. It is said that if a bell should toll every eight minutes, it would toll the death of a drunkard. Boys, get Christ in your hearts. He will fit you for life and fit you for heaven.

—From an interested mother

(Taken from a 1932 *Faith and Victory*)

HOME LIFE



Some Neglectful Parents

We live in an age when there is a great deal of zeal in the cause of education. But all education is miserably defective where the knowledge of God's Word is left out. Those who have early in youth been well instructed in the Word of God will be fortified against being carried away with the many errors of the age. Parents, do not neglect to sow the seeds of divine truth early in the minds of your children. You have them around you now, but the time is not far distant when they will be scattered far from you.

There is no time to lose. Do not let them go forth with minds as uninstructed in Bible truths as the heathen. Do not let them go forth to grapple with the stern realities of life without the light of the heavenly lamp. You may be proud of your children's education; you may have spared no cost upon it. But without a knowledge of the Bible, what is to become of their poor souls? God says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Some object to this view of the case by pointing to some very good people who have had very wicked children. The Word does not say that every good man's child shall be saved, for every good man is not a good child-trainer. Some good people are really training their children for perdition, although they do not know it and would be dreadfully distressed at the thought. Eli was a good man, and yet he trained his family for destruction. His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. We have an example of the same thing in David's household. He spoiled his children by indulgence, and

thereby brought trouble not only upon himself but upon his whole kingdom. Just as our gardens if left alone will be sure to bring forth weeds, so our children if left to the guidance of their own nature are sure to grow up rebels against God. Children who have early been taught to submit their own wills to the will of the parents are far more likely to submit their wills to God. It is a rare thing for a spoiled, self-indulged child ever to be converted in adulthood.

Parents may be good people, they may offer many prayers for the children, they may shed many tears for them, but the child whose will is not taught to bend to authority grows up strong in its rebellion, treating the commands of Jesus as it treated those of its parents, saying, "I will not have this man to reign over me."

The parents of such a child have, without intending it, been his worst enemies by their foolish indulgence. Oh, how sad to see parents laying down, to be trampled in the dust, the authority that God has given them to guide their children aright in this world and to heaven in the end!

—William Strong

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Listen Mothers, Guard And Guide

Listen mothers, "Guard and guide,"

Little feet can go astray:

Danger in their path may hide,

That increases day by day.

Take the time to talk and teach,

Little thoughts may long remain

In the hearts they clearly reach,

Many evils to restrain.

Mother's confidences prove
 Oft the turning point of life,
 For the heart they gently move
 When with evil there is strife.

In old age they treasures seem,
 Having served as blessings rare,
 Ling'ring as a lovely dream,
 Making life exceeding fair.

—Jennie C. Rutty



HOME LIFE

Many Christian parents, even those who have been warned about the spiritual dangers associated with the television, continue to allow their children to watch it because they feel it is educational. They state that the T.V. helps their child learn many things about the world they live in, and believe that it allows them to do better in school. If, however, parents took time out from their busy schedules to read up on this important subject at one of the larger libraries, they would find that studies are showing that the amount of useful information children get from T.V. is exceptionally limited. The number of hours spent in T.V. watching has been found to correlate negatively to academic achievement. In other words, the children who made the highest scores on standardized tests in school watched the least amount of T.V. Among children ranked at the bottom of their classes, it was not unusual to find youngsters who watched an average of six or more hours of T.V. per day. Many highly intelligent parents (including some who do not profess Christianity or even a belief in God) refuse to let their children (even teenagers) watch more than three to six hours of T.V. per week. They realize that most shows contain little, if any, value for their children.

In 1982, the National Institute of Mental Health issued a ten-year study on the role of the television in the lives of children. The committee found that T.V. did not provide material for imaginative play. Those who viewed many hours of T.V. had less ability to use their imaginations and had lower creativity. Their reading comprehension was lower and most of these children did poorly when asked to create a story of their own.

Children who watched T.V. even a few hours

each day found even simple writing assignments difficult. Even though many of the younger children had excellent receptive vocabularies and were able to understand what they heard, they usually had a great deal of difficulty expressing their own ideas on paper, which is what is required in school.

A number of other problems were found in this study, but the young child's inability to distinguish facts from opinions, and fantasy from reality should concern parents. Although most people incorrectly assume that children who are six to fourteen years of age are able to tell what is real and what is not as they watch T.V., most children are unable to do this before the age of 12 to 14. This finding would not seem surprising if one considers the fact that thousands of adults have written to Marcus Welby (an actor who played the role of a doctor of great abilities on television) asking for medical advice.

Another group of parents believe that they should allow their young children to watch "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company." The reports on "Sesame Street" are coming in and what they are showing is not comforting. "Sesame Street" is designed to catch the attention of the very young. It consists of a series of short, action-oriented sequences. This type format does not build the child's attention span. Although the young child will probably learn the alphabet, numbers, and a few other skills, the short attention span and hyperactivity he or she develops as they learn, often stay with them as they enter school. Primary teachers frequently mention the fact that each year they seem to have more and more students who appear bright but are unable to sit still and listen long enough to learn new skills. They experience difficulty in staying in their seats, completing assignments, and listening while others are speaking. The bright colors and rapidly changing scenes designed to capture and keep the attention of the preschool child cause many children to conclude that school is dull indeed.

Although television does steal time from reading activities, a second problem that is not often recognized by concerned parents is that all muscles, including the eyes, perform according to the way they are trained. Children exposed to "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company" may enter school reading words or phrases but their reading ability usually does not continue to progress as the parents had expected. When watching T.V., the eyes move mostly in a "scatter-pattern" but predominantly up and down. When reading, the eyes need to make relatively smooth movements in a left-to-right manner. Children whose eyes develop a strong "scatter-pattern" habit before eye motions for reading are learned, have great difficulty in learning to read effortlessly. If the child is still basically a non-reader at the end of the first or second year, the school may diagnose the problem as a learning disability. Even though the problem was environmentally caused, correcting it is both expensive and difficult.

The third thing to be said against allowing your child to develop the habit of watching "Sesame Street" is that most children who are regular watchers out-grow the program by the time they are four. They then "graduate" to other T.V. programs although most of them are written for adult audiences.

Although there are many other reasons parents should shield their children from T.V., a few of them include: 1. Becoming desensitized to all the violence, inordinate affections, and abominations that are becoming more prevalent in our country each day; 2. Finding that children have trouble focusing their minds on what training the parents attempt to give when the T.V. is off; 3. The addictive nature of T.V.; 4. Poor health habits fostered by commercials.

The Bible instructs parents to "train up a child in the way he should go. . . ." Parents must realize that this means you train your child. If they are spending more time in front of a T.V. than they are spending at your feet being taught about God, you should not be surprised when the child goes off in the direction of his most intense training.

Christian parents must realize that they have no one to apologize to when they refuse to allow T.V. sets in their homes. Children are gifts from God. He would not want us to knowingly cause a child to be handicapped and corrupted.

I do pray that someone who may have had questions in their minds about the T.V., will be helped by something that has been said. —Myra Moaning

"Your children will listen to what you tell them, and they may do what you say, but they will become who you are."

on account of ignorance or inattention, and not, we trust, indifference—seem to attach very little importance to such efforts as children make to be religious. Sometimes we have heard the interest of a protracted meeting discounted by reflections upon the number of children that knelt for prayer. Surely such persons have not read, or considered, what our Lord Jesus has said: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:1-6.

Critics may differ as much as they please about the exegesis of these weighty words, but their spirit is unmistakable, and we cannot read them aright without feeling that we commit a great sin, and expose ourselves to a great condemnation, when we hinder a little child that would come to Jesus. But it is mournfully true that sometimes we imitate the bad example of the unbelieving disciples who "rebuked" those who "brought young children to him, that he should touch them." Let us read and ponder the record that the evangelist has made at this place: "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

How mischievous are our misty notions and blind prejudices! We ought to press the subject of religion upon the attention of our children. There is not plenty of time. Children have much to do with religion—as much as grown people have. Children are in great danger who delay embracing Christ. It is not, by any means, as well for a child to wait awhile; for he suffers, if not the loss of his soul, nevertheless an incalculable loss, by waiting.

The child is now capable of sin, and by that token we know that he is capable of religion also. He now needs Christ, and, therefore, Christ is now able and willing to save him. For "the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Children are born with depraved natures; they must have new hearts to become children of God in Christ Jesus. They must be pardoned and regenerated. Sin is one in its essential character in grown people and in children. There is but one way as there is but

HOME LIFE



Prevention
Of
Sin



An Invaluable Mercy

We fall into many mistakes on this whole subject of the religion of childhood.

In the first place, we have a vague notion that there is no need of pressing the matter upon a child's attention—that there is plenty of time—that a child has not much to do with religion any way—that religion is a subject that chiefly concerns grown people—that a child is in no danger by delay in embracing Christ—that it will be as well, if not better, for the little ones to wait awhile. And some persons—surely

one Saviour. To become "heirs of God" they must be made "children of God." To become "children of God" they must be "created anew in Christ Jesus"—must be "transformed by the renewing of their mind." They must be "born again"—"born of the Spirit," "born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." And the sooner the better for the child, for the good of men, and for the glory of God.

It is, indeed, a blessed and glorious work of grace when some great sinner of "the giants, of the sons of Anak," is brought to the feet of Jesus; but in every view of the case it would be better that the little sins of children should never develop into the great sins of desperate and hardened sinners. The story of the prodigal, redeemed from the wretchedness of an outcast swineherd to the blessedness of sonship and home, is enough to move the heart of a demon; but it had been better and more beautiful, and more pleasing to God, that the son should never have become a reprobate.

"Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid!" (Romans 6:1, 2).

The child whose sound conversion is delayed—by his own willfulness, or by the mistakes or indifference or unbelief of friends—even though he may afterward be regenerated and be saved, suffers an incalculable loss by the delay. To keep men out of hell is not the chief end or glory of the salvation that Jesus Christ has brought into the world, but rather to *save them from sin*, and to make them unfit for such a place as hell and for such companionship as that of the lost.

Saul of Tarsus was a great sinner, and, by the grace of God, he became a great saint; but his sins did not help to make him a saint. He had been a greater saint had he not been so great a sinner. Persecution of the saints made no contribution to the development of his piety. True, he burst forth into irrepressible and grateful songs whenever he thought of the infinite mercy that was showed to him. Truly and thankfully did he say: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." I Timothy 1:15. But if he had embraced Christ before that day of blood and darkness, when he "stood by" to sanction the murder of "His first martyr, St. Stephen"—to have been saved from the commission of such a sin would have tuned his heart to songs as grateful as those which celebrate his pardon. Do we not think too little of this—the blessedness of being saved from the commission of great sins? We do not discount the riches of Divine grace—the power of God's Spirit in changing the heart of Saul of Tarsus, but we must

think it had been unspeakably better for the great apostle never to have blasphemed the name of Jesus, never to have "persecuted" His saints, "even unto strange cities."

Read the history of Manasseh, king of Israel, the wicked son of the good Hezekiah. He "wrought uncleanness with greediness," committing all manner of sin. Late in life, under the heavy hand of an avenging Providence, "he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers." Infinite was the mercy that heard and accepted such a sinner. But Manasseh's pardon and Manasseh's salvation could not undo the evil that he had already done. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, went down to hell, as the result of his false doctrines and wicked ways, even before his repentance and pardon. Nor did his repentance and pardon stop the long procession of rebellious ones—full of sin and doomed to death—that kept marching on and down to their fate.

We knew a preacher—a man of genius, and power, and deep devotion. He was once a great sinner. He never mentioned his old life except to deplore his sins, and to magnify the mercy of God. On one occasion, referring to his great and merciful deliverance, he thought of the evil he had done before his repentance and conversion. He paused a moment, and then with a sobbing cry that would have moved a stone, he said, "But I am afraid there are souls in hell that I sent there!" And then, while the tears streamed down his face, he cried, "O Jesus, Jesus, tell them how sorry I am, how sorry I am!"

Would God that we knew that the "prevention of sin is an invaluable mercy!"

—Taken from *Our Children* by Atticus Haygood

Young People Should Learn Economy

Before young people start to do for themselves, they should also be taught how to manage and economize. Many young people never know where money comes from and consequently cannot know its value. Such young men and young women are handicapped in getting along financially. Let them learn how money is made and also how to save it, not to be covetous, but for the purpose of knowing how to get along themselves, as well as to be able to do good outside of their own circle in life. The scripture does not say in vain, "Study to be quiet, and to do your own business [manage your own affairs], and to work with your hands...that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." Parents should study this good lesson themselves, as well as practice it, and should teach it to their children in a practical way.

—Taken from *Home, Health and Success*
by Thomas Nelson



HOME LIFE

Love—The Secret Weapon

Jesus teaches us in Mark 12:31, that the first and most important commandment is love: to love God, and to love our fellow man. The natural and necessary climate for Christian growth and nurture is love. The love Jesus speaks of here is "agape"—the divine love of God for man—not human love, or romantic love, or even filial love, but the great, all-encompassing love of God that Paul describes in 1 Cor. 13.

This love is the secret to a happy, successful Christian life, and it is also the secret to being successful in rearing children. Love is more necessary to children than food; and they begin to know soon after birth if they are loved. Why is God's first commandment to us one of love, rather than obedience to His rules? He knows that if we love Him, we will be obedient to anything He asks. Thus He put into children a desire to be loved that is stronger than all other needs. This is the great tool He gives us to shape and direct their lives toward Him. If we love our children, they cannot help loving us; and this love gives us the power and authority to mold their characters into God's image.

The flood of love that rushes over you when you first become a parent is a wonderful feeling, much like the feeling of "falling in love." But that high tide of emotion is not a love that can carry you through the long years ahead. It begins to dim considerably during the first all-night colic session, and may be hard even to remember by the time your darling is able to crawl around introducing himself to your breakables. Nevertheless, the child's need to be loved is just as strong as it ever was, whether it is easy for you to feel love for him or not. This is when you need "agape."

Love suffers long and is kind. Only the love of God can suffer long enough with a child. Human patience is a poor tool in child rearing. A parent's job in training a child is to repeat the same things over and over and over, until the child learns them. Of course he can't learn all the good behavior you wish him to know by being told three or four times; but he must learn it. Tell him, then, with love; and with love tell him again and again—not for months but for years. Don't punish him because he forgets or doesn't understand or you're tired of telling him; punish him when he knows what you want and refuses to do it.

And through all this, be kind. That little child's self-esteem is so easily damaged, and he forms his opinion of himself from the way you treat him and the things he hears you say about him. Don't resort to yelling or name-calling to make him mind. You forfeit your authority and damage the child's self-image when you do that. (Remember that Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves; and no one ever yet loved others without first loving himself.) Your job is to give your child such a good feeling about himself that the world can't knock it out of him!

Love seeketh not her own and is not easily provoked. Don't fall into the trap of using your child's looks, personality, or abilities to build up your own ego or impress your friends; that way lies trouble for both of you. The child is not a reflection of you; he is a person in his own right. Don't push your children into things they're not interested in to fulfill your own unsatisfied desires. It won't work. When you become a parent, it's time to stop thinking about what you want!

Don't punish a child because he has embarrassed you or made you angry. You can't deal with him fairly on the basis of your hurt feelings, pride, or anger; deal with him only on the basis of good behavior or bad behavior. Your discipline can never be effective unless your child knows that you will be fair with him, and that you do it with love. And be sure that the child understands your rules before you try to enforce them.

The next most important thing to loving your child is to make sure he knows he's loved. Tell him so every day. Tell him the things you like about him; compliment him when he tries to please you; find something good to say even when he fails; and when you say these things, look him in the eye. Direct eye contact says more than words can ever hope to; through it your child can look into your heart and know that you really mean the things you're saying. Make this a habit from infancy on, and you'll be able to read your child's heart, too.

Spend time alone with each child every day. Make this a time to play special games you make up together, listen to each other, and reinforce your love. Initiate this time yourself—don't make the child clamor for your attention. Give it to him freely, of your own volition, before he asks. You'll soon find that this quality of attention will satisfy his love-hunger, and he'll be content to play by himself more. You need not spend all your time playing with your children, of course, but it is the most important part of your day. This may sound like heresy, but it's true: your child is more important than housework! Will he remember in later years that your house was always immaculate, or that "Mom never had time to play with me"?

Take time to make special memories for your children. Do unexpected, fun things with them, just because you want to. Make up little ceremonies or traditions that they enjoy, and enter into the fun yourself. By involving the whole family you will give them a sense of belonging and security that will follow them always. You want them to come see you when they're grown, don't you? Then make them feel wanted now!

You will not spoil your children by giving them this kind of loving attention. Love does not spoil children; lack of consistent discipline spoils them. A loved child is easy to correct, and you will find love to be a much more effective disciplinary tool than harshness or anger.

By giving of yourself to your children, filling them up with love and security, you can kindle a fire to be passed on to your grandchildren and theirs, more valuable and precious than any other treasure you could give them. Most of the personality disorders and unhappiness in the world around us are caused by the lack of parental love, and unfortunately this is passed on, too. It's very difficult to love a child selflessly if you yourself were not loved as a child—without "agape." So start a tradition of love with your children! They first learn of the love of God through the love you show them. —Patsy Cain



Nov. 1984

HOME LIFE

To Young Parents

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I want to write a little to you about home life. The Bible speaks much about the family and home. Did you know that the devil is trying to destroy the homes in America today? I believe that homes are the backbone of our country, so let each one of us work hard to keep them together.

The Bible teaches us that the "husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Read Eph. 5:22, 23. The dear Lord wants us to have happy homes. The husband is to have the responsibility of providing a living for the wife and children. 1 Tim. 5:8, says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

We also read in the Bible what the work of a wife should be. 1 Tim. 5:14, 15, says, "I will therefore that younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan." Also, Tit. 2:4, 5, says, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Keep in mind

that there may be circumstances where the single, divorced, widowed, or those who have husbands who are ill, may of necessity need to work away from home.

You young parents have a big responsibility, and it is a precious privilege that God has given you with your children. You should love them so much that you would always put the right example before them in your every-day life—in your dress, conversation, and in your dealings with other people. You should always be truthful but firm in your dealings with your children. It is your duty to correct them when they need it. Do not do it in a moment of temper or anger, but in love and firmness with a switch when needed. Start when they are very young. If you wait until they are older, you won't be able to correct them as easily. I have heard mothers say when their children were only five or six years old, "I just can't do anything with them." How sad! I do believe that if children are corrected at home, they will be very easy to correct in public. If we let them have their way at home, it is much harder to control them in public. To holler at a child or to tell him or her not to do something is not fully correcting them. Bring to an end that which they are doing. In some homes the children are running the home in that they tell their parents what to do. The Bible tells the parents to run the home.

Young fathers and mothers, I am sure you feed your little ones with good nourishing food daily that they may grow up to be strong and healthy. So likewise, you should teach them while they are young on spiritual things—to love the Lord God with all their heart, mind, soul, body, and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves, and to obey their parents in all things. It is very good to read out of the Bible and to have family worship with them daily. What they learn in childhood usually stays with them.

Young wives, you should cherish the place God has put you. Love your husband so much that you want to please him in every way. Do not be slothful and dirty, but keep your house and children clean. When your husband comes in from work, always have a neat appearance, a bright countenance, a smile on your face, and encouraging words; you don't know what all he has faced through the day at his job.

Now, dear wife and mother, I know your job isn't easy. You have the children with you all day, you clean house, cook, sew, and all the other things a mother has to do, but no doubt you have found an hour or so each day to read and pray while they are asleep or playing. To have a little time alone with God to read and pray should be a real privilege to you as you don't have to work out.

Husband, do be kind to your wife; love her as yourself. When you hurt her, you hurt yourself. Tell her you love her. Give her a compliment on a new dress, a cake, or anything she has done well. Surprise her with a small gift, showing your love for her.

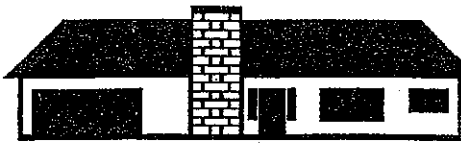
I hope I have been an encouragement to each one to really work at your marriage. The Lord has built the home and does not want to see it broken up.

Written with much love in my heart to the young families of our time.

Christian love,

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

HOME LIFE



Influences

By Atticus Haygood

Who forgets his home? Not the wanderer. There is Jacob fleeing from the face of wrathful Esau, and during long years of wasting toil with Laban the Syrian clinging but to this fond hope: "So that I come again to my father's house in peace." The old, whose feet may even now be pressing the borderland between two worlds, do not forget. Our dear, sainted grandmother used to forget recent events and new acquaintances, but she never forgot the green meadows, nor the spring that went laughing from the foot of the hill, the rosetree in the garden, nor the old oaks in the yard, with all the precious memories of her childhood's home in grand old Virginia, way back in the time when Washington and his barefooted heroes were braving the hardships of Valley Forge.

When David was returning to Jerusalem after the defeat of rebellious Absalom, Barzillai, an aged Gileadite, who had showed the king and his band of faithful followers much kindness the day they fled before the face of the traitor, joined him on his return, and accompanied him with an escort of honor part of the way to his capital. Grateful David begged the old man to go on with him to Jerusalem and promised to reward him like a king. Barzillai's reply speaks a language that all hearts will understand: "Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother."

Nor does the prodigal, who has "wasted his substance with riotous living," forget. The remembrance of his "father's house" brought penitential tears to eyes unused to weeping, and the light of life to a spirit that had long wandered in darkness. "And when he came to himself, he said, 'How many hired servants of my father's house have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father.'"

Affections like these—so universal, so in-

tense, so indestructible—must be divinely implanted. They are intended to exercise a controlling influence in molding human character. In shaping the destiny of individuals and of society they are all but omnipotent. And shall powers like these be overlooked, or undervalued, or misunderstood, in our estimate of the creative, regulative, and regenerative forces that are to form or to restore society? Shall we regulate and utilize them according to the dictates of sound reason and of divine inspiration, or leave them to accident, or surrender them to caprice? Who does not know that the future destiny of the Church and of the State is now being woven in the noiseless but unresting looms of the family and the home? The family, not the fates, determine destiny. The destiny of a people is not settled by the defeat of one great political party or the triumph of another—by presidents or Congress—but by the powers that sway their scepter about the fireside; by those influences that shape and fix the character of little children.

We count it a benefaction to the race when some gifted and patient man shows us how to control and employ more perfectly the great powers of nature. We build monuments to Franklin and Morse for telling us what the lightning is and for making it the obedient servant of our wants. We call him a benefactor who develops a new industry; we offer rewards and hold expositions to encourage inventions. If one can show us how to be rich and great and prosperous, we call him wise, bless him as a friend, and crown him with honors. But is there not something more important to us than any or all of these things? For what are the influences that make us all what we are? that make, or mar, our mortal and immortal fortunes? What are the influences that form and determine the character and, therefore the destiny of our children? The silent but potent energies that originate in the family relation—intertwisted with all the ties that bind us together—that begin their work with the first motherly caress that soothes a baby's cry, that works on through all changes of condition and that leave us not till we have left this world, if indeed they do not continue with us forever. These have made us what we are, and will determine what our children shall be.

HOME LIFE



Supplying The Children's Needs

How foolish I would be to throw away a beautiful, clean sheet of paper and instead select from the rubbish-barrel a torn, soiled sheet on which I must spend much time cleaning and trimming before I could use it!

Is it not, then, lack of real discernment that will cause gospel workers and spiritual men and women to weep and labor and sacrifice time and money for ruined lost lives if they neglect or fail to teach, encourage, and fire the zeal for godly things in the little children all around them?

A child rescued and saved at ten years of age has a probable forty or fifty years more of usefulness before it. A man rescued at forty has proportionately less time besides the wreckage of the past and the uprooting of many bad habits.

A man at the verge of the grave may be snatched from the burning, but his time and opportunities of usefulness are all lost. Thus, we see the importance of providing the rudiments that mold desirable elements into the characters and lives of our children and our neighbors' children.

Observation and experience justify men in declaring that less time and effort are necessary for winning twenty children to Christ than one adult at fifty years of age.

The Sunday school affords great opportunities, since its ultimate aim should be to so forcibly press the claims of Christ upon each individual that he or she can never lose the impression.

The spiritual members of the family, which should be the father and mother but sometimes is not, may also favorably impress the young minds with beauty and purity of submissive attitude to God.

A period each day, devoted to worship helps to indelibly impress upon the mind, the sublime, supreme, omnipotence of God. What other opportunity affords the sincere consistent parent such means for creating respect and reverence towards God?

How may we make the children enjoy it? By understanding their attitude, and by gently and intelligently directing them to see their need.

—Mabel C. Porter

(Taken from Gospel Trumpet, Jan. 1917.)

HOME LIFE



Training begins almost from birth, but must be increased as gradually as the child grows and develops. It can not be done for a month nor for even a day in advance, but it must be done daily. It would be folly for parents to chastise their child before it knows *why*, and parents that are governed by love and reason will never do so. When the child is about a year old, and sometimes before with some children, it can be taught gently and firmly that it can not keep up a cry just to have its own way or when there is no reason for it; and in many other ways it can learn to curb any tendency to bad habits that otherwise might be started. This you may not always be able to accomplish without using a little rod or switch. Although that should be the last resort, and though it will hurt you worse than it does the child, yet to administer such correction is better than to let a bad habit or anything else bad even get started. The best way to keep the garden clean is never to let the weeds get a start, and the same thing is true regarding the bad things that may appear in the lives of our children.

Some hold and advocate that the rod should never be used on a child; that the rod keeps it from developing in the individual use of its own mind, etc. This is a mistake. It is not correcting and chastising the child in order to keep it from forming and developing wrong traits and habits, that injures its development, for we do not want this kind of development, but it is correcting and chastising for things that it should not be chastised for. Parents should use wisdom in their training. Only things not good, or wrong things, should be entirely cut off; while natural and good things should be guided and regulated only. A child's reason and the love it possesses and owes to its parents should always be appealed to as a means of obedience, and only when this method

falls should the rod be used. But remember, you must have it obey you at any cost and at all times. It is better to use the rod than to spoil the child. We will give a few quotations from the wise man in regard to this: "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Prov. 22:15. "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Prov. 23:13-14. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Prov. 13:24. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Prov. 19:18.

These are Old Testament quotations, but they are just as applicable to children in our time; for if parents do not see that their children learn to obey and to do right, they will turn out "sons of Belial," and the parents will get a reward not much better than the one received by Eli, the high priest and judge of Israel, who failed to enforce home government on his children.

The proper thing, if chastisement is needed, is "the rod," the size of which must be determined by the size of the child and by its disposition. It should not be heavier nor the whipping harder than just enough to make the child yield in willing obedience, or to produce penitence. Neither must it be any smaller or lighter than what is necessary to produce these beneficial results. When you have undertaken to correct a child, you should stick to your task until you have accomplished your object. Some parents give their children a slap here and there, just enough to arouse their anger; and others are continually nagging away at them. This is not the proper way. If your child needs correction, stop and correct it, and do it so well that you will know it means to do better, and then let it alone until it needs correction again. Children are a little like horses—if you keep constantly urging them, they will get so used to it that neither urging nor whipping will affect them. The parent who chastises only because he loves the child will not be so anxious to get at the child that he will grab the object nearest at hand, without considering whether it will be too hard or too easy; but he will wait until he has thoroughly considered the nature of the disobedience as well as the amount of punishment needed.

If your child needs punishment or if it is

necessary to enforce obedience with the rod, take the child off by itself; tell it how sorry you are that you have to use the rod, and that you punish it for its good. Be sure you really feel this way about it, and you will not need to apply the rod very hard nor very long before its little arms will be thrown around you in loving submission. If you correct your child because you love it, it will love you for correcting it.

As children increase in stature as well as in age, bad things will begin to crop out in their lives, such as self-will, stubbornness, anger, lying, etc. These things, if persisted in, will form habits that will be harder to break the longer they are continued in. They must therefore

"There are things in children that not only must be allowed, but must be encouraged, and at the same time it must be trained, so that it will grow and develop in the right direction."

be "ripped in the bud." The child must be told that it can not be allowed to do anything that will make it a bad boy or bad girl. No punishment should be inflicted until proper efforts have been put forth to get the child to understand why it can not do certain things. Disobedience should not be allowed in the home. It is not the main thing in training a child to prune off the sprouts of evil that appear from time to time: there are things in children that not only must be allowed, but must be encouraged, and at the same

time it must be trained, so that it will grow and develop in the right direction and the right proportion. Great care and wisdom must be used by parents in deciding what to allow and to encourage and what not to allow and to discourage.

Playing is both natural and good, and should not be discouraged just because we do not like to be annoyed with the noise. It is not necessary for children to play all the time, but they must play sometimes, and every day. It would be a very good thing if all parents would not overwork, so that they would be able not only to take some interest in procuring playthings for their children, but also to spend some time every day in playing with them. Money spent for playthings is not wasted if proper judgment is used in selecting them according to the means of the parents and the age of the children.

Children should be taught table manners from the beginning. When they are old enough to begin to feed themselves, take pains to see that they learn to handle spoon, knife, and fork without messing and spilling. Teach them to say, "If you please" and "Thank you" for everything. Never

allow them to speak saucily or imprudently to any one. Be sure you practice these things yourself.

Children should be taught not only to wait on themselves, but also to make themselves useful by doing little chores according to their ability. Work is a blessed necessity for every child, and teaching it to work should be made a large part of its training. To know how to work not only is a blessing to the child when the time comes that it must work, but will keep it from thinking of and planning mischief, as well as relieve you of much work. There are many things they can do when quite small. You may think that you can do things more quickly than you can show them how to do it and that you sometimes will need to have them do it over again and perhaps finally have to do it yourself. This may be true to begin with; but if you do not start them at work, you will always have to do it, and if they ever learn how to do anything, it will not be put to credit. So, in the long run, it pays to teach your children to work and to be what you want them to be when older.

—Taken from *Home, Health and Success*, by Thomas Nelson

and produced strong men who formed this great nation. It appears that some in our society desire parents to feel incapable, ignorant, and to leave these jobs for the professionals.

Let us look into the Word of God and see what it has to say about this duty.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We have heard this text quoted many times, and expounded in various ways. I will quote from Clark's Commentary, "The Hebrew of this clause is curious: 'Initiate the child at the opening (the mouth) of his path.' Chanac, which we translate train up or 'initiate'; signifies also 'dedicate'; and is often used for the consecrating of any thing, house, or person to the service of God. Dedicate, therefore, in the first instance, your child to God; and nurse, teach, and discipline him as God's child, whom He has entrusted to your care." Therefore, this text is instructing us in both nursing and training. At what better time than during a child's illness can one truly dedicate him to God's will, be it that the child should live or die. These moments can be potent boosters for you and the child's relationship with God.

If God chooses to leave you with the responsibility of training the child, both mother and father should begin while the child is very young, preferably in his first year. Examples of training within the child's first year are: gently placing your hand on the child's mouth when he should be quiet, or gently slapping hands and saying, "no, no" when they reach for a forbidden object. There are also other ways. An average child, by the end of his second year, understands and remembers most verbal commands. It is your duty to help him form the ability to control himself, thus becoming able to obey.

It is hard to over emphasize the importance of early training. According to scientific information, the brain at birth is one fourth its adult size, at 18 months one half, and at six years nine tenths its adult size. We can do little to control the physical growth of the brain, but we can help determine what goes into it. Don't waste those early years of your child's development. They are your golden opportunities!

According to a University of Chicago professor, who has analyzed the rate at which different human characteristics develop from birth to maturity, the first four years of your child's life are the greatest for intellectual development. "If they are misused or wasted, it is doubtful that the loss can be made good." He finds the early years loaded with possibilities. However, if these are not taken advantage of, succeeding periods of slow change offer slight opportunity for growth and development. For instance, some characteristics may develop more in a single year at one stage in a child's life than in five or ten years at another period. Most are pretty well established at age 20.

Small children are very sensitive to the desires of the adults who satisfy their need for care and nourishment. They will obey and please, if taught how. If they are allowed to go unrestricted, they become unreceptive and rebellious toward adults, making training almost impossible. I will illustrate this by telling about the ox. Children, of course, are not animals but the principle can be applied to them.

In the ancient days, a wise farmer began care-

HOME LIFE *July 1985*



Parent's Responsibility for Training

Today's society puts great emphasis on professionals. We have many professionals especially in the areas of law, medicine, education, ministry, sports and the arts. Many people are striving to be professional in their chosen vocation. Without a doubt this is improving society. However, with the improvements have come many insecurities, especially to parents. There are parents today who feel insecure about training their children, but our forefathers did this

fully training his ox when it was young. First, he placed a yoke upon the ox's neck and attached a heavy weight behind for the ox to pull. The farmer then forced the animal to pull by using a whip or long, sharp-pointed stick. The ox was taught to “Go”, “Stop”, “Turn right”, and “Turn left”. These movements plus the heavy weight from behind, caused the ox's neck to be tender, blistered and very sensitive. Because of his sensitive neck, the ox yielded easily to the farmer's verbal commands. When the ox's training was completed, he would follow the farmer's verbal commands, although his neck had long since become hardened to the discomfort of the yoke.

Some inexperienced farmers made the drastic mistake of putting the yoke and weight on their ox and letting him become accustomed to it in an unrestricted manner. However, when he started the training sessions the ox's neck was calloused and therefore it would not yield to instructions. This animal even though yoked with another well trained ox, was virtually useless for plowing. Both animals would soon demonstrate a negative, independent spirit.

It is the same with children. They must be properly prepared for Christian living during the time they are tender and sensitive to God and the adult's commands. Teenagers who have had little restriction or Scriptural conditioning will simply be hardened as the ox and will go their own way. They and the parents will have bitter reaping because of these negative, independent spirits, due to the training opportunities lost while the child was young and tender.

Another Scripture in Deut. 6:6-13 says, “. . . 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.” This implies that salvation must be the greatest business of our life.

Everyday activities should be centered around teaching the laws of God to one's children. “When thou liest down”; as you go to bed, or “when thou risest up” in the morning, speak with your children about God. These times of speaking to them should not be boring, they can be a time your children will look forward to. There are many times “when thou sittest in thine house” that teaching is in order. A formal sitting, such as family worship, has great influence on young children. With older ones your time of teaching must fit into their schedule and your words must be as the gentle rain. If an older teenager indicates to you that he is too busy or uninterested, don't force him to sit through a long speech. Many times it does more harm than good. Say a few tactful words and spend the time you hoped to spend with him, in prayer for him.

“When thou walkest by the way”; in Bible times people traveled from one place to another by walking, which took much time and gave an extra opportunity for teaching. Nevertheless, we should make use of opportunities as we ride by singing good songs, reading spiritual books, or counseling a child, if the needed counsel is of a nature that the child will not be embarrassed in the presence of other family members. You may turn a teaching session into a walk, or turn a walk into a teaching session. Help your child's

mind to be drawn toward God by explaining the uniqueness of each leaf, noting the beauty of nature, examining stones, insects, or whatever might interest your child. Remember that training years are few and will fly away with great speed.

“Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.” The word “diligently” has a twofold meaning. The Hebrew word “shinnantan”, from “shanan”, meaning: whet, to sharpen by repeated grinding and friction. Hence some friction can be expected when we parents try polishing “our little diamonds in the rough.” The word “whet” also means to make keen or eager; stimulate; as the smell of food whets one's appetite. Our goal as Christian parents is to stimulate our children's appetite for the things of God, not to force upon them a set of rules to obey. However, we do have rules that they must obey, for a child with controls is content. He is more relaxed, more self-confident, more secure, and less fearful. Also, a child needs some source of strength from without to draw from as he develops the ability to control himself through consistent training. In later years this will help him to overcome the flesh as he works at dying to self.

David tells us in Psalm 78:5-7, “For he . . . appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who shall arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” It is our duty to pass God's laws on to the next generation that they might do the same. —Charlotte Huskey

WOUNDED HEARTS

Hasty, cruel words were spoken by a father to his son. That tender heart was wounded, and in his desperation the enemy took advantage of him. He left his home and went out into a wicked world filled with clever agents of the devil who were ready to receive him. His heart was broken and wounded, but evil companions led him deep into sin.

A proud, unconcerned mother pushed her daughter out into the society of the world, dressed in the scanty clothing of today, providing her with “the pill” and instructed her to seek for herself a man of money for a husband. Soon her virtue was gone, her tender heart was wounded and scarred by sin.

Rebellious young people turned away from the Christian teachings of their parents, feeling that they are old-fashioned and behind the modern times. These precious young people are caught in the tide of the world which carries them down the stream of life, filled with all kinds of evil and sin. They are bruised and wounded by the rocks of sin. These precious young people, who once had the fear of God upon their hearts, become hardened, yet filled with grief when they seriously look back over their lives.

A husband, innocently at first, yielded to the devil as he worked through another. “She caught him and kissed him, . . . I have peace offerings with

March, 1970

me; . . . Come let us take our fill of love . . . for the goodman is not at home . . . with her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her . . . as an ox to the slaughter . . . Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, . . . For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." Proverbs 7:13-27. "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding . . . A wound and dishonor shall he get." Prov. 6:32, 33.

A wife, who had been faithful to her family, often watched the glamour stories on TV where the husband or the lover continually made love and built up the ego of the female by telling her of her beauty and greatness. The wife became dissatisfied with her husband. He seemed to take her for granted and she let these thoughts linger. The devil enlarged on them. Suddenly, she finds herself becoming tired of the sameness of her daily routine of caring for children, cooking meals, scrubbing and cleaning the house. There never seemed to be enough money, so she gets a job. Soon she is noticing another man and visiting the night clubs. She drifts away from her family and husband, and then leaves them.

Sin causes suffering. The devil laughs in his glee as he continually thinks up new schemes to wound and corrupt lives. Children from broken homes are filled with fear and insecurity. Their lives are warped and soon sin takes its toll. Many people are wounded by sin and they try to drown their conscience and evil doings by drinking strong drinks, taking dope, and on and on they are led deeper in sin. The Bible says, "Thy wound is grievous." "The wages of sin is death."

God was filled with pity as He looked down upon this world with people so full of sin and bound by the enemy of their souls. They had been wounded and scarred by sin. "I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord." (Isa. 30:17) The only way that wounds made by sin could have been healed was for Jesus, the Son of God, to come to this sin-cursed world and take upon Himself the form of flesh and live among men. After leaving them an example of holy living, He went to the cross. He was innocent and without sin. There on the cross "he was wounded for our transgressions." (Isa. 53:5) His heart was broken and His body wounded and scarred by others. He bore our sins on the cross and died in our stead for our sins. He arose from the grave and today He is alive, waiting and longing for those who are wounded by sin to come to Him seeking forgiveness for their sins. There is hope for you, dear one, in Christ. He is able to break the bondage of sinful habits and make you pure and holy. He will roll the guilt away from your soul and you will be happy and free. Won't you turn to Him today with your whole heart and find peace?

—Sister Marie Miles

Home Life

Sept. 1990



Declared War On Home Life

The American family is in fact on the endangered species list. Since 1970 the rate of marriages has dropped 30% while the number of divorces is up to 50%. More than 1 million American children witness their parents' divorce each year, and 10 million children now live in one-parent homes. What's more, the illegitimacy rate has doubled: over half of inner-city children are born out of wedlock.

Why?

The answer lies in the "religion" of our world. The worship of secular humanism is fast becoming the national religion of our country and it is designed to tear down every moral standard that God's Holy Word holds sacred. The word "secular" by definition refers to "the temporal rather than spiritual." Humanism is a doctrine centered solely on human interests and values. Therefore, humanism defiles man and dethrones God, or does not even acknowledge God's existence. In short, it is Atheists who believe in secular humanism, and atheism is an ancient evil King David wrote about in Psalm 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."

With the elimination of God, no longer are there any absolutes to appeal to. Instead, we live in a secular society that increasingly refuses to recognize "absolute" truth. All truth is now "relative." That means there is no such thing as "the" truth, only "my" truth and "your" truth. In this way Humanists want to take away the sting of guilt that comes with permissive living and loose morals. Their philosophy is if a person is unhappy in one marriage, get a divorce and try again. Or to be freer still, don't marry at all, but live with different ones until you are able to decide which one is best for your personality and goals in life. Of course the "horror" of an unwanted pregnancy is to be considered and there should be "freedom of choice" on the method to best take care of this "problem," so say the freedom of choice organizations. However, America should consider this: Abortion has in the U. S. alone claimed more than 26 million unborn children, which is more than four times the num-

ber of those who died from the unspeakable cruelties of Hitler's death camps.

Just what is our country coming to? One Harvard law professor wrote: "Our whole culture seems to be facing the possibility of a kind of nervous breakdown." Actually it is a moral breakdown. The youth of our land are drunk on music which praises Satan worship, murder, fornication and many other forms of lasciviousness. Broken homes leave children confused, wondering who they are and what will become of them. Teenagers, even children, try to end the emptiness of life. In the past 20 years the suicide rate for children ages 10-14 has doubled and the rate for young people ages 15-19 is three times as high. Then consider the plague of sexual diseases disgracing our society today with over 70,000 deaths in the U.S. already attributed to AIDS, and hundreds of thousands of others already infected. Does our country face death?

The worship of secular humanism has embalmed our country and surely the burning is close at hand. These conditions should grieve our hearts, for God will "set a mark upon the foreheads of the men and women who sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." (Ezek. 9:4). These that cry aloud shall receive God's mercy. We must keep ourselves clean from the idol of self wants and pleasures. Following selfish desires, lusts of this world, and vain ambitions will draw one close to the worship of secular humanism.

At an early age, children should be taught that they were made in the image of God and their body is the sacred temple of God. They do not need to be taught the facts of life at an early age as Planned Parenthood so erroneously stresses. The founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a friend of Adolf Hitler. She, too, believed that some races were more superior than others, so therefore, "selective" parents should produce a supreme race of humanity to control the universe. Though she is dead today, her false ideas concerning sex education have sprang up in millions of schools across our country. So called medical clinics under the direction of Planned Parenthood teach perverted ways which are a stink in the nostrils of God. As saints of God we should not follow counselors who cross God's laws on holy living and modest speech. In Ephesians 5:11-12, we read: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

May God grant us all wisdom; wisdom that is from above "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits."

(James 3:17). Other wisdom is "earthly, sensual, devilish and bringeth about confusion and every evil work." (James 3:15). Secular humanism is the most dangerous religion in our world today because anyone who follows after the lusts of their flesh can fall victim to its way of belief.

Marriage is still right. It is ordained of God and the covenant is until death of either one of the couple. The Devil has weakened the marriage vows here on earth, but God still holds them sacred and to be kept. A godly home is the best gift a child can receive. Psalm 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Each child is the heritage of God and should be loved as one of His chosen vessels. Godly families are beautiful to behold.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

A Happy Home

If you would have a happy home
As through the years of life you go,
It won't just happen through good luck,
Although some people think it so;

But there are rules by which to live,
And certain laws we must accept,
Which God has made for all mankind,
And these, we know, must all be kept.

Foundation for a happy home
No human by himself can lay;
For what he does, apart from God,
Will sometime wither and decay:
But God has laid a solid Rock
On which our lives and homes should rest,
And if we build upon this rock
Our hearts and souls will then be blest.

A home to be a happy home
Must truly be a home of prayer,
And meanwhile as the years go by
Life's burdens each must help to bear;
And when the tests sometimes are hard,
Or sickness takes away the health,
How sweet the comfort we may give
That flows from hearts of godly wealth!

A happy home is made through love,
In which a lot of kindness reigns,
And where God's spirit shows us how
To share our losses and our gains.
Also the Guide Book in the home
Is God's eternal Word of truth,
That leads along the righteous way,
Directing parents, children, youth.

A happy home's a treasure rare
That fame and money cannot build;
And all the learning earth affords
Cannot with sweetness keep it filled;
Therefore, the unseen grace of God
Must day by day come flowing in,
And keep the home-doors closed against
All envy, hatred, strife and sin.

—Selected

HOME LIFE



There are but few sweeter words in the English language than the word *home*. Home is the dearest place in all the world to the Christian heart. To have a fond love for home is not at all injurious to Christian character. Those who have but little love for home will never succeed well in the Christian life. It may sometimes occur that some of the home members are so disagreeable that the Christian for peace' sake will quit the home roof; but he still loves home. Sometimes young people think that to enjoy life they must get out from under parental rule and roof. We have an instance of this nature recorded in the Bible. How soon we learn of the prodigal's longing for the comforts of home. How often he thought of his father's house, that place so dear to him now. The love of home is a high mark of integrity. Show me one who has no love for home, and I will show you one who has but little true manhood or womanhood. The Bible command to young Christians is to be "chaste, keepers at home." When our duty and service to God demand our absence from home we submit and go in the strength of His grace, but lose not our love for home, and return in joy at Father's will.

You can nowhere find more of heaven upon earth than in a Christian home. Look at the picture: A father with the Holy Bible, the mother and children listening in reverence to the heavenly message. Where, I say, can you find more of heaven? Such a scene is most sweet and sacred. "Such a picture," you say, "is very beautiful and inspiring to look upon, but where is the reality?" Thank God, such a home can be real in life, and it is your duty as a Christian to help make it so. God is pleased with such a home. It is much to His praise. Since such homes are so rare they are all the more glorifying to

God, and we should strive the more earnestly to have them real.

In your home is the place to shine for God. It is the place to shed forth the radiant beams of Christian light from your grace-laden soul. If you hope to prosper in the divine life, be your best at home. Do not think you can be careless at home and then shine in the splendor of Christian virtue when before the public. Your life at home leaves its mark upon you. Shine in Christian beauty at home, and you will shine in beauty in public; but attempt away from home to be more than you are at home, and you will miserably fail. A few years ago while in one of our large Eastern cities laboring for Jesus and souls for whom He died I wrote a few lines to the dear ones at home, which perhaps will not be out of place to insert here.

When the light of day is dying
And the shades of night steal on,
Voices to my mem'ry whisper
Of the dear loved ones at home.

Ere the chandelier is lighted,
Ere the day's last ray is gone,
O'er me comes a fond remembrance
Of the dear loved ones at home.

Far above in arch of heaven
Lamps are lighted one by one,
But I only see the bright eyes
Of the dear loved ones at home.

Far away beyond the region
Where I see those shining stars,
Somewhere in the land of angels,
Dwells a little boy of ours.

Years ago one wintry evening
Heaven's gate was opened wide,
And an angel swift descended,
With a sickle at his side.

Paused he at our boy's low trundle
In the evening twilight hour,
Caught away his happy spirit
To its home beyond the stars.

How my heart adores the Giver
Of all good o'er land and sea,
But I praise him more than ever
For the dear ones left to me.

As I think of her He gave me
In my happy youthful time,
How He bound our hearts together
At love's pure and sacred shrine;

As I think of her this moment,
Given me by love divine,
Seems I almost feel the pressure
Of her gentle hand in mine.

"one  under God,"

In the arms of night I'm folded,
Soon in dreamland I shall roam;
Then I'll go and see the dear ones—
See the dear loved ones at home.
—Taken from *Food for Lambs*

HOME LIFE

Nov. 1986



Let's Help Our Children

There is a great burden on my heart that I wish to share with all parents. C. E. Orr said, "The man who fails to give us reproof when needed, but gives us approval instead or holds back deserving rebuke for fear of offending, is more cruel than he who withholds bread from us when we are hungry." There is a great responsibility on us as parents to our children. My burden is concerning the lack of discipline to our children. Are we really doing the best that we can, or are we lacking in our efforts?

As parents we need to discipline ourselves to discipline our children. It is not so hard to administer discipline while we're upset with a misdeed of a child, but what if for some reason the discipline cannot be administered until a later time; do we still administer the needed discipline or because we are no longer upset, or our feelings have mellowed, do we neglect to carry through the needed action? If we fail to

carry through, we have not been fair to the child. This causes the child to lose respect for the parents and will allow him to think he got by this time, so why not try again. Parents, if this is our condition we need more discipline in our own lives, so we can properly discipline our children.

It appears that the disciplining of our children is not taken as seriously as it should be. There is a need for improvement. The roudness and loud voices need to be quieted. There is foolishness going on in places that are meant to be sacred. This cannot be pleasing to our Lord. If Jesus were on the earth today, how do you think He would react to children running and yelling in God's house? How is our respect to God's house? Do our children know they are to respect the house of God, or have we taken it for granted that they should know? We have the responsibility placed in our hands to teach our children reverence to God, His house, and His people.

Let us ask our heavenly Father to teach us how we must teach them. He has good steps and advice for us to follow: Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 29:15, "The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:17, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

Help us, oh Lord, to know how to raise our children to love and respect you. Teach us thy ways, so we can in turn teach our children. Show us how to discipline our children in a loving yet firm way. Help us to be steady in our teaching and discipline. We need your divine guidance and wisdom. Help us, oh Lord.

—Cilicia Frazier

HOME LIFE



HOME LIFE



It is all in vain to preach of truth
To the eager ears of trusting youth,
If, when'er the lad is standing by,
He sees you cheat and he hears you lie.
Fine words may grace the advice you give,
But youth will learn from the way you live.

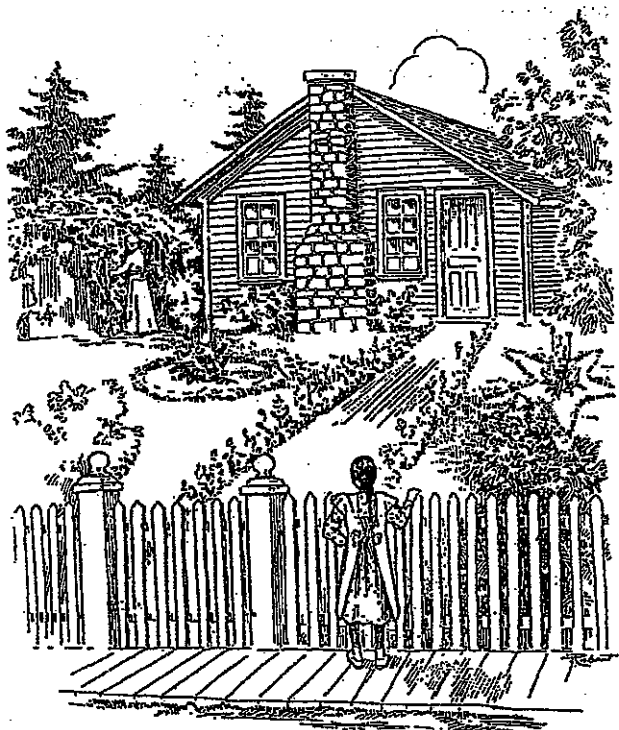
Honor's a word that a thief may use,
High-sounding language the base may choose.
Speech is empty and preaching is vain,
Though the truth shines clear and the lesson's
plain.

If you play false, he will turn away,
For your life must square to the things you say.

He won't tread the path of your righteous talk,
But will follow the path that you daily walk.
"Not as I do, but do as I say,"
Won't win him to follow the better way;
Through the thin veneer of your speech he'll
see,
Unless you're the man you would have him be.

The longer you live you will find this true;
As you would teach, you must also do.
Rounded sentences, smooth and fair
Were better not said if your deeds aren't square.
If you would teach him to live to his very best,
You must live your life to the self-same test.

—Selected



Nov. 1997

QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Reprint

QUESTION: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

ANSWER: In Psalm 127:3-5 we read, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

God ordained that the man (Adam) and the woman (Eve) which He created would be joined together in holy wedlock and that they should produce children (offspring) and bring forth fruit unto God. This first pair was the pattern for all succeeding generations. God adds children to a marriage as one major means of blessing the parents, enriching their lives and giving luster, cheer and pleasure to the home and family. In these verses He teaches that the children are a valuable asset to the parents and are a source of strength and support to them.

We need first of all to recognize the value and importance of our children in God's sight. They should be precious and of prime importance in

"Every set of parents has a good missionary project in their own home."

our sight also. They are a blessing from God and are the heritage of the parents from Him. In Genesis 33:5, Jacob referred to the children which God had **graciously** given Him. In Genesis 48:9 Joseph said unto his father, "...They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place...."

God, however, gives children to parents for a specific purpose beyond what has yet been mentioned. Within those little bodies are souls for whom Christ died and which are precious in God's sight. He has intrusted those souls to the care of parents that they might train, teach and nurture them in the ways of the Lord, and so beget within them a desire for salvation and to love and serve Him. He wants to increase the population of heaven and the size of His own family with those souls, and has strictly charged the parents to whom He intrusted them to do all in their power to take good care of those souls so they may be returned to Him as redeemed at the end. Every set of parents has a good missionary project in their own home.

In Psalm 48:12-13 we read, "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generations following." Psalm 102:18 says, "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." We see, then, that God values our children as much as us and He wants them to be saved the same as us. He expects us to bring them up knowing the same truth that we know and believing in the same God. He charges all parents with the responsibility of teaching and training their children in a way that they will know what salvation is and how to get it. We will be held accountable to God for failing to do this as much as we will be held accountable for failure to do God's will on any other line. Please read in connection with this Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 8:6-9, 11:18-21, to see how diligently God commands His people to continually have these truths before their children.

Adam Clarke, commenting on Deuteronomy 6:7, says that the Hebrew word used here (diligently) means to repeat or do a thing again. He further says at this place, "God's testimonies must be taught to our children, and the utmost diligence must be used to make them under-

stand them. This is a most difficult task; and it requires much patience, much prudence, much judgment and much piety in the parents, to enable them to do this good, this most important work, in the best and most effectual manner."

If we want our children to really get a firm hold on the truths of God's Word, we must diligently teach them in a spiritual way, not just like a school class or teach the Bible like a school book, but we must be very spiritual ourselves and teach them in that atmosphere—by example as well as precept. We must be obeying and practicing God's Word ourselves and let our children see it in actuality as it is being taught to them. In other words, teach them the truths and principles of God's Word and then tell them, "Now just watch me and I will show you how to do it and how it works out in everyday living." If we can't do this, we are totally defeated to start with.

This is the way Jesus taught His disciples and us. I Peter 2:21-23 says that Christ left us an example that we should follow in His steps. In John 13:15 Jesus said, "...I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done..." That is the way He taught His disciples and us, and that is the way we must teach our children if we want them to really get it. If you want to really confuse your children and discourage them, then just try the old "Don't do as I do; but do as I say" theory. II Timothy 2:6 says, "The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits." This will apply to you teaching your children as well as your pastor teaching you. This is of extreme importance.

If you teach your children to love God above all else and put Him first in their life, then let them see you putting Him first in your life and loving Him supremely. If you teach your children to be unselfish and to share, then let them see no selfishness in you and see you sharing with one another and with them. If you teach your children that they must not strive, nor quarrel among themselves, then let them never, never hear you, their parents, striving, quarreling, speaking harsh, sharp, cutting words one to another nor arguing between yourselves. If

"The legislators have taken hold of the matter of 'child abuse,' and in some cases have enacted laws that prohibit parents from using a paddle or switch on their children."

you teach them to be humble and submissive one to another and to you, their parents, then let them see you manifesting a lot of humility and submission one to another in the fear of God. Especially let them see their mother humbly and graciously submitting herself to their father as the Word of God instructs her to do. If you teach them to live in peace among themselves, make sure that they see you living in peace between yourselves. If you teach your children to deny themselves and never contend for their own way, then let them never hear either of their parents contending for their own way, but let them see them both denying themselves and submitting one to another.

I here insert another quote from Adam Clarke's commentary. "He who understands the way of God should carefully instruct his household in that way: and he who is the father of a family should pray to God to teach him, that he may teach his household. His ignorance of God and salvation can be no excuse for his neglecting his family: it is his indispensable duty to teach them; and God will teach him, if he earnestly seeks it, that he may be able to discharge this duty to his family. Reader, if thy children or servants perish through thy neglect, God will judge thee for it in the great day."

Abraham faithfully taught his household, which included Lot, the principles of upright living and righteousness; also the entertaining of strangers and hospitality to travelers. This paid off good dividends in later years with Lot and his family. When the angels came to Sodom at evening, Lot, looking for opportunities to show hospitality to strangers and travelers, and help to the needy as he had been taught by precept and the example of his Uncle Abraham, went right out and urged the men to come under his roof for the night. This proved to be the saving of his life as well as his two daughters' lives. Way over in the New Testament, reference is made to this in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." The principles of righteousness and upright living continued to direct Lot's life so that he was not drawn into the evil, corrupt way of life which was prevalent all around him, but it was obnoxious and vexatious to him. He had been taught better than that. Peter referred to him in II Peter 2:7-8, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing,

vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.)"

I insert here a quote from Adam Clarke in regard to Lot. "He and his family...alone were free from the pollution of this accursed people. How powerful are the effects of a religious education, enforced by pious example! It is one of God's special means of grace. Let a man only do justice to his family by bringing them up in the fear of God, and He will crown it with His blessing.... This is your work that is the Lord's. If through your neglect of precept and example, they perish, what an awful account must you give to the Judge of the quick and the dead. It was the sentiment of a great man, that should the worst of times arrive, and ministry fail, yet, if parents would just be faithful to their trust, pure religion would be handed down to posterity, both in its form and in its power."

Before passing on from the discussion of Abraham and Lot and his family and the relationship between them, let me point out and emphasize this point. Abraham was a man who lived very close to God, and God was well pleased with him, and his sacrifices were acceptable to God. Consequently, he stood in a place with God where God would and could accept his plea in behalf of his kinsmen (Lot and his family) as the hour of destruction approached for the city in which they dwelt.

It seems that in the narrative related in the 18th and 19th chapters of Genesis, that the Lord Himself and the two angels with Him appeared in the form of men to Abraham and he entertained them. After they had eaten the meal that was prepared hastily for them, the two angels went on their way, but the Lord tarried and made known unto him what He was going to do in the destruction of Sodom. He knew that Abraham had kinsmen down there and He would not carry out His purpose to destroy the city without letting him know about it. Then Abraham began to plead with the Lord to spare the city if 50 righteous people could be found in it. The Lord agreed to that. Then Abraham asked that if 50 couldn't be found, if He would spare it for 45; then 40, then 30, then 20 and finally 10 and the Lord accepted his petition all the way, step by step, and agreed to spare the city if 10 righteous people could be found there.

That would surely cover Lot and his family. Abraham was pleading for their lives and the Lord knew it, but the Lord was pleased with his life and faithfulness and his sacrifice was acceptable to God, so he was qualified to plead in their behalf. But, alas, all of them had not maintained righteousness, so there were not enough to save the city. But watch it now. The two angels spent the night in Lot's home and in the morning told him to go to his married children and tell them and their families to get out quickly because the destruction of the city was imminent. They would not go, so the angels took Lot and his wife and their two daughters and told them to hurry and get out of there because they could not do a thing until they had gone out of the city. (Genesis 19:22.) Abraham had made an acceptable plea for the lives of Lot and his family, and the angels made certain that Lot got the message and was gone from there before the destruction fell. This can all be traced to the acceptability of Abraham's life and his sacrifices before God.

Ah, parents, grasp the urgency and the importance of our own lives being well pleasing to God and our sacrifices acceptable to Him. It is very important that we have a good relationship with God and a life well pleasing to Him so that our sacrifices will be acceptable in defense of our children and in behalf of their salvation.

I am fully aware of the fact that we are somewhat at a disadvantage, even legally, in disciplining our children. The legislators have taken hold of the matter of "child abuse," and in some cases have enacted laws that prohibit parents from using a paddle or switch on their children. I have read where there have been attempts in our congress to enact laws to permit children to bring suit against their parents in court if they do not like the way they have been disciplined. I understand this has been hotly contested and debated on the floors, and in the chambers of Congress, but so far as I know has never gotten through, even in any modified form, and I hope it never will. Such would just open the door wide to outright rebellion and anarchy through our children and younger set, and the courts would be hopelessly flooded with such cases because "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;..." Prov. 22:15. Children don't like discipline of any kind at any time. None of them do. They want to be at liberty to go their own way and do not like restraint, especially if they are a strong-willed child. You will be at loggerheads with them anytime you try to restrain them in something they want to do.

Notwithstanding all this, saints have God's Word to go by in training their children, and we can count on God backing us up in it if we pray earnestly to Him, follow His instructions and employ His way in dealing with them. In Proverbs 19:18 we read, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." This verse seems to teach us that there is a time or period of their lives when our chastening will be to their profit, and we are admonished to not pass that time up, for when it is past there will be no more hope of helping them by that means. Again in Proverbs 13:24 it says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." It is a perverted sense of love we express when we are so sympathetic and "loving" toward our children that we cannot stand to hurt them and hear them cry over a chastisement we are administering to them. The word betimes seems in my mind to mean when it is necessary, administer the discipline and when it is not necessary, don't do it. Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." This verse makes it clear that it is common to all children to have foolishness bound up in their hearts, but God Himself has designed that the rod of correction, in the hand of a wise and good parent, shall be a means of helping to guide them out of their foolishness. In Proverbs 29:17 we read, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

QUESTION: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

ANSWER: There are some cases, and perhaps we all know some, where the parents need to discipline themselves and get themselves well in hand before they even start in on disciplining and correcting their children. The same God who inspired Solomon to write these texts of instruction in the Scriptures in regard to our chastising and correcting our children, also inspired the Apostle Paul to write this warning and admonition in the Holy Scriptures: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Colossians 3:21. Ah, fathers and mothers, let us seek God earnestly to enable us to more clearly and deeply understand the extent and depth of our responsibility and authority with our children, that when it is necessary to



chastise them, we may do so in the meekness and gentleness of Christ and not in severity and sharpness.

Adam Clarke says in regard to provoking to anger, “If a father punishes his child in severity and sharpness, the child will only be hardened in his sin.” One man was whipping his boy in severity and harshness and asked the boy if he knew why he was doing this, and the boy said, “Yes, it is because you are mad and you are bigger than I am.” Here is a fair example of a child being hardened in his resentment through his punishment. Sternness and severity seldom work any good purpose with children. There must be a lot of meekness and love in our chastisements and corrections if they are to be effective.

I remember a time when my own two boys had been guilty of what to me was a heinous crime of misbehaving and making a disturbance in the worship service at the chapel. I took them both down to the bedroom and talked with them a little about how bad a thing that was and how desecrating

that was to the worship and service of God, and that I could not by any means pass over a thing like that. I prayed with them and then soundly spanked them. As soon as I finished with that, I just dropped down between them, and broke out crying and sobbing. Both those boys began to love and pat me and say, “Oh, Daddy, don’t do that. Don’t cry, Daddy. It’s all right, we’re going to be good boys.” Perhaps that little episode did more good for those boys than any other correction I ever gave them.

I can remember my father’s dealings with me in the matter of chastisements. He never jumped at me in an agitated way nor approached me harshly or sternly. Sometimes he would pray over it for two or three days. Then he would take me down to the barn and talk to me and pray with me awhile; then he would give me a genuinely sound switching. All the time he was just as calm as if we were eating ice cream. There was no trace of agitation, sternness or harshness. I can never remember a time when my father would chastise me that I did not feel closer drawn to him than before.

As your children grow older, be a pal with them. As they show interests and tendencies to certain activities—hunting, fishing, playing ball, etc.—provide them with the essentials and equipment for those activities they are interested in. Provide time, on your part, to go with them occasionally on outings for hunting, fishing, camping, playing, etc. Let them lead the way in this, for if you don’t, you may be planning things for them which they have no interest in and do not like. You may not enjoy the particular thing

your boy or girl does, but that is just one among many points in which you may need to deny yourself and your own likes and dislikes in order to be a good parent to your children.

This is something I did not do enough of. I found out later, when it was too late to bless the lives of my children, how much I should have done this to keep a hold on my children. Anytime I would come along where my boys were playing ball and enter in and throw a few balls or catch a few, no matter who or how many other boys were around, my boys would just pull out and start playing ball with me as they did not get to do this very often. That manifested the hunger they had for Daddy to share their activities with them. I did not, at the time, realize the importance of this, but now give this kind of advice and counsel to all parents with young children. In fact, since my children have all been grown and established in homes of their own, I have talked with all of them and acknowledged that I had not been the father to them that I should have been when they were growing up, in that I did



not spend enough time with them and participate enough with them in the activities they were the most interested in, and asked forgiveness for this shortcoming.

In schools they have a "Father and Son" banquet, and other "Father and Son" activities. They expect the boys to bring their fathers on these occasions. When your boy comes to you and lets you know one of these times is coming up on a certain date, it will make him stand tall and help to create a closer relationship between you and him if you will just say, "All right, son, you can count on me. I will cancel all plans I have for that evening and be available to you." It makes your son feel important and adds dignity to his life.

Now to use a phrase from the world's vernacular, "Learn to roll with the punches." Change

your tactics as your children get older. You cannot deal with them in the same way you could when they were smaller. They are developing and you must develop too if you are to maintain a close relationship with them and keep your hold on them through that period of their lives when they need you the most. Study out different methods of dealing with them, and note carefully which are the most effective. This is the time when you need to develop as close a relationship with them as possible. Go places with them, do things with them as much as possible. Above all else, maintain a good, close relationship with God. Pray much and earnestly for God to give you courage, ability, wisdom, grace and faith to be able to pilot your children through this very difficult and important time of their youth.

HOME LIFE



Our Children

By Atticus Haygood
(Written in 1876)

We must make our homes happy. Fine or luxurious they may not, need not be, but happy they must be at whatever cost. Gold, nor power, nor fame, can buy or command a substitute for this. If home-happiness could be bought like estates, the gold of all the Rothschilds would be a poor price to pay for this blessing. The lack of it is sorrow upon sorrow. The lack of it makes aching hearts that all the pleasures and riches and honors in the world cannot soothe. It is mockery, delusion, shame and madness when husbands and fathers turn from their homes to seek satisfaction in the glitter of gold,

the charms of power, the fascinations of strange and unholy pleasures; when wives and mothers, ignorant of the true glory of their lives, forgetful of the holiest of all duties of womanhood, leave the delights that make every true home a "Paradise Regained," and seek contentment in the whirl of capricious living; when sons and daughters find in the outside world, attractions that outbid the endearments of home.

Passing through the streets of a Southern city one day we saw a poor laboring man lift up his little girl as he passed out of the gate, and kiss her a kind good-bye. That was the best thing in his whole day's work, although he knew it not.

We parents should labor and pray to make the "father's house" the last place our children wish to leave, and the place where they would like to die. Let it be to our children so happy a place that its sweet tones sound in their hearts when they are away at school, or gone out from us into the wide world beyond; that its memories, following them through prosperity or adversity, shall bring them back to us when sorrow has bowed them down,

"There is not too much truth in the Gospel, as there is not too much light and heat in the sun. We can spare none of it, and yet there is enough for every duty, every relation, every condition of life."

or temptation overtaken them. He whose heart is stayed in the love and holy faith of a happy Christian home may have many sorrows and disappointments, but he cannot be wholly crushed by adversity. He may be "troubled on every side," yet he will not "be distressed;" he may be "perplexed," but he will not be "in despair;" he may be "persecuted," yet he cannot be "forsaken;" he may be "cast down," yet he cannot be "destroyed."

Advancing our argument to a higher place, we must make our homes sacred. That they are cultivated and happy is not enough; to be perfect they must be sacred. And a Christian home is sacred, for it is a dwelling place of God. If we dig among the ruins of the dead and buried cities of the ancients, we will find memorials of their household worship. Even they had their household gods—even they had some sort of religion. But we do not want such homes as these, or the modern substitutes which are proposed in the place of true Christian homes. Christianity only, but Christianity fully, meets the highest and deepest wants of our nature. All the evil that is in us, it can take away; all the good we are capable of, it can implant and nurture. The Gospel plan of life is divinely perfect, for it provides for all the wants of our race in this world and in the world to come. And this blessed Gospel of Christ must be the law of life to the family, as well as to the individual. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, must learn from Christ the duties of their place, and receive from Him grace to discharge them.

All the truth in the world, outside the Word of God, cannot substitute one truth

that is peculiar to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is not too much truth in the Gospel, as there is not too much light and heat in the sun. We can spare none of it, and yet there is enough for every duty, every relation, every condition of life. Every virtue and every grace that can establish and adorn the family life finds its root and support in the Gospel of Christ. The family that would live by another than the law of Christ robs itself of the most exalted privilege possible to humanity. And the home, where Jesus is most truly the Lord of all hearts, and the pattern of all lives, is most like heaven—of all places in the world.

If in making our homes happy we also make them sacred, we will have achieved for our households the utmost that is possible to us in this world. We will make them types of the heavenly homes that await the good.

And this feeling, that heaven is home, has its roots deep in our hearts. Our Redeemer sanctions the sentiment, and makes an appeal to our instinctive faith in its truthfulness: "Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also."

Thrice happy is that man whose memory of a Christian home quickens his desire for a better, in "Our Father's House" in heaven! In such a case we might say, with a good old German saint when about to go hence, "Blessed are the homesick, for they shall get home!"

HOME LIFE

May 1936



A Prayer For Parents

Oh, God, make me a better parent. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to respond to their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask them for forgiveness when I know I have done wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule for punishment.

May I not nag; and when I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue. Blind me to the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise. Help me treat my children as those of their own age. Let me not expect from them the judgment of adults.

Forbid that I should ever punish them for selfish satisfaction. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable and have the courage always to withhold a privilege that I know will do them harm.

Make me fair and just, considerate and companionable, so they will have genuine esteem for me. Help me to be loved and imitated by my children. Oh, God, give me calm and poise and self-control.

—Selected



HOME LIFE

Just a Boy

I sent him off to school each morn'
All bathed—so clean and sweet,
His shirt so white, his pants well brushed,
His hair combed nice and neat.
I kissed him as he left the house
And warned him to keep clean,
Be careful of his playmates,
Avoid the rough and mean.

I watched for him when school was out,
And wondered if I'd see
A boy just half as clean
As I dared hope he'd be.
He came around the corner,
His face as black as dirt,
One pant leg up, one pant leg down—
Three buttons off his shirt.

I don't know why I dared to hope,
To beg and plead and pray,
When such a pitiable sight
Came home to me each day.
One day he couldn't go to school;
His spirit brave and bold
Was steeped in restless fever—
His body hot, then cold.

I prayed, “O, God,” but not for help
From homely household task;
I prayed for strength to grant each wish
Those precious lips would ask.
I prayed that I might once again
Sew buttons on his shirt,
That there'd be smudges on his knees
From kneeling in the dirt.

I sat beside his bedside
And held his fevered hand,
And clasped that spirit to my heart
Which sought that far-off land.
In the darkness of my room at night
I prayed again for joy—“O, God!
You can send me tons of dirt to wash—
You gave me back my boy.”

—Selected

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

July, 2006

"one  under God,"

Idols of Our Time

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day." II Kings 17:41.

America was founded on respect for God and Christian principles. Our founding fathers believed in the Ten Commandments and had them carved into many stone walls. They believed Christian ethics were an essential ingredient in the founding and continuance of our great nation. The phrase, "In God we trust" was engraved on our coins. One of our forefathers said, "Our government will work only in a Christian nation. It is totally incapable of ruling any other."

So what was to become the greatest nation in the world was set in motion on Christian principles. But they, just as the children of Israel, "...did secretly *those things that were not right against the LORD their God,....*" II Kings 17:9. Very soon the pride, social approval, slavery, covetousness and injustice to Indians, just to name a few things, began to turn the hearts of the people from God to themselves.

America is today still called a Christian nation. Some of the people still fear (respect) God, but most of us will agree that the majority of Americans love other things more than they love God. Whatever one loves more than God becomes an idol. Some famous people are given the title, "The American Idol." Millions of fans worship these persons and seek to imitate them hoping to also become successful. Parents encourage their children in the same types of careers. They start them in dancing lessons or soccer or tee ball, etc. at very tender ages when they should be enthusiastically training them in the love, wisdom and knowledge in the Word of God. I know a four-year-old who plays on a soccer team. When asked if his team won, he answered, "I don't know." Nor did he care.

Some, instead of worshiping a person, come nearer to idolizing the game, a team, cars, races, horses or a multitude of other things. Millions of fans all over the United States are glued to the television when their favorite teams play. Lawns are not mowed, cars are left in disrepair, even leaking roofs are sometimes ignored. All activity stops to take the time for the idol.

However, I believe the most dangerous idol to the Christian community is "The American Dream." A dream to have all our heart's desire, security, good health, a new home, cars for every member of the family, perfect children, glamorous wife, beautiful speed boat, time to play, admiration of others and peer approval. Haven't we been told, "You can attain whatever you dream? The possibilities are there, Go after it." And that is what we Christians have done.

We've given our idol number one priority in our lives. We invest in a grand education for a high paying job. We study more business tactics, the investment markets and tax-write-offs more than God's Holy Word. Dads are leaving for work before their children awake and returning after they are asleep.

Christian parents, even those professing holiness, are bowing to this idol. Both parents work away from home or run a business from home. Some mothers are home physically but they are so over committed with helping earn the "American Dream" life style that the spiritual cries of their family members are unheard. Apostle Paul said, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I Timothy 6:8. Christ said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (materialism). Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on...." Matthew 6:24-25.

Mom, is your waking thoughts on material gain or on how you can serve God, your husband or your children? Are we so involved in "things" and pressures of society that we wake up sweating over the long "to do" list, such as shopping, office work, appointments here and there, your children's over committed schedules of ball practices, various lessons and parties? But missing on the list is "teach God's Word to my children." Deuteronomy 6:6-7 reads, "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

Idols of Our Time

(Continued from page 3.)

house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." This says that we should be teaching all day long as we go about our duties. It is impossible to be teaching little tidbits of truth constantly unless our minds are on God's Word. We cannot be concentrating on how we look, what we wear, what we shall eat or where we must go next.

A mother's first morning thought should be, "How can I meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of my family." Her first priority should be to train her children's spirit, to find out why little Johnny muttered his prayer last night instead of praying earnestly in his usual cheerful manner, or maybe praying about how to change Frank's attitude toward his father, or whatever such need arises. This can be done successfully if she is connected with Christ in an intimate way.

Have we become so blended with our idol of materialism and so disconnected with God and His Spirit that we cannot see the needs or hear the cries of our son's and daughter's spirits? Their boredom is a sign of a spiritual need. Are we trying to fill it with innocent entertainment as reading novels, watching good videos, playing games, and shopping in the malls, etc.? It cannot be filled with things. Can we stop the tiresome pursuit of "things" and get connected with their real needs? Quit making an idol of the "American Dream" and give yourself a chance to really serve the living God. That isn't easy to do because the pressures to conform to the world's financial standards are very strong. Some will even justify these pursuits using the scripture, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Timothy 5:8.

Before World War II it was unusual for mothers to work outside the home. Our society was content with small homes, simple food and the opportunity to train sons and daughters to be happy from the inside out. (Today, suicide is the number one killer of youth because they are carrying a great amount of guilt and have insurmountable problems.) It is normal for children to be trained by caregivers or train themselves. Teens will get into trouble following their natural desires unless mothers are in the home to protect them. Our sons and daughters will not learn the great principles that will carry them

successfully through life unless we use our time training them instead of seeking material things.

The saying, "more is caught, than taught" is true. That is why many young people turn away from God even though the parents have kept them in church two or three times a week, sacrificed for their Christian schooling or home schooling, had no television and protected them from other evils. The children catch the idea that mom and dad's number one priority is the "American Dream." They fear God but serve their idols, so do their children and their grandchildren, even as their fathers unto this day.

Let our prayer be: "Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way." Psalm 119:33-37.

While Christ was here upon this earth He loved us and led us to love the Father in heaven. He taught us that prayer is our avenue to our Father, who will abundantly give us all things that we have need of. In Luke 18, He told a parable with the meaning that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Philippians 4:6 instructs us to "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." From this verse we understand that our prayers should include both our requests and thanksgiving. In order for our personal life for the Lord to be a success, we must keep our avenue of prayer to God open with both petitions for help and praise for all of the good things which He has given us.

As this is true of our personal life, so is it true of our family life. Under the law, the Israelites were told that "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." Deut. 6:6-7. While our children are small they should be taught to pray. This should be done, not only by words, but by our example.

There is an old motto which says: "The family that prays together stays together." This may not be true all of the time, but family prayer is a strong bond for a family.

—Kathleen McMurrin

An Open Letter to My Parents

From a Teenager

I am your child. You brought me into this world and raised me to what I am today. If I am not what I should be, please do not be too harsh with me; for I am your product, and by my actions I advertise the quality standards of home. Do not point at one of my playmates as an example of how I should behave; for by doing so you are admitting that their parents are doing a better job than you.

You say that you are a Christian; yet when meeting time comes you make little effort to attend, giving me no encouragement to be in God's house, either. You say that you love me, and yet it has been years since you put your arms around me at bed-time, and with tears in your eyes asked your heavenly Father to watch over me as I slept. You seem to be more interested in my school grades than in the condition of my eternal soul.

You give me the impression that it is better to be popular than to be pure; better to be attractive on the outside, than to have that "inner beauty" that comes to one who loves the Lord.

So the next time you feel like throwing up your hands and saying, "I just can't do a thing with you," please remember, you have had the opportunity to influence me since I was born, and that the Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." And in another place, "They shall rise up and call you blessed."

—Selected

HOME LIFE

April 1987



Be Wise

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16. Being wise as a serpent is being aware of the surrounding dangers. True, there are many physical dangers on every side of which each must protect himself and his family, but the most serious dangers are elements that threaten the decay of

immortal souls. Satan is shooting evil darts at every Christian, aiming to fatally damage the soul.

One agent the devil is using very effectively to damage souls is the broadcasting media. By the newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV reporting a constant stream of crime of all sorts; pornography, rapes, drugs, alcoholism and uncontrolled passions of all kinds, one could believe there are no common, hard-working, good moral people left in America. A special target is the break-down of Christian morals and the family unit.

We often hear or read, "according to a survey," or "results from this investigation," or "statistics show." Writers and speakers are using results from all sorts of investigations to communicate certain desired thoughts. One good example of this is a recent headline which read, "Kids of Working Mothers Do Better in School." This headline and the related article, could make a depressed, a financially stressed, or a tired-of-staying-at-home mother, feel that staying at home just isn't worth the sacrifice she has been making to obey what she believes to be God's plan for her. Especially could this happen when the report comes from a team of psychologists representing two major universities and five years of inquiry. Each of us must be "wise as serpents" and understand that many such reports are seriously flawed. This one was based on an investigation of 573 children from 38 states in the first, third and fifth grades. The children were divided into two categories; those whose mothers stayed at home and those whose mothers were employed. The children of the working mothers seemed to cope better than their peers and showed higher scores. It was not very surprising though, when the non-working mother category consisted of mothers who did not speak English which would make it almost impossible to help their children with school homework. This category also included mothers who were emotionally unstable, alcoholics, drug abusers, those with low intelligence, those who were too ill to work, ones who had no employable skills, some who had children out of wedlock and mothers who were raising several children supported by welfare. The non-working category did not consist only of mothers who chose to stay at home with their children for spiritual and personal reasons.

Reports from such slanted investigations are distrusted in academic circles. Information from such investigations can be used to prove an untruth. For example, did you know that children of larger stature also score higher on standardized tests than those with smaller stat-

ures? You ask, could this really be true? Yes, it is true! Obviously, sixth graders score higher on academic tests than third graders and they are larger in stature. In this instance and in countless others, the investigation tells us nothing about cause and effect. The results from the investigation done on children from working and non-working mothers does not prove the element that the working mother will benefit her child. There were many other influences that were also present to effect the academic scores of the children investigated.

The devil would like for every homemaker to believe that her job is unimportant, and that she is wasting her time. There could never be a bigger lie. The future of every small child is affected greatly by whoever controls his or her early environment. There is simply no substitute of a Christian mother's time and involvement when her children are small. Pre-school, nursery school, nor the best experienced baby sitter can compete with the benefits of a full-time sincere mother. Dr. Burton White, director of a 10-year Harvard University Pre-school Project, says, "Young children of mothers working full time are at a significant disadvantage emotionally and intellectually when compared to those whose mothers remain at home to care for their children. This is not said to place guilt on mothers who have to work. It is only a statement of pure truth."

Every mother must decide from which her child will benefit most; supplying a higher living standard, better clothing, etc., or training in proper values, decision making and coping abilities. Common sense will tell us that children cannot be properly trained when a mother works 40-50 hours a week outside the home, then comes home tired and has to cook, launder clothing, bathe small children, help with school homework and fill the emotional and spiritual needs of her family.

Parents, be "wise as serpents" and do not let headlines such as the following affect your values: "Working Moms' Kids are Healthy, New Study Says," "Kid's Reading Scores High If Mom Works," "Kids Approve of Dual-Career Householder," and "Career Moms Don't Hurt Kid's Chances."

Through many such articles and the news media, the devil is trying to discourage women who are obeying God's commandments to be "keepers at home." He would like to convince us that every mother ought to leave her duties at home and be employed for financial gain. The teenage alcoholism, drug abuse, abortions and unwed teenage mothers and fathers, should prove to any intelligent mother that the best

thing she could be doing is instilling values in her children through her daily care for them until they have made their choice of companions and married, or for some other reason have chosen to leave the home.

—Charlotte Huskey



HOME LIFE

Be Wiser Than Solomon

In the cool of the day, God came down to visit with Adam—but where was Adam? Adam was hiding among the trees of the garden, ashamed to face God. He knew he had sinned. When God questioned Adam about the forbidden fruit, Adam replied, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." (Gen. 3:18-21). Eve, the woman, blamed the serpent. God punished the serpent, Eve, and the man, Adam.

God already knew what had happened before He even came to visit, but He asked Adam, "Where art thou?" Why did God call and question Adam first? God had put Adam in the garden to dress and keep it. He had commanded this man to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Scripture never mentions God commanding the woman to not eat of the fruit. Adam probably told her all about it. She did know it was wrong, but God called Adam first even though Eve had sinned first.

The familiar text in Eph. 5:23, tells us, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." This puts a responsibility on the husband. He is to be the leader and spiritual guide for his wife and household. When there is a discussion among the family members over whether something is right or wrong, the husband needs to be anchored in the Lord and wisely rule in the decision. If his decision is given in love, the wife and children will find it easier to abide within his ruling. Then he needs to set the right example before them. The husband should live in such a way that his children can follow in his footsteps and make it into heaven.

It takes much wisdom to be the head of the household. Be wiser than Solomon. King Solomon is known as being the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote hundreds of proverbs; judged wisely over the people of Israel for forty years; built beautiful buildings; was rich in gold and silver; and had peace with the neighboring kings. He pleased the Lord God in many ways, but he had a flaw which ruined him and destroyed Israel. King Solomon could not rule over his own household. He loved strange women, having seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. They turned away his heart from God. (1 Kings 11:1-13.) They persuaded Solomon to build altars for their strange gods, and he let them burn incense and sacrifice to them. The Lord God was angry with Solomon over this very thing, but Solomon would not listen to God's warnings. Finally, God punished Solomon and took the kingdom away from his son (all but one tribe, Judah, for King David's sake.) The entire nation of Israel was divided and in turmoil from that time on. Because King Solomon could not rule over his own household, the nation of Israel suffered. The gods that Solomon's wives introduced to the Israelites were a curse to them from that day forward. King Solomon was counted a wise man, but his own household destroyed his kingdom. Therefore, be wiser than Solomon.

As James 3:5, tells us, God has wisdom for whoever seeks Him for it. This wisdom comes from above and it is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17. If the head of the household has a pure heart, then things will go more peaceably and there will be good fruits. In the Church of God today, there are men who rule their household with the wisdom from above. These are honorable men, valuable in the Lord's eyes. They are in well keeping of God's plan.

Sad to say, many men of the world do not esteem their place as the head of their household. Some ignore their duty and let other men raise their own flesh and blood. God is not pleased with this. At the final judgment, God will ask every man, "Where art thou?" God will hold each man (and woman) responsible for their own actions. No one will be able to lay blame on anyone else—God will ask you.

The happy Christian household will have cooperation among its members. Therefore, husbands, wives, children, let us all seek after more wisdom from above.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

The Lies of This World

By Myra Moaning

Have you heard the terms "pro-life" and "pro-choice?" Have you ever heard people discuss this issue? Even the words used in the discussion are purposely used to manipulate or control the way you think. This is simply one of the ways Satan uses to lead you to believe more of the lies of this world.

The opposite of life is not choice—it is death. In Deuteronomy 30:19, Moses stated what God had asked him to tell the children of Israel. He said, "I call heaven and earth to record this day

against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Our young people are being told by individuals on the radio, on T. V., in books, in magazines and in the public schools, that unborn children are not really humans until they reach a certain stage in development. Some say they become humans when they are born. Others say it happens when they are developed enough to live in this world on their own, even though they may not be born for several more weeks or months. Still others say an unborn child is a child as soon as all their body parts have formed, which happens much earlier than most parents realize. However, if for the answer to this question we look into the Word of God, we can read in Jeremiah 1:5 where God spoke to Jeremiah and said, "Before I formed thee...and before thou camest forth out of the womb...I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." This shows us clearly that the unformed child is not a "potential" human being, but a human being with potential from the moment of conception.

When scientists and doctors, with their increasingly sophisticated tools and instruments, are able to see and observe things they had never been able to watch in the past, they come to conclusions that prove the Word of God is true. They "discover" things that were there, in the Bible, all this time.

The ultrasound machine is a machine that allows people to observe the movements and positions of unborn children. One day, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, in Lake County, IN, watched as a film was made of an abortion in process, using the ultrasound machine.

The little girl was peacefully sucking her thumb. Her heart was beating at a normal rate of around 120 beats per minute. When the abortionist's instrument touched in close proximity, her heartbeat increased. As the instrument came near her, she thrashed wildly around attempting to escape the thing that was invading her world.

The tiny child had no choice in the decisions allowing her life to be ended. She was dismembered as those in the room watched. At one point, she threw back her head and opened her mouth wide, in an action described by Dr. Nathanson as a silent scream.

The onlookers watched as the outline of the forceps found her head and crushed it so it

Being tremendously potent for good, it can become tremendously potent for evil. Its maintenance and proper functioning are so vital to society that its failure to function is one of society's major tragedies.

John Ruskin, speaking of the downfall of Venice, said, "the decline of her political prosperity was exactly coincident with that of domestic and individual religion."

Let us consider it in some of its unique aspects: First of all, as a social unit. Men and women, boys and girls, young and old, all living pretty constantly and intimately together. That particular combination is not found anywhere else. In other institutions—the church, the school, business—we departmentalize them. But in the home they are all together, and that has possibilities of mutual education and understanding that are simply immeasurable.

And they are together there on a basis unknown elsewhere—a basis of natural instinctive loyalty and love. They have not chosen each other. They are a part

of each other. Impatient social minds may leap to rash conclusions about the enforced relationships of the family. As one of them has said, "Why should I love, or be kind to, or even suffer someone simply because, by the accident of birth, he happens to be my brother?"

That is the very beauty of it. You choose your outside relationships and they may be very selfish and unchristian. You must make the best of your family relationships and they may be beautifully unselfish and Christian. Family devotion and service transcend mere attraction or admiration or passion.

And so the social circle of the home becomes the ideal symbol of an ideal society. The home at its best is the economic model of a just social order in its equitable, yes, more than equitable, its generous, distribution of life's opportunities and comforts and treasures.

Did you ever go into a home—a real home—and find the strongest boy in the family occupying the biggest room, with a sun porch and a lovely view, simply because he was the

strongest and got there first and took possession?

Did you ever go into a real home and find the prettiest girl in the family wearing the loveliest clothes just because she was the prettiest? No! Well, why do we do that, or allow that, in the larger house of the human family?

But it is not as a social unit that the family is at its best; but as a spiritual fellowship. It is not while they are sitting around their common table, sharing generously the good gifts of Providence and exercising those graces and courtesies that would transform society as a whole; it is not even when the conversation around the table reaches fine heights of cultural quality; but when they sit around the word of God, and lift their voices in the universal prayer—"Our Father"—that the family circle

becomes a microcosm of the Human Family.

An American minister who had found an outstanding ministry, especially to the home, tells this delightful experience of his own family life. It is their cus-

tom to have morning devotions around the breakfast table. One morning with the New Testament open between them, the father turned to the sixth chapter of Ephesians. Everything seemed propitious that morning for the reinforcement of his parental authority, for he read the familiar verse, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord." His son, about sixteen, was sitting opposite him, and thinking the opportunity was too precious to lose, the father paused and said, "My boy, that is a good text. Let me read it again: Children, obey your parents in the Lord." He was scarcely prepared for the next move in the drama, for just down the page he came on this: "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath." Suddenly the boy said, "That's a good text, Dad, read it again." That is a positively beautiful scene—a father and his son, with the New Testament open before them, and exercising an equal right to challenge each other over its challenging pages. —Taken from *Faith for These Times*,

"(The home) being tremendously potent for good, can become tremendously potent for evil. Its maintenance and proper functioning are so vital to society that its failure to function is one of society's major tragedies."

by Willard Brewing.

could be suctioned. It is said that when the abortionist saw the film, he left the clinic and never returned.

Abortionists are paid well. In some clinics the procedures are scheduled carefully and the doctor can move quickly from room to room, and earn \$600 or more per hour.

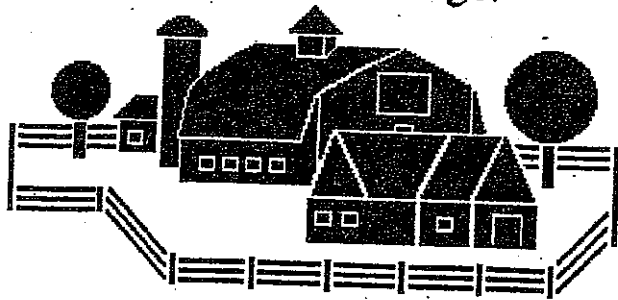
The Word of God has already let us know that the love of money is the root of all evil. The abortion issue is one case that verifies this scripture as being true.

Many argue that women should have the right to decide if they wish to bring a child into this world. They do not wish for the young lady to be told that the life within is not simply a mass of tissue, a clump of cells.

I personally cannot imagine that abortionist walking into his house, taking his wife by the hand, looking into her face and saying, "Honey, I know I'm home early today—but—honey, I just saw a clump of cells scream."

Don't, dear ones, believe the lies of this world.

Home Life *Oct. 1990*



In today's news we read of so many things which are wrong in our world. There are earthquakes, tornadoes, disasters of various kinds which are causing much distress. But the saddest of all is the loss of young lives. Too many of our children and young people are confronted with problems that they feel have no solution; therefore, they commit the ultimate act of ending their own lives. What a tragedy!

Life was, and still is, created by God for His glory. So carelessly are some mothers ending lives before they even have an opportunity to live and fill the place which God has for them that our children are not being taught the value of life.

Our children are required to begin their formal education at a very young age. Most of these children will go to the public schools where they will be taught that there are no absolutes, no God, no difference between right and wrong. The belief of these schools, which are training our children's

minds, is that whatever their mind can conceive, they can achieve.

The leaders and educators of our nation have forgotten the lesson of King Nebuchadnezzar. One day while the king walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon he spoke "and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" (Dan. 4:30). But while he was yet speaking a voice came from heaven and said, "The kingdom is departed from thee." For seven years Nebuchadnezzar lived as a beast of the field. Afterwards he lifted up his eyes unto heaven and his understanding returned to him. Then did he praise and honor God and he testified that "all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35) This teaching of the world that man is supreme is going to lead our children to a disastrous end. Therefore they must be fortified with the knowledge that Nebuchadnezzar learned: There is a God who controls all things.

As parents and teachers of our children we need to give them God's promises of help. Just before Jesus left this world He gave us His promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20).

It is true that there will be problems and difficulties in life, but God has the answer. For the ability to live in a world full of evil we can be assured that "where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. (Rom. 5:20). The testimony of Philippians 4:12, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," can be ours.

Let us leave our children an example of a life submitted to God who gives us all strength and a hope which reaches to eternity.

—Kathleen McMurrin

HOME LIFE *Nov. 1993*



The Home—A Miniature of The Kingdom of God

The family is the most ancient of all human institutions. Before there was a church or a school, or a society or a state, there was the family. And with just as little contradiction, it can be further said that the family at its best is the loveliest of all human institutions. And being the loveliest it is open to some of the ugliest enemies.

HOME LIFE



The Power of Example in Child-Training

"Your actions speak so loudly that I cannot hear what you are saying," is often quoted with reference to the dealing of adults with each other; but too few apply the principle of the proverb to their experiences with children. There are no minds so susceptible to influences, no eyes so keen at watching, and no ears so dull to mere precept as those of children. The power of example to make lasting impressions cannot be measured. Good authorities maintain that environment, far more than heredity, determines what children shall be. Much experience corroborates this testimony. How responsible, then, is the parent to always do right. For the little imitators are unconsciously being shaped by the mental and moral mold provided for them by those about them.

Parents generally want their children to be kind and courteous, patient and truthful. Comparatively few, however, put forth the requisite effort to make them so. When moralizing, scolding, or boxing of ears fail of the desired result, too many parents are ready to inquire helplessly, "What more can I do? I have talked and punished too, but it's all of no use."

Very true. It is all of no use, for the children, too often seeing that the parent does not abide by his own teaching, conclude that the teaching is not very essential. Punishing a child for doing exactly what father and mother do is not a procedure very well calculated to instill a deep sense of justice or of respect for the parent.

What value can Johnny put upon absolute truthfulness if he should see Mama (the best person in all his little world) kiss Mrs. Jones, and hear her say, "How delightful of you to pay me this little call," and then at dinner hear her

tell Father that "that horrid Mrs. Jones called today"? Neither should the child be blamed for giving way to fits of anger when his wishes are crossed, if he sees frequent manifestations of anger in his parents or guardians.

It will be a little difficult for Mary to understand exactly the quality of justice if she is arbitrarily commanded to wash the dishes when it is Jane's turn, just because it is easier to compel Mary than Jane to do them.

James can hardly be expected to be a model of chivalry if Father habitually fails to offer Mother the easy chair or to hold the door for her to pass. The lad might think politeness a rather one-sided affair, expected only of children, if he is commanded to say "please" and "thank you" when no one says it to him.

In a certain family where two romping, robust youngsters lived, it was a point of honor never to refuse to do anything if asked politely to do it, unless there was a very good reason for not doing so. Then the reason must be explained and the excuse accepted. The elders held themselves rigidly to this policy, and the boys almost never failed.

An apology for a mistake in judgment, an error in punishing or for harsh-speaking, for anything, in fact, that one is ashamed of in his conduct toward a child, will not lose the child's respect. On the contrary such a course will cause the child to be thoughtful and tender toward you and others. Two boys were one day trying to harness a horse. The older lad was too short to reach the horse's head easily, and on this particular occasion she refused to take the bit. The boy was impatient. The younger lad made a suggestion. Quick as a flash came an angry, cutting reply. Then as quickly, "Oh, pardon me, John. I did not mean that." His elders had done the same with him. Example had taught him that he could not be a gentleman and intentionally, without good and sufficient cause, wound anyone's feelings.

Sympathize with your children and they will be sympathetic toward you. Nothing will harden and make defiant-some natures, break the spirit of others, and estrange all from you like sarcasm and sneers. Save those for your own blunders and faults, but never wither your children's souls with them.

In short, show toward your children the same deference and kindly attention that you want them to show you. In very rare cases will they disappoint or fail you. It will take some pains and effort, some thoughtful planning, doubtless much looking above for wisdom and power, but nothing worthwhile was ever done without an expenditure of effort. And what is more worthwhile to you than the retaining of the love and respect of your children?

—Selected

HOME LIFE



We are often reminded to "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. We tend to think of that as applying to a certain instance in the life of a child when he needs immediate correction, but to train is an on-going proposition. To train is to mold and form through everyday living.

When a child is born, he is born with a natural inclination to rule. Soon after birth he begins to practice the art of screaming when he has a need, and the parent will come running. Before long he expects to be obeyed. A child is helpless to fulfill his needs at this time and it is a right and natural thing for the parents to meet these needs. However, from that very point training should begin. As the child grows in understanding, he must begin to realize that there are certain boundaries for his demands to be met. As he develops in dexterity, he must realize that he has some responsibilities in life. If a child is not taught these things, you will find him dictating the whole lifestyle of the family. Put several children of this disposition into one family and you really have chaos. Such children will grow up to be a burden on the family, the Church and society in general.

The parents must do the molding and not allow the child to push the parents into a mold of service. A child must learn to take a back seat when the needs of others are being attended to. A child can so rule the parent's life that they have no time to rest, do things that they like to do or take care of their own needs.

There is a saying that "Boys will be boys", but we need to realize that boys will be men. It

is important to not just consider a child as a child, but think of what you want it to be like as an adult. With a preconceived idea of what a person of integrity that loves God is like, put every moment into heading your child in that direction. This is training.

We should not be weary in training our children, for God gives us children for a purpose. It is very well expressed by a quote from Mary Howitt. "God sends children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race—to enlarge our hearts, and to make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our souls higher aims; to call out all our faculties to extended enterprise and exertion; and to bring round our firesides bright faces, happy smiles, and loving, tender hearts. My soul blesses the great Father, every day, that he has gladdened the earth with little children."

—Wayne Murphey

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The word *fear* seems to be highlighted in the Scriptures and comments already given in this lesson. Fear is a healthy emotion. Not the kind of fear that describes terror or fright but one that builds respect for whatever dangers are out there.

A three-year-old, a tricycle and a sloped driveway all make for free wheeling fun—except that the end of the driveway intersects with a busy street. I (the three-year-old) learned through a firm, loving hand of discipline to never, never go out into the street. I do not remember the dangers of the traffic at all. But they were very real. I do not even remember the punishment for the time of disobedience. But I do remember skinned up tennis shoes and ankles that provided a quick stop for my tricycle so that I could turn around and start back up the driveway. I was spared great injury or even death through that emotion of fear. Fear of the busy street? No, but fear of disobedience to my parents.

As I grew into my teenage/adult years, that fear took on a different meaning. It turned into a deep respect. I was more interested in pleasing my parents than doing something that would cause them to be hurt or disappointed in me. Once again, I really was not aware of the dangers that were "out there," but this respect/caution spared my parents, and ultimately me, a lot of heartache.

We have a heavenly Father that loves us so very much and when He corrects us, He is only interested in our well being. When we consider working "out our own salvation with fear and trembling," we must do this with that same respect in mind. Our lives should be governed by the fear of disappointing or hurting our Lord. It will affect our conversation, our attitudes, where we go, who we are with and what activities we participate in. We are still very much like a hapless three-year-old and are unaware of the dangers out there. But keeping ourselves in obedience to God's correction and having a desire to seek His good pleasure will spare us much heartache and grief. —Sis. LaDawna Adams

HOME LIFE



Helping Children Establish Proper Values

Have you ever heard the statement, "Do as I say and not as I do"? Some parents say it to their children. Others do not say it, but they expect their children to do as they *say*, not as they *do*. Life would be so much nicer for parents if children would follow their advice and not their example. Don't we all know that to be a fact? I do. Have you never felt ashamed of your child's actions and later remembered a time when you acted about the same way only under different circumstances? I have.

Children are great imitators of adults, and they will imitate the weaknesses as well as the strengths. All parents should accept the fact that their child or children will have weaknesses and strengths and oftentimes almost identical to their own, but these weaknesses can be overcome by trusting in God and disciplining one's self and the child.

The most important things that Christian parents want to pass on to their children are not their own strengths, whatever they may be, but a great reverence for God and a firm trust in God. With these two tools any child can have a reasonable chance to enjoy eternal life and escape eternal woe.

But how is this done? First: one must believe in his heart that God has entrusted into his care an eternally living creature. The child is not just a body with some character traits acquired from

father and some from mother. No, the child is more. He or she is a special person made in the image of God, and placed on the earth for a short period of time, at the end of which he or she must give account to God for how he or she has used this allotted time. This is an awesome truth, to be sure.

Second: The parent must believe that all of God's laws hang on these two commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. And . . . thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matt. 22:37-40. The parent who believes this will guard his own affections and keep his love for God. This will enable him to value things according to God's value system, thus causing him to be a proper example for the child to follow. A child knows what a parent loves most by how he spends his time. Parents show love for God by spending time in prayer with Him, by studying His written Word, listening attentively to His preached Word, by singing songs of praise to Him and by choosing to suffer rather than displease Him. Let them see love for God demonstrated by attending worship service, even when it brings discomfort to your body, by arising early enough to have morning devotions, by praying often during the day and always in the evening. Of course, there are many other ways to show children that we value our relationship with God more than any other thing.

Love for our neighbor can be seen by mentioning them in prayer, by sharing good literature with them, spending time with them listening to their problems, etc. It can be seen best if we do these things under difficult circumstances, such as when a neighbor hasn't been very nice. Children will value this commandment, if they see you doing it. Seeing a parent obey this commandment will also build attitudes of compassion and thoughtfulness for others into the child. He will learn to think of others and their feelings and not have his mind continually on satisfying his own desires.

The third important thing a parent should believe if they wish to help their children establish proper values is that, "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Believing this will cause the parent to put more prime time on eternal values than on temporal values. The children will unconsciously put more value on their soul's welfare than on earthly gains, such as wealth, honor, or popularity. It will also build a respect

for keeping everything clear between his soul and God or his fellow man. Children will fear to mistreat others, or resist the reproofs of God because God might come any moment, and they would be found guilty.

The fourth basic belief that a parent must have if he is to help his children establish proper values, is that "God is LOVE": "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for GOD IS LOVE." I John 4:8. Love your children for small children seem to picture God to be like Mother and Dad. Prove to your child you love him by taking time to hear him. Perhaps he has some childish prank, or a joy to share, or maybe a problem that is a little hard for his small mind to solve. Let him know you care by taking time to listen. Let them know God is love by talking with them often about God's care. Take a walk in the woods, let him feel the wind, the rain, the cool breeze and explain to him God's plan that things of nature supply for each other so the living things can stay alive.

Talking of God's love to them often is the best rule to follow. God's love cannot be over emphasized, and yet a child needs a proper balance between God's love and His severity.

This whole article is just an introduction to helping children establish proper values. Each parent must first get his lifestyle built around these four basic beliefs and then seek God for wisdom in placing proper value on everyday living experiences. Remember, children do as we do and not as we say.

—Charlotte Huskey

HOME LIFE *July 1987*

Evening Prayer

"Our Father."

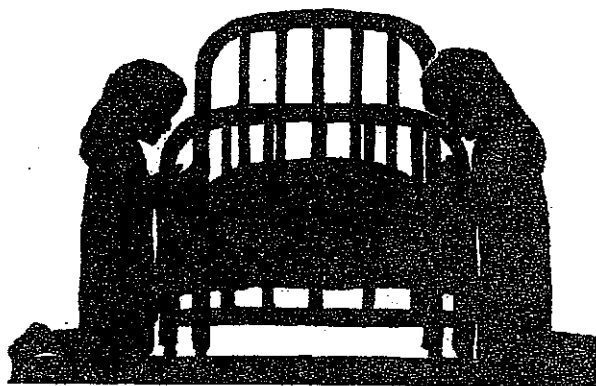
The mother's voice was low and tender, and solemn.

"Our Father."

On two sweet voices the tones were born upward. It was the innocence of reverent children that gave them utterance.

"Who art in heaven."

"Who art in heaven," repeated the children, one with her eyes bent meekly down, and the other looking upward, as if she would penetrate the heavens into which her heart was aspiring.



"Hallowed be thy name."

Lower fell the voice of the little ones. In a gentle murmur they said,—

"Hallowed be thy name."

"Thy kingdom come."

And the burden of the prayer was still taken by the children—

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," filled the chamber.

And the mother continued—

"Give us this day our daily bread."

"Our daily bread," lingered a moment on the air, as the mother's voice was hushed into silence.

"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever."

"Amen."

All these holy words were said piously and fervently by the little ones, as they knelt with clasped hands beside their mother. Then as their thoughts, uplifted on the wings of prayer to their heavenly Father, came back again and rested on their earthly parents, a warmer love came gushing from their hearts.

Pure kisses—tender kisses—the fond "good night." What a sweet agitation pervaded all their feelings. Then two dear heads were placed side by side on the snowy pillows, the mother's last good-night kiss given, and the shadowy curtains drawn.

What a pulseless stillness reigns without the chamber. Inwardly, the parent's ears are bent. They have given those innocent ones into the keeping of God's angels, and they can almost

hear the rustle of their garments as they gather around their sleeping babes. A sigh, deep and tremulous, breaks on the air. Quickly the mother turns to the father of her children, with a look of earnest inquiry upon her countenance. And he answers thus her silent questions:—

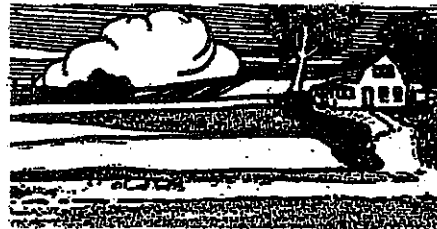
“Far back through many years have my thoughts been wandering. At my mother’s knee thus said I nightly my childhood’s evening prayer. It was that best and holiest of all prayers, ‘Our Father’, that she taught me. Childhood and my mother passed away. I went forth as a man into the world, strong, confident, and self-seeking. Once I came into great temptation. Had I fallen in that temptation, I should have fallen never to rise again. I was about yielding. All the barriers I could oppose to it in the in-rushing flood, seemed just ready to give way, when, as I sat in my room one evening, there came from an adjoining chamber, now first occupied for many weeks, the murmur of low voices. I listened. At first no articulate sound was heard, and yet something in the tones stirred my heart with new and strong emotions. At length there came to my ears, in the earnest, loving voice of a woman, the words,—

“ ‘Deliver us from evil.’

“For an instant, it seemed to me as if that voice were that of my mother. Back with a sudden bound, through all the intervening years, went my thoughts, and a child again I was kneeling at my mother’s knee. Humbly and reverently I said over the words of the holy prayer she had taught me, heart and eye uplifted to heaven. The hour and power of darkness had passed. I was no longer standing in slippery places, with a flood of water ready to sweep me to destruction; but my feet were on a rock. My pious mother’s care had saved her son. In the holy words she had taught me in childhood was a living power to resist evil through all my after life. Ah! that unknown mother, as she taught her child to repeat this evening prayer, how little dreamed she that the holy words were to reach a stranger’s ears, and save him through the memory of his own childhood and his own mother. And yet it was so. What a power there is in God’s Word, as it flows into and rests in the minds of innocent childhood.”

Tears were in the eyes of the wife and mother, as she lifted her face and gazed with a subdued tenderness, upon the countenance of her husband. Her heart was too full for utterance. A little while she thus gazed, and then with a trembling joy, laid her hand upon his bosom. Angels were in the chamber where their dear ones slept, and they felt their holy presence. (Taken from *Choice Readings for the Home Circle*)

HOME LIFE *May 1987*



To have a happy home is not an impossibility. Because they are few is not proof that there are none. Dotted here and there over this great wide world is a happy home. These are the sacred refuges of life; these are the bright oases in the desert waste; these are the fertile spots where the flowers bloom, birds sing, and the sun always shines.

It is not flaming chandeliers, rich draperies, oriental rugs, over-stuffed furniture, gilded halls and granite stairs that make a home happy. It is all told in one word and that word is LOVE. Where love is, there is happiness. Poverty can not drive happiness from the home where love sways her gentle scepter over the hearts of all that are in the home.

Our homes are like instruments of music. The grace of God will tune all the hearts into a beautiful harmony. Just one discordant heart jars through the whole home and breaks up the sweet harmony and happiness. Where every member is tuned in with God and with each other, there you will find more of heaven than can be found anywhere on earth. The grace and love of God is needed and must be had to have a cheerful, happy home, and all that is noble, manly and purest in us is also needed. There will be many things that must be resisted. There are many little duties, attentions, and considerations that must be faithfully given. That home can not be happy where there is a stern, rigid hand holding all in its grip. There must be freedom, liberty, not to sin, but to the bouyancy of happy, innocent spirits. No unhallowed thing must be allowed in the home, but there is a certain merriment, and innocent cheerfulness that is not unhallowed. The little girls play good-naturedly with their dolls and never unhallow a home. Music of the right sort sheds a benign influence over the soul, and cheers and brightens the home. Let innocence be free, but keep sin out. When sin comes in, God goes out. One of the evils that often come into homes is

YOUR CHILDREN

that of disrespect, lack of esteem and courtesy. The gruff "yes" or "no" of the members one to another, in answer to inquiries, leads to unpleasant consequences and chills the atmosphere of the home. The tone in which words are spoken and the manner in which acts are done has much to do with the happiness of the home. When a child calls upon the parent to give some instruction, or to give a little aid in some way, the aid can be given in such a cold, indifferent way, which says, "Now that is done and please don't trouble me again soon." You make a sad mistake if you think the little acts of affection, the words of gentleness, the smiles and little courtesies are to be given only when company comes into the home. Resist all cold, careless, indifferent, unthoughtful feelings and let interest, courtesy, kindness, attention, esteem, consideration, self-denial and love reign supreme.

—C. E. Orr

A MOTHER'S DREAM

One night a few years ago, the Lord permitted me to have a dream which has been a great help to me in times of trial and temptation.

It seemed I was in a big room where there were several people seated and someone was at a stand speaking. It didn't seem to be anything of much importance, yet I didn't seem to be condemned for being there. It seemed to last a long time, and after it was over, I visited with different ones around me, then put my coat on and went outside to go home. After going but a few feet from the door I stopped, and my heart about sank, for lying on the ground right in front of me was our two sweet little girls asleep, without coats on, and huddling close to each other for comfort and warmth. I was so hurt and ashamed, because it seemed that during the meeting I hadn't even thought of them.

I woke up and cried and cried, for I couldn't understand why I would dream such an awful dream. My husband and I have always been the type to take our children everywhere and hardly ever leave them, even with close loved ones.

The Lord started showing me how the dream was for me. The saints have a greater responsibility toward their sweet little children than merely feeding, clothing, and caring for them. The Lord showed me that, although I wouldn't think of leaving our little girls in such an awful condition as I had dreamed, I was doing the same thing by being so busy that I didn't take time for their little desires and giving each the personal love and instruction they needed. They were having to get that warmth and comfort from each other.

Then I've thought how the Lord doesn't wait until He gets all His "work" done before He listens to us or comforts us. How many times can we think of when the Lord has been a present help in time of need? I can, many, many times. Since that time, I've found that even though I was very busy, that if I would listen to them and smile, that it would satisfy them, and yet I wasn't hindered, but the bond of love was growing stronger.

May God help us parents to look to God for love and understanding and wisdom with our precious God-given jewels. Let's pray for each other. —Name Withheld

Take time to laugh and sing and play,
To cuddle them a bit.

Tell them a story now and then,
And steal a little time to sit
And listen to their childish talk,
Or take them for a little walk.

You do not know it now — but soon
They will be gone — the years are swift —
For life just marches on and on,

And heaven holds no sweeter gift
Than a small boy with tousled hair,
Who leaves his toys just anywhere.

Take time to hear their prayers at night.
To really cherish and enjoy

A little girl with flaxen curls,
And the small wonder of a boy.

They ask so little when they're small,
Just love and tenderness — that's all.

—Vermont Home Guards

Homosexuality Is Sin!

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God . . . professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: . . . and served the creature more than the Creator. . . . For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. . . . Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man." Rom. 1:21, 22, 24-28, 32; 2:1a.

In view of what has happened in Houston, Texas, where 27 boys were killed, and possibly others involved that are not brought to the knowledge of the police, we are stirred that this sin, which is sweeping the land, be condemned and exposed as sin. It seems that many so-called churches are accepting homosexuality as being right, but it is definitely against God's Word and will, and people who are involved need to repent of it and forsake such filthy, ungodly actions.

Parents need to sit down and talk to their boys and girls. They need to instruct them how to conduct themselves and what God has created them for, and warn them against this great sin. Psychiatrists say that homosexuality is not natural. It is acquired, and one remark was made that it results from neglect of the parents. I don't know in what way, but maybe through not teaching their children. Saints of God, don't be guilty of letting the devil get the advantage of your children through your neglect. Make them know they are wanted and feel secure in your love and care. Teach them about the tricks of the devil and be careful where you let them go and in whose company they are. Go places with them and do things together. If you don't influence them rightly, they will learn the world's ways on their own. —A burdened Saint.

God Is Pleased With Obedience

The sacred Word of God says: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

All who really fear God and keep a tender conscience toward our heavenly Father will agree with me that the only proper way to train a child would be to instruct it and to rear it up in harmony with the teachings and instructions of the sacred word of God. If parents will be diligent to do this, the promise of God is that they will not depart from it as they grow older. On the other hand, if we, as parents, fail to do this, and allow them to be and act like the un-saved, worldly-minded people around us, then when they grow older they will not want to depart from that way. There may be exceptions to this rule; but they are only exceptions; and we, as parents, ought to take heed to the warnings of God's word and teachings, instructions, and exhortations of God's holy ministers lest we reap sorrow upon sorrow in later years, and find at the final judgment day that the blood of our children is upon us. Parents are responsible for the training of their children.

When parents tell their children not to do things that are wrong, they should see to it that they do not do them, or receive punishment for the same. When you tell the child not to do a thing, you should see that it obeys you and never allow the child to beg you into allowing it to do that which you have forbidden lest they lose confidence in you and feel that you do not mean what you say. Be careful not to make promises to the child that you are not sure you can fulfill.

We are instructed by the Lord to keep our children under subjection with all gravity. This means to keep them under subjection in a steady, quiet, collected, serious manner. Parents must keep themselves under control. It is wrong to become provoked at a disobedient child, and hastily jerk it up and whip it. One correcting a child should speak calmly and firmly to it. Many times it would be good to take it off to itself and tell it how wrong it was for it to act as it did, and how it grieves you to have to punish it, but because you love it, it is necessary. Pray with it and for it, and if it has done wrong, it should also ask God to forgive it. Oftimes, if you deal with a child in this way, it will see that it needs a whipping. It is very seldom that a child will forget if dealt with in this manner, and the child will love you. Also, your soul will prosper as God will bless you in thus dealing with your children.

Parents should not tease their children, for by so doing they will either provoke them to anger, which the Lord forbids parents to do; or will cause them to lose respect for them until their teachings will not have the weight with the children that they should. A child in its innocent simplicity believes what its parents say, and takes them seriously, even as the Lord expects us to believe Him and take him seriously. How would we feel if the Lord would tease us? We would be deeply hurt and would never know when to believe Him.

If a child is not brought under subjection to its parents, it will not honor others in authority. This is the cause of the alarming amount of juvenile delinquency in our land today. Even if such children do not become criminals, they will grow up to be self-willed and will not be in a condition to submit to the laws of God.

The Lord expects his people to meet together for the purpose of worshiping him and edifying one another. Few people realize what great damage they do to the cause of God when they take part in or allow actions which disturbs the sacredness of a worship service. Babies are attractive and can do many clever things, but they must be taught that the place of worship is not the proper place to display their cleverness. Grown-ups who allow themselves to be entertained by babies and children during services are committing several evils: they fail to hear the part of God's word which He wants to get to them; they disturb and prevent others from getting good out of the service; they break the sacredness of the service; they show disrespect to and discourage the minister who has labored in prayer and study to obtain something from God to feed their souls, making him feel his efforts have been in vain; they set the wrong example before others; and it is not training up the child in the way it should go. It will grow up with the impression that church services is just a "place to go," and that preaching is not to be taken seriously; so it will be hard for the Lord to ever bring conviction to its heart through the preaching of His Word, when He has ordained that souls should be saved through the preaching of His Word. The child should be taught that when we meet for worship it is a sacred gathering. It should not be allowed to run around over the house nor to do things to attract the attention of others, for this spoils the sacredness of the meeting.

Children are quick to imitate others, especially their parents. Sometimes naughty conduct in children may be traced to similar conduct in the parents. Parents often boast to others about what a smart child they have, yet they often act in its presence as though it had no intelligence. You may spend much time telling your child the way he should go, but if you do not show it the way, your talking will be just idle words to it. It can understand what you do much better than what you say. Since our actions have such a weighty influence upon others, is it any wonder that the Lord warns us that our actions shall be weighed in the judgment day? Every seed sown in a child's heart will grow. Let us be careful what kind of seed we sow, for we shall reap it.

Some parents may say, "You are giving us a big job, and one that will take much time." Yes, it takes time to rear children right, but God will bless you in so doing and your children will grow up and call you a blessed father and mother.

—Fred Pruitt



The Christian Home

Nothing can come so near symbolizing heaven on earth as a home. A father and mother and a family of children can be a miniature heaven beyond that of anything among men. More real, true, genuine happiness can be had in the home than anywhere beside. Home comfort can be made a little sweeter than any other comfort. It is good to have Jesus and heaven with us everywhere, but nowhere is it better to have Christ and heaven than in the home. There is nowhere among Christians that the devil will work harder to bring in discord, interruptions, trials, contentions, impatience and sin than in the home.

We speak, not censuring, but sympathetically when we say that too many Christian homes are not as they should be and could be. They are not as bright a reflection of heaven as they could become. There are many reasons why this is so. Many a dear, God-fearing husband and wife, father and mother, are not finding the love, holiness and happiness in their homes that their hearts crave. Things arise to mar the peace, to interrupt the joy, to destroy the sweet aroma of love, and they long to have things better than they are. They make resolves and decisions and efforts to have things better, but they do not get much better. It is only through the goodness and mercy of God that they do not give up in despair. Let us say to you, never give up, you can win, you can have it more satisfactory. You will not get where there will never be any trials, but you can get where these trials will not be very frequent and where they will be greatly weakened.

Some homes are more heavenly than others and yet they are Christian homes. There are many professed Christian homes where things have come to such a state that they are not worthy of the name Christian, but there are those in which there is not as much of heaven as there might be and yet they are not wholly rejected of God. You try but you do not succeed. Let me say, cease your trying. Pray more; pray to God. Feed on Christ, assimilate Him, bring Him into your life and cross words and cold feelings will flee away. A power and love will come into your life that will give you victory. You are leaving Jesus too much out of your home. Let there be more sitting at His feet. More of Christ in you is your hope of success.

—C. E. Orr

December, 1994

HOME LIFE



Religion in the Home

By Martha Leavell

Home, as God intended, is a thing of exquisite beauty. Its various loves, that of parent for child, child for parent, children for each other, the young for the old, the old for the young,—these loves break like fractured light through a prism from the great white love of God Himself. To describe the highest emotions in His kingdom relationship, Jesus took from the home its sweetest words and set them in His spiritual vernacular. He taught us to call God "father," ourselves "sons" or "children" of God, and Himself our elder "brother." The intimate affections in the home He summoned to illustrate the intimacy of His relation with those who obey God. "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister and mother." Matt. 12:50. He referred to Himself as the "bridegroom" and the church as the "bride."

Because of these references of Jesus which imply purity, affection, intimacy and purpose for the home, such idealisms can never be separated from the home. They must abide in human understanding for they are the type, the illustration, the symbolism of heaven's highest joy.

Eden was a home fresh from the hand of God. What we find in this home certainly must bear the nature of the divine plan. Here, indispensably implanted in the very heart fiber of the first two homemakers was the element of religion. We say indispensably because when sin had come and had torn away the ease and privileges of their material life, faith and dependence in God had not let go. Eve, having accepted the promise of her Saviour, pours forth a song of worship at the birth of the earth's first child.... "I have gotten a man from the Lord." Gen. 4:1. Adam and Eve taught their boys to worship. The fellowship this man and woman

had known with God, and knew again through repentance and faith, they transmitted to the children in their home. Here religion had an essential element. Faith and practice were made an individual matter in the home and the youth grew up to exercise a personal worship of their own.

Watch the homes through the succeeding years of Bible history and see them maintaining religion and carefully handing it down as the indispensable practice and instruction of each family group. God had commanded it: "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but make them known unto thy children and thy children's children." Deut. 4:9.

Not only is it important to know that religion has a place in the home but it is also important to know what place religion should hold.

Throughout our revelation from God there is the strongest emphasis on the place that God should hold. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me...for I, Jehovah thy God, am a jealous God." Exodus 20:3-5. What is true of the individual in his relationship with God is also true in that collective relationship of individuals, the home. When other interests are allowed to take the leadership, the power of God withdraws. "...Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24.

We would be surprised at some of the gods we try to maintain along with our worship of the one true God. It is often just a matter of deeper absorption. The things we are doing are quite worthwhile but in our busy lives and in our earthly evaluations we have made them rivals to the claims of God.

No one saw this clearer than Christ. He pointed it out to us: "Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?...But seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness." Matt. 6:31-33. "Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful." Luke 10:41-42. It is so easy to let the material take first place and spiritual values follow.

On the other hand, we allow dissatisfaction with what we are able to possess to becloud our affections and destroy our peace of mind. This, of course, often unfits us for the real use God could make of us in the situations where we are. "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him," Matt. 6:8, and "shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. But a concern for the kingdom of God is demanded in our affections and endeavors before these "things" of earthly use. In the disciples' prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done," leaps to the heart before the request for daily bread.

An immaculate house, a well-ordered management, a perfect conformity with the social requirements of the day are not things to be discredited or carelessly omitted but Martha's "many things" must quietly step down out of the throne room of our hearts and a complete allegiance be given to the "one thing needful" before the Christian attitude can be claimed.

With religion there is a new glamour to the thousand interests that occupy a family's life. The earth, the sky, the rocks, the arts; the history, science, language that come to be studied in the schools; the progress, the problems, the pleasures of the world of men all take on a new significance. They are things known about by God, things bearing His immediate attention, things beckoning from the hand of God to further search and work. "Do not discourage youth from finding facts in all of the world about them," urged the great Japanese Christian, Kagawa, on his visit to America. "They are but windows through which the soul sees God."

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Parents who are fascinated with the works of God can bring the wonder of His worship into much that enters into family life. Religion will discard the bad and choose the best. Religion establishes taste for what is good.

Challenges In The Seasons Of Life

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

Life is an adventure full of challenges. From early babyhood to the elder twilight years every person faces problems, trials and adversities unique to that season in life. These challenges can either strengthen a person for the better or these can defeat, weaken and destroy.

For instance, when babies begin to walk, their little legs are weak and wobbly. One baby of mine would crawl to the middle of a room, stand up and eagerly look around. We would stand in front of him and coax him to walk. He would look at the encourager, then at his chubby,



short legs that he didn't know how to move. He was too afraid to take a step standing up so He would topple backwards, sit down hard and crawl away. Because he was so insecure when he stood up, we would take hold of his hand and guide him a few steps forward. He liked the exercise

and several times we repeated this game until he learned to walk one, two and then three steps alone. Soon he was gleefully walking everywhere—leaving us behind. In his baby world, he had looked at the obstacle of walking as a challenge. Like most babies, he did not give up trying until he had overcome the problem.

There is a scripture in Job 14:1 that says: "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble." Life seems to be wrapped in problems and tied with trouble. We cannot untangle all the mysteries in life, but if our hearts are open before the Lord, He will establish our feet and keep us from falling. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Prov. 16:2-3. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." Ps. 37:23.

Today, as never before, complex problems challenge each generation. As we read in II Timothy 3:1-7, there shall be perilous or dangerous times in the last days. We see children who are disobedient to parents; unthankful, unholy. There are teenagers who are despisers of those that are good; heady and high-minded. We find some parents who are lovers of plea-

sure more than lovers of God; without natural affection, covetous. And there are senior citizens who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. These problems in society affect the people of God but they should not control us. It is the Lord's desire that we overcome every obstacle that challenges our spiritual progress. Victory can be won. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15:57. Let us check into some of the challenges that are unique to each generation.

Generally, little children are eager to learn. To start kindergarten is a big challenge to a preschooler. Children count down the days until their next birthday and they talk about "When I grow up." They are young and full of zeal. Nevertheless, they have 'real' problems. Each grade of school work is 'hard' until it is mastered. Learning manners and obeying rules are challenges children must surmount in order to advance successfully in life. (Prov. 8:32.) These average, daily challenges are enough for children to conquer but today's children have much more to deal with than school work.

There are currently around 39 million children under 10 years of age in the U.S. The majority of these children watch television movies with violence containing cruel beatings and murders. In a recent report given to Congress, one mild statement announced: "Of nearly 2,700 shows analyzed in a 20 week survey of 23 channels, 57% were said to contain at least some violence. And much of it was the kind that can desensitize kids and encourage imitation..." (TIME Magazine/Feb. 19 issue) Violent programs of any sort create mental obstacles for children to overcome. Sociologists observe a definite link between violent programs and juvenile crimes including murders and suicides.

Wise parents will protect their children from mental abuse. Children of today have enough obstacles in life without the challenge of this added stress. Yet we find that every American child must surmount the challenges violent programs have created because of the association with others of their own age. In other words, it is a difficult challenge for a child to keep tenderhearted and forgiving when among friends who are programmed to think 'the violent and strong' win. Parents must constantly reinforce

the Biblical truths not only by words but by actions. Children need to realize that there are blessings in obeying and trusting the Lord.

Then as children grow older, their emotions become more complex and personal obstacles seem harder to overcome. If children have learned good coping skills and have mastered challenges in childhood, then the teenage years will have a better foundation to build upon. (Prov. 19:18; 22:6.) Coping with peer pressure and being accepted by others are two major challenges in the teenagers' world. Teenagers who were taught right from wrong have a better trained conscience when peer pressure is pushing into evil temptations.

America's past thirty years of history proclaim this truth. In the year of 1963 in the Abington versus Schempp case, the Supreme Court of America made its first open ruling against the Bible and its teachings. The Supreme Court labeled it a Divine Law Standard.



Bible teaching and prayer were taken out of the public schools. Consequently, our nation has seen a great decline in morality and public health. Since then the increase in births to unwed teenagers has increased threefold, not to mention the thousands of abortions performed on teenagers each year. Because of perverted and permissive lifestyles, thousands of youth in our land carry incurable diseases that are terminal. When Biblical principles on abstinence and marriage are not taught to teenagers, they have no guidelines to direct them from the confusion they see and feel. Obstacles created by peer pressure and acceptance are not surmountable. Is it any wonder why suicide ranks as the second leading cause of death among teenagers?

Our American 'do-what-feels-good' society has fabricated fool's gold and average young people have bought it. They accept the evil lyrics of hard rock and any opposer is a 'nerd.' This all creates tough peer pressure on teens who are living right. It is important that teens have good

communication with their parents or a good role model. According to counseling experts, teens desire most to please their parents than anyone else. Teenage girls who have frequent, friendly visits with their fathers are better able to resist the lures of wrong affections. Likewise, teenage boys who are taught to respect their mother are more secure in their resistance to evil. (Prov. 15:20 and Prov. 23:22.)

Most valuable of all, parents and teenagers who pray together are able to overcome the challenges in life much better than those who don't. It is tough being a teenager in our world today but all obstacles are surmountable when Jesus Christ is Lord of the heart. (I John 4:4.)

Moving into the adult world is not so easy either. Gary Bauer, a spokesman for the family in Washington D.C., wrote in a recent article: "Some of the biggest obstacles to family togetherness in the 1990's are economic conditions. Many families just don't have the economic freedom to pursue the best work/family arrangement because they feel trapped economically. Many are just one paycheck away from a crisis." (Focus on the Family/March '96.) This statement covers the middleage group. Adults of today seem to be only a long number on their creditors' computers. Business is conducted in such a hi-tech, fast and dehumanized fashion that adults often find themselves stressed out mentally.

Pressure to keep up puts much strain on marriages. Not only is it common for both



husband and wife to work out of the home on a job, but sometimes one partner will take on another 'part-time' job. Couples are willing to sacrifice their time together or with their chil-

(Continued on)

Challenges In The Seasons Of Life

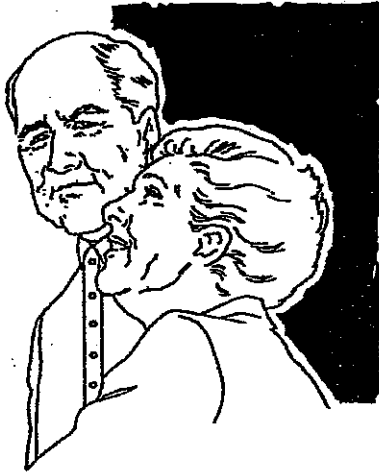
(Continued)

dren in order to buy 'the desires of their heart.' Is this attitude pleasing to God? The Scriptures remind us that "...godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6.

Today, of the more than one million divorces granted each year, three-fifths involve couples with children under the age of 18. One counselor puts the blame on the 'Me-first' generation. He writes that parents today only think of them-selves and their own 'happiness.' They fail to realize that broken marriage vows equal brokenhearted children. Divorce trauma is also another obstacle many children must surmount emotionally. However, if every couple will live by the promises they made to each other before God and those witnesses gathered on their wedding day, then the stressful challenges in a marriage can be conquered. Husbands and wives must realize marriage is a lifelong commitment of friendship to love and to cherish.

Retirement age does not always bring the 'best years' either. The physical body becomes weaker and restraining. The steps become insecure and it is humbling to lean on 'the children.'

Instead of the parents assisting the young, the children are now needed to help the parents. However, there can be many blessings among the challenges of aging and Proverbs 17:6 states: "Children's children are the crown of old men (women); and the glory of children are their fathers (mothers)."



In the United States there are approximately 19.7 million women over the age of 65 years and there are 13.5 million men. This means that several million women have faced the challenges and adjustments after a companion's death. Also, several thousand men have faced the passing of their wives. Statistics have it that couples who have lived together 50 plus years enjoy better health than the single elderly and that it is very devastating to suddenly be without your lifelong companion. It is harder for older people to make

changes and often their health begins to fail more rapidly when left alone than when with their lifelong companion.

Another challenge is that of moving from 'home' and entering a nursing care environment. There are currently 1.7 million elderly living in nursing homes. (American Association of Retired Persons.) Often the move was not their choice but it 'just had to be so.' Experts on aging clearly find that patients who are frequently visited by family members or old friends adjust better and live longer, happier lives. Every human being needs love and a place in life.

It is in the elder years that a previous life for Jesus Christ really rewards the Christian. It is difficult to make personality changes in later life. If through the years the heart and mind have been trained by the Holy Spirit, then the good fruits of the Spirit will ripen and yield a rich harvest in the autumn time of life. An older Christian will be like "...a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;..." Psa. 1:3. Though left without a companion, though the physical body becomes frail, though leaving the old home, with a mind which may not be functioning normally, yet the laws of God are written on the tables of their hearts, (II Cor. 3:3) and their hope in eternal life becomes an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. (Heb. 6:19.) What a blessing it is to see elderly saints triumph over life's last challenges!

As one 90-year-old woman stated: "I look droopy and wrinkled, but inside I feel so young." Remember the zeal of little children? The baby who tries again and again to walk and soon is running everywhere? It is the simple, childlike faith that will carry us through the difficult challenges of life. No matter what age or what the challenge may be, the Lord has answers, grace and victory for those who trust in Him. As King David wrote in Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."



The Problem of Getting Along With Other People

A great many of the perplexities and difficulties in youth's growing adjustments come out of the simple question of getting along with other people. Stop a moment and recall your recent contacts with youth and their problems and see how many of them come under this general heading. The question is of primary social importance, for to be most influential one must be

accepted and understood at least by some of his fellow beings.

But the truth is that finding favor in the sight of everybody is not always possible. There are times when one must differ from the crowd and stand for principle. Differences make for unpopularity. "Her parents shouldn't have taught her that way," was the comment of one high school girl of another. "It makes her different from the crowd and above all things don't make anybody different." But the crowd is not always right, and a far more excellent charm can be attained by the character that breaks for the right than the conformist who is lost in the mass of mediocrity.

If we could find a simple rule by which we could tell youth that they could always get along with other people and not violate any of their fine ideals, we would like to make use of it. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18), is an ideal well worth attempting.

On the subject of getting along with other people the Bible presents us with a multitude of helps. Axioms, proverbs, platitudes, exhortations, commandments, inferences, and illustrations crowd the pages of both the Old and New Testament. A complete study of the Bible would most probably find an answer either direct or indirect to every situation of human relationship. There is no end to the resources of the Word of God on this problem.

But out of the vast maze of teaching and application there emerges one master verse. It was written first in the book of Leviticus (19:18) and re-circulated and immortalized by the public teachings of Jesus: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matt. 22:39.) This is a great summing up verse that Jesus taught on which, with the one immediately before, about the love of God, "the whole law hangeth, and the prophets."

Make a list of the personal reactions of Jesus or His directions to His disciples when confronted with some of the common problems of getting along with other people and study these with your boys and girls. Here are a few for example.

When an unjust demand was made on Him.

(Matt. 17:24-27.) This is the story of the tribute money. Jesus' answer showed that His interest was not on His own personal rights but on the other people's state of mind: "Lest we should offend them." He actually loved the soul value within these government officials. They must not see in Him a lack of love and willingness to do the right thing. Therefore, He led Peter to join Him in going the second mile with them in paying the demand.

When someone refused His friendship as in the rebuff from the Samaritan village. (Luke 9:51-56). No wrath was brought down on them as his disciples urged Him to do. Jesus just moved on to another village. Love caused Him to give them time. Later they might come to understand His mission. Time told that this was a wise dealing, for after Pentecost "the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God." It is significant that they sent unto them Peter and John "Who,

when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-15). John, you remember, was one of the disciples who had been most angered by the former rebuff.

"...The crowd is not always right, and a far more excellent charm can be attained by the character that breaks for the right than the conformist who is lost in the mass of mediocrity."

When an insolent army officer struck Him with his hand (John 18:22-23). Jesus met him with a challenge for the truth. What was there wrong in Him that this Roman soldier should despise? Then He put the penetrating question, "Why smitest thou me?" These were almost the same words that halted the persecutor, Saul, on the road to Damascus. Such patience with a would-be hater came from love of the man's soul underneath. Perhaps it was the same centurion who later at the cross declared, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54).

When one offends and does not apologize (Matt. 18:15-17). Jesus' thought was to go to him privately. One must make an effort to clear up the feeling as quickly as possible. Use also Matt. 5:25, "Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him."

When one offends and apologizes, but offends again. (Matt. 18:21-22). Jesus' application of love admits no malice held. "Forgive and be willing to forget so you can forgive again," He seems to say.

Paul's analysis—Taking up the one principle of love, the Apostle Paul gives us a detailed analysis in I Corinthians 13. Between verses 3 and 8 there are not many problems of social relationships that fail to find their answers. Snobbery, which begins in youth and is one of the most offensive sins to God, gets its death knell in verse 4; selfish aggressiveness and ambition are tabooed in verse 5. Patience, considerateness, disinterestedness, forgiveness, faith, and endurance are some of the other fruits of love mentioned there while envy, rudeness, sensitiveness, brooding, gossip or faint-heartedness are forbidden, by inference at least, in this terse teaching. With this single principle of love in view the Apostle Paul engages to meet

a multitude of situations and give the reaction to be expected by the child of God. Study carefully with the youth in your home the priceless verses in this great chapter:

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh not evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth.”

—By Martha Leavell



Thoughts On Dealing With Children

- ~ Deal with children in the spirit of Christ.
- ~ Do not correct your child in anger; act with humility, patience, and prayer.
- ~ Win them to Christ by manifesting kindness and love.
- ~ Do not raise your voice.
- ~ Deal kindly and tenderly with children.
- ~ Commands should be to secure the highest good of your child.
- ~ Submit your will and way to God first; He will give wisdom, patience, kindness and love.
- ~ Never say a harsh word.
- ~ Never become impatient or fretful.
- ~ Do not be iron-hearted; be affectionate, tender, pitiful, courteous, winning and companionable.
- ~ Never speak in a harsh, unsympathetic tone.
- ~ Never speak in a scolding manner.
- ~ Restrain, guide, and control.
- ~ Give few commands, and see that they are obeyed!
- ~ Parents' word is law and must be obeyed.
- ~ Give a good example, faithful instruction, and proper restraint.
- ~ Don't allow self-indulgence and disobedience.
- ~ Be firm, but kind.
- ~ Repress the evil; encourage the good.
- ~ Strengthen every good impulse; encourage every noble action.
- ~ Mercifully correct.
- ~ Pray before correcting.
- ~ When tempted to speak and act harshly—wait!
- ~ Passion is not necessary to secure prompt obedience.
- ~ Remember, a child may fail again and again when he really desires to do right!
- ~ Do not be wearied because your children forget and do that which you have forbidden them to do.
- ~ Focus on inducing your child to do the right, rather than focusing on punishing them for doing wrong.
- ~ Be silent rather than speak unwisely!
- ~ Disobedience must be punished.
- ~ Wrongdoing must be corrected.
- ~ First talk; help them to see their mistake.



—(Editor's Note: These thoughts were sent to me by a reader who wished that I not acknowledge her name; just share the thoughts with my readers. I have kept this list on my refrigerator for weeks, trying to digest and perform the instructions in my life. They have definitely helped me change some ways and have encouraged me daily. Thank you, my friend, for these admonitions!)

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 21, No. 12

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

November, 1951

Parenting

Out Of This Life

Out of this life I shall never take
 Things of silver and gold I make.
 All that I cherish and hoard away
 After I leave, on this earth must stay.
 Though I have toiled for a painting rare
 To hang on the wall, I must leave it there;
 Though I may call it mine, and boast its worth,
 I must give it up when I leave this earth.
 All that I gather, and all that I keep
 I must leave behind when I fall asleep.
 And I often wonder what I shall own
 In that other life, when I pass alone.
 What shall they find, and what shall they see,
 In the soul that answers the call for me,
 Shall the Great Judge learn when my task is thru,
 That my spirit has gained some raises, too.
 Or shall at last, it be mine to find
 That all I'd worked for I'd left behind? —Sel.

Who Deserved The Cane?

A magazine writer vouches for the truthfulness of the following sketch:

"Mamma, please give me another piece of cake."
 "No, darling, one piece is enough." "Half a piece—
 please, Mamma?" "No, Freddie, no more!" "Just a
 very little piece, Mamma dear?" "No, Freddie, no!"
 "Do give the child a piece," says the husband, "I'll
 risk its hurting him." And the mother gave it!
 What else could she do?

"Mamma, may I go out to play?" "Its very
 damp, and you have a cold. I do not think it is best."
 "I won't take any cold." "I fear you will. You must
 play indoors today." "Just a little while—please,
 Mamma?" "No, Freddie, you must not go out today."
 "Do let the child go. What a girl you are making of
 him! Dress him warm and let him go. It will do
 him good." And Freddie went out!

"May I have my blocks in the drawing room, Mam-
 ma?" "No, Freddie, make your block house in the
 dining room. Miss—is an invalid, and I wish the
 room very quiet." "I will be very quiet." "You will

intend to be, but you cannot help making some noise,
 and as Miss—very rarely goes anywhere, I fear
 she will be very tired at best; so be a good little boy
 and play in the dining room this afternoon." "I won't
 make a bit of noise, nor tire her one speck." "You
 must play in the dining room, Freddie, and not say
 any more about it." "Nonsense! It will do her good
 to see a happy little face, and give her something
 besides her own pains and aches to think of. Let
 him bring his blocks into the drawing room." And
 he brought them in.

"What a torment that boy has got to be!" says
 the father, later on. "'Tis tease, tease, tease, from
 morning till night. 'Tis enough to wear out the pa-
 tience of Job. If you won't whip him, I will." And
 he whipped him.

Query: "WHO OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN WHIP-
 PED?"—Selected.

The above article, "Who Deserved the Cane," is
 certainly a true illustration of the dealings of many
 parents with their offspring. It clearly shows why
 many children today have no respect for their parents,
 and grow up willful and disobedient to parents; nei-
 ther will they want to obey God.

I have heard parents tell children to quit doing
 a thing; but the child would not quit, and the parent
 would disregard the disobedience and permit the child
 to go on with the thing. I have also heard parents
 tell the child to do a thing. The child would whine
 about it, and the parent would let it go without mak-
 ing it obey. It is no wonder that such children grow
 up with no respect for the parents' advice. They be-
 come law breakers and often are sent to reform schools
 or jails. Parents of this kind surely do spare the rod
 and ruin the child. Parents who act thus with their
 children and the children who disobey, all need the
 rod applied to them. Really, the parent is more to be
 blamed than the child.

Parents need to get wisdom from God in training
 their children, and then take time to see that they
 practice what they are taught—and of course, example
 is the greatest teacher.

The Bible has much instruction concerning the
 rearing of children. God's wrath was kindled against
 Eli and his house because his sons made themselves

vile and he restrained them not. God says in His Word, "Them that honour me, I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." 1 Sam. 2:30. When parents refuse or neglect to obey God's Word in restraining and correcting their children, it is the same as despising God. In Proverbs 22:6, we read, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." If a child is properly trained while young, made to mind, when he becomes of age, he will generally hold to his teaching and will obey the Lord and become a blessing to parents and to all mankind. In the 15th verse, we read, "Foolishness [or sinfulness] is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him." Prov. 29:15, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." 17th verse, "Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest; yea he shall give delight unto thy soul."

God holds parents responsible for the right training of their offspring, and they should work together for the correct rearing of their children.—Fred Pruitt

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The word *fear* seems to be highlighted in the Scriptures and comments already given in this lesson. Fear is a healthy emotion. Not the kind of fear that describes terror or fright but one that builds respect for whatever dangers are out there.

A three-year-old, a tricycle and a sloped driveway all make for free wheeling fun—except that the end of the driveway intersects with a busy street. I (the three-year-old) learned through a firm, loving hand of discipline to never, never go out into the street. I do not remember the dangers of the traffic at all. But they were very real. I do not even remember the punishment for the time of disobedience. But I do remember skinned up tennis shoes and ankles that provided a quick stop for my tricycle so that I could turn around and start back up the driveway. I was spared great injury or even death through that emotion of fear. Fear of the busy street? No, but fear of disobedience to my parents.

As I grew into my teenage/adult years, that fear took on a different meaning. It turned into a deep respect. I was more interested in pleasing my parents than doing something that would cause them to be hurt or disappointed in me. Once again, I really was not aware of the dangers that were "out there," but this respect/caution spared my parents, and ultimately me, a lot of heartache.

We have a heavenly Father that loves us so very much and when He corrects us. He is only interested in our well being. When we consider working "out our own salvation with fear and trembling," we must do this with that same respect in mind. Our lives should be governed by the fear of disappointing or hurting our Lord. It will affect our conversation, our attitudes, where we go, who we are with and what activities we participate in. We are still very much like a hapless three-year-old and are unaware of the dangers out there. But keeping ourselves in obedience to God's correction and having a desire to seek His good pleasure will spare us much heartache and grief. —Sis. LaDawna Adams

"Rules without relationship leads to rebellion"

HOME LIFE



Home Influences

Where parents do their duty as teachers of God's "words" and exemplifiers of godliness, by bringing up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and where the children "obey their parents in the Lord," there grows around, about, and within such people that indescribable something we may call a *Christian home*.

And what is a true home? That blessed reality which this word expresses is easily understood when realized, but it is incapable of a strict and limited definition.

One person asks, "What is home, and where, but with the loving?" We may well believe that where the "loving" are not there can be no such thing as a true home. And this suggests one of the most blessed facts of human experience: it is in the power of true love to overcome all external disadvantages, and to create happy homes in the midst of poverty and hardship. We will find them all over the world—under the arctic skies as well as in the land of flowers—in stately palaces and lowly cabins—in crowded cities and on the border of deserts. But all homes are not alike. Some are better than

others. Some contain more of the elements that are necessary to constitute a perfect home.

Fine-spun theories would be out of place in our argument and tedious description would be unprofitable. We may speak very briefly of a few general facts and principles which, however simple and easy of comprehension, are yet too often overlooked and undervalued.

If we are to have perfect homes, it is well that each family have a proprietary right in its place of residence.

This sentiment has nothing in common with that agrarian wickedness which has so often proposed to rob the industrious and fru-

gal to bolster up the idle and wasteful, and that has sometimes blotted out, in fire and blood, the homes of the good because it could not bear the sight of their happiness. Of communism—a fanaticism whose zeal for equality is born of selfishness, whose methods are lunatic, whose inspiration is devilish, and whose experiments have been only and utterly disastrous—the Christian home is at once the antagonist, the preventive, and the cure.

~~If we cannot have a home in our own right, our misfortune cannot justify envy of the more favored, or excuse impatience or repining at our lot in life. But whosoever has, or expects to have, a family, should cherish, earnestly and religiously, the desire and the purpose to have a hearthstone of his own. It is a very great blessing if a man's home be in his own house, and especially if it be his as the reward of honest toil. The man who has won a home for himself and his family as the fruit of many labors has achieved a great and true success.~~

As it seems to us, much depends on the people's having homes—far more than most persons seem to suppose. That government is wisest and best that multiplies, fosters, and preserves the home of its people. After all, if the object of government should be to secure "the greatest good of the greatest number," should not the homes of the people be the chief concern of government? Laws and administrations that hinder the people from creating homes are bad,

and in the long run will, as they should, prove themselves self-destructive. There are, we may be sure, other and better measures of a nation's greatness than the splendor and populousness of its cities, or the extent of its commerce; there are better tests of good government than the power of its navies, or the number and valor of its soldiers. It does seem too plain to need evidence or argument, that the nation which has the largest number of happy Christian



"There are, we may be sure, other and better measures of a nation's greatness than the splendor and populousness of its cities, or the extent of its commerce;..."

homes is the most prosperous—as determined by every measure of true prosperity—and that the government which

most effectually—by the wisdom of its laws and the righteousness of their administration—by the conscientiousness with which it confines itself to its legitimate sphere and keeps itself from arbitrary interference in the sphere of individual and family life—secures happy, Christian homes to the people, is the best government. For the real powers that form nations—shaping their history and determining their destiny—are social; for as communities make nations, families make communities.

The State, as well as the Church, has its foundation in the family. If the State forgets this, we have anarchy; when the Church forgets it, it is apostasy. Having homes—and homes that are in their own houses—helps to make people orderly and law-abiding, industrious and virtuous, conservative and patriotic, and so builds up the State; having homes helps also to make them religious, and so, handing down the truth of God from generation to generation, according to the chosen plan of heaven, preserves, extends, and perpetuates the Church.

The importance of this whole subject, as related to the individual, the family, the community, the Church and the State, will appear if we consider the strength of our home instincts and affections, the controlling power of their influence upon children, and therefore, their determining power in molding the society of the future. No affections are so universal, so intense, so enduring, as those which cluster

about our homes. Their existence and influence do not depend upon circumstances of age, or character, or position. These may modify them, as to their intensity and character, but they survive them all.

Who forgets his home? Not the wanderer. There is Jacob fleeing from the face of wrathful Esau, and during long years of wasting toil with Laban, the Syrian, clinging but to this fond hope: "So that I come again to my father's house in peace." The old, whose feet may even now be pressing the borderland between two worlds, do not forget. When David was returning to Jerusalem after the defeat of rebellious Absalom, Barzillai, an aged Gileadite, who had showed the king and his band of faithful followers much kindness the day they fled before the face of the traitor, joined him on his return, and accompanied him with an escort of honor part of the way to his capital. Grateful David begged the old man to go on with him to Jerusalem and promised to reward him like a king. Barzillai's reply speaks a language that all hearts will understand: "Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother."

Nor does the prodigal, who has "wasted his substance with riotous living," forget. The remembrance of his "father's house" brought tears to eyes unused to weeping, and the light of life to a spirit that had long wandered in darkness. "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father,..." Luke 15:17,18.

are to form or to restore society? Shall we regulate and utilize them according to the dictates of sound reason and of divine inspiration, or leave them to accident, or surrender them to caprice? Who does not know that the future destiny of the Church and of the State is now being woven in the noiseless but unresting looms of the family and the home? The family, not the fates, determine destiny. The destiny of a people is not settled by the defeat of one great political party or the triumph of another—by presidents or Congress—but by the powers that sway their scepter about the fireside—by those influences that shape and fix the character of little children.

We count it a benefaction to the race when some gifted and patient man shows us how to control and employ more perfectly the great powers of nature. We build monuments to Franklin and Morse for telling us what lightning is and for making it the obedient servant of our wants. We call him a benefactor who develops a new industry; we offer rewards and hold expositions to encourage inventions. If one can show us how to be rich and great and prosperous, we call him wise, bless him as a friend, and crown him with honors. But is there not something more important to us than any or all of these things? For what are the influences that make us all what we are; that make, or mar, our mortal and immortal fortunes? What are the influences that form and determine the character and, therefore, the destiny of our children? The silent but potent energies that originate in the family relation—intertwisted with all the ties that bind us together—that begin their work

"The State, as well as the Church, has its foundation in the family. If the State forgets this, we have anarchy; when the Church forgets it, it is apostasy."

Affections like these—so universal, so intense, so indestructible—must be divinely implanted. They are intended to exercise a controlling influence in molding human character. In shaping the destiny of the individuals and of society they are all but omnipotent. Everything that relates to them, that can regulate or pervert them, is of the last importance to us all. And shall powers like these be overlooked, or undervalued, or misunderstood, in our estimate of the creative, regulative, and regenerative forces that

with the first motherly caress that soothes a baby's cry, that work on through all changes of condition and that leave us not till we have left this world—if indeed they do not continue with us forever—these have made us what we are; these will determine what our children shall be.

We do well to honor the great and unselfish patriots, like the prince of Orange, for whom "little children cried in the streets," when he died. And we do well to honor the great reformers—like Luther, and Knox, and Wesley, and

others of kindred spirit—"of whom the world was not worthy"—whose courage and faith delivered the Church in the days of darkness and danger, or led the way to new triumphs of the truth. How much the world owes them, eternity alone will reveal.

But if it shall be the will of heaven to give us a man or woman who will read aright the purpose of God in instituting the family; who will fully understand why in a world exposed to temptation, under the curse of sin, and that must be redeemed to be saved, it pleased God not to populate it as He did heaven, with angels by direct creations—so that there is no marriage, nor fatherhood, nor motherhood, nor childhood, nor kinship among them all, but rather, by the births of generation after generation, making children dependent on their parents during many helpless years, segregating the population of the earth into families and yet binding them all together, by ten thousand ties that make the race but one; who will, by the earnest study of God's Word, and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, understand all these things and then teach us the full measure of our responsibilities; who will not only teach us, but arouse our conscience to a full sense of our obligation to train our children for the kingdom of Christ Jesus; who will also show us how we may most perfectly discharge our sacred family duties—that man, or that woman, will we hail as chief among prophets and apostles who have blessed the world. And if such a teacher and guide could induce all fathers and mothers to employ the great powers of the family and the home, as God wills them to be used, he would reform the world.

—Taken from, *Our Children*,
By Atticus Haygood



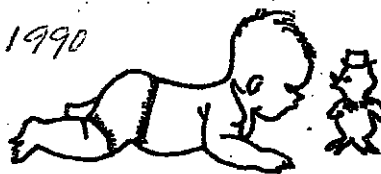
*Dr. Bill Myer
Focus on the Family*

*Recipe for Parent -
Teen Conflict*

*Take one teen who
is body conscious and
embarrasses easily; add
hormonal moodiness and
sprinkle with parents
who just want to parent.
Pick your bottles wisely.*

Letter Concerning Abortion

Jan. 1990



(The following is a letter that was printed in the Harrison, AR newspaper.)

Dear Editor: There is so much being said about abortions I feel I must write this letter.

I have been a nurse for better than 40 years. I have been with many people when they departed this life. I will never forget an elderly lady who had been comatose for about a week. When she came to the end of her life she left this world screaming, "I am going straight into hell. Abortion, abortion, why did anyone ever tell me about abortions."

Dear friends, God loves you and we love you, but unless you who have had abortions or plan to have abortions repent and make peace with God while you still have time, when you come to draw your last breath it is too late.

Dear friend, during this time of turmoil, "Be not deceived. God is not mocked." He created this universe and still has power to control it. He has said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." One of the ten commandments is "Thou shalt not kill." 200,000 abortions a year is murder, plain and simple. This is not an unpardonable sin, but it is a sin that is destroying our nation. Stop and think, we are getting in the

same position as Germany was at the time they slaughtered millions of Jews.

Wake up Christian friends, begin praying for our nation and its leaders. Our nation was founded on Christian principles and the Word of God. Unless we return to those our nation cannot survive.

I want to share another wonderful experience in regard to death and dying. There was an elderly minister who had been ill for some time with a heart condition. One night about midnight he called me to his bedside. He asked me to raise him to a sitting position. With my arm around his shoulder I raised him gently off the pillow. He reached his arms forward towards heaven, an angelic smile came over his face. His last words were, "The doors of heaven are open and I can see Jesus. The angels are coming for me." He then fell back in my arms and did not draw another breath.

I hope this will be of help to unconcerned people.
—Ridgie Ritter

Parenting

Love and discipline

How many mothers say, "I should correct Johnny, but he's so cute. He wraps me around his finger.?"

I've just come home from visiting my son in a juvenile detention home and the scene was far from pretty. I saw mothers and fathers who were kind and hard-working. They loved their children—perhaps "too much" and certainly unwisely.

How much better to spank your Johnny now than have him handcuffed to a table later on. How much kinder to send him to bed without dessert than to lie awake wondering if he had to sleep without any food.

Some few boys and girls get into trouble for lack of love and the right environment, but many, like mine, are locked up because their parents neglected to give them discipline along with love.

NAME WITHHELD, California

"Although young people long for independence, it is particularly important to keep them involved in the family and family activities. They should join the rest of the family for dinner regularly, be part of family vacations, and remain part of family routines."

A thought from John Rosemond
on Focus on the Family
(paraphrased)

Teach children self confidence by teaching them to serve others.

"Self image comes from discovering who we are in Christ and living according to that. - Then we do feel good about who God has made us to be"

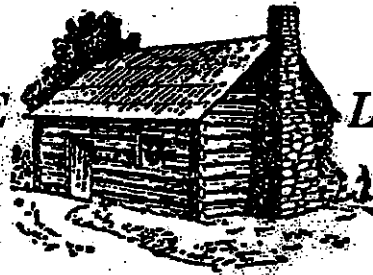
"... One of the greatest things parents can learn to do is to make the child responsible for their own behavior. Don't blame ourselves as parents and allow child to mis-behave."

"Homes where there is celebration and less tension are homes where children are drawn to stay there and drawn to accept our values."

If it's a bitter, angry place, they want to go away."

"Children move towards people who are encouragers, and they move away from people who are discouragers."
Cherry Fuller on Focus on the Family

HOME LIFE



Christian Instruction in Home Life

By George Hammond

We are concerned about the destruction of home life everywhere. Satan attacks the home life because he knows it is the foundation of our society. But God has provided a way to escape this "roaring lion of destruction" and bring peace, love, and tranquility to every home. If every family would obey the admonitions of God, they would find this condition brought about in their own homes, and would have a life pleasing to themselves and to God. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?"

Paul said in Phil. 1:27, "Only let your conversation [conduct] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ." In 2 Tim. 3:16, 17, he said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished [fully equipped] unto all good works." Nowhere does Christianity shine forth more beautifully and meaningfully than in the home life. The home is like a haven of rest and a refuge from the outside pressures of life for each member. It changes the home of strife and tensions into a peaceful habitation and the poorest home into a palace. It brings peace where there was tension and strife; and love where there has been malice. It fortifies each member to go out and not only resist Satan, but be a productive member of society and a zealous witness for the Lord. The Bible gives full instruction for each member of the home.

The Home Instituted by God

The home is an institution planned and perfected by God to fulfill His plan for mankind to be perfected in His image. It is to be headed by a husband with the cooperation and assistance of a wife to rear children in the nurture and admonition of God. (Eph. 6:4). Jesus said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain [two] shall be one flesh; Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:5, 6. Marriage is more than just a civil contract; it is a vow made to God to "love, honor, and protect, until death do you part." It can never be pleasing to God to break this vow in any way and weaken or destroy His plans.

One of the greatest weaknesses in the family today is a lack of communication among the mem-

bers of a family. We have all the instruction necessary for our guidance in God's Word. If we understand and practice the real meaning of God's love as Paul describes it in 1 Cor. 13, it will assist us greatly in accomplishing a happy home life. Paul says here that, "charity suffereth long and is kind." The love of God gives us patience through trials and suffers all the weakness, ignorance, errors, or mistakes of the other members; not merely for a time, but as long as necessary. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times, but, Until seventy times seven." Matt. 18:21, 22. Could there be any more important place to practise this guidance than in the home? We need to commit every circumstance unto God and give Him a chance to work each problem out. If we are thoughtful and considerate and share our plans and desires in kindness with each other, we can build up confidence in each other and our communications will not break down. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Eph. 5:21.

Compassion and tenderness is a part of kindness shown in the family. What a beautiful thing it is to see a closely knit family loving each other in the fear of God! It will certainly be greatly rewarded in heaven. "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. . . I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." It is necessary for the cooperation of each member to achieve this goal because one bad spirit will affect and obstruct all.

"Charity envieth not . . . vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave unseemly, seeketh not her own." These all have to do with pride and jealousy among the members of a family. This may sound foolish to some, but sometimes a husband may be jealous of the abilities or attention his wife has, or the wife may be jealous of the time or attention a husband gives to his work. Possibly he has a desire to help others who need it, and is thought to be neglecting the home. This is why it is necessary that each share their burdens and desires with the other. The home is our first responsibility in our duties to God, but there are also additional labors He may want us to carry on. Charity does not vaunt or set itself forward, or desire to be noticed or applauded or inflated with its own sense of importance; but looks on the welfare of each member of the family. ". . . is not easily provoked. . ." The word "easily" is a word that has been added here and is improper to use. Charity is not provoked to anger or irritated or sour or bitter by another's actions.

". . . thinketh no evil. . ." What may seem bad may not be at all where the full explanation is found. However things may look, wait for the full truth. ". . . whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, . . . think on these things." Phil 4:8.

"And Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently..."

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

How well I remember taking my children to church when they were newborns, babies and toddlers! Our oldest was 5 -years old when our fifth child was born and I was just 24 years old myself, my husband one year older.

When our parents could, they would have a child or two sit with them in the church service. However, I remember times when I walked out with a fussing baby and following me would be three or four little pairs of feet. I would sit in the nursery and think, "I worked so hard to get here only to sit in the nursery, nurse a baby, and referee children!"

Thank the Lord I persisted and kept going to church Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday night unless a child was sick, etc. If I had given up then, we may have stopped coming to church all together and our lives would be a sad tale today!

Please, young parents, bring your babies and toddlers to church whenever possible! Keep the habit of attending (Hebrews 10:25) for your spiritual growth and for your children's. Attending church services should be joyful, inspiring and spiritually fulfilling. However, if you wrestle with a young one during the entire service, you often do not leave feeling any of the above. I know!

Many times I received helpful advice from those who had been down the same path. I learned to prayerfully sort through the suggestions and try them. Perhaps a few hints I received and followed will help other young parents. We will call a little one under a year old, a baby, a one to three years old, a tot, and four to six years old, a small child.

Have quality quiet time at home. As soon as a baby can look at pictures in a book for a short time, read to him. Discipline a baby to be quiet for a short time at home, then when he is out in public he will know your signals for "hush, sh-sh-sh, quiet!" and learn to respond properly. "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." Deuteronomy 6:7.

Include the baby and tots in family worship. Have family worship at a time when the baby can be included. Keep the baby, tots and

small children quiet like you do in church. Ask the tots and small children questions about your short lesson or story. Teach them to love stories from the Bible. They will catch your enthusiasm for learning about God, Jesus, etc. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16.

Sing hymns with your little ones. Most little people like to sing and they will pick up tunes quickly. They will not understand all the words to the Evening Light Songs but they will recognize tunes. They will enjoy the song service much more when they have pleasant memories of their mother and father singing these songs at home during work, relaxing times or family worship. Then when they hear these songs sung in church their faces will light up and they will sing when they can—which is great! "...And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" Matthew 21:16.

Make prayer time special. Explain how serious it is to talk to Jesus at home and at church. By example, teach your children to reverence prayer during church time. This will help eliminate the desire to go in and out during prayer time during the church service. At home have prayer and encourage all the children who can speak a little to pray to Jesus. Prayers should never be forced but encouraged. "And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?..." Mark 11:17.

Have tots and small children go to the restroom and get a drink before going into the church service. Little people are creatures of habit (like their parents) and if they will take care of necessities ahead of time it will stop extra disturbances. A small child should normally be able to wait an hour and a half or so before a trip out. Keep working toward this goal with the baby and the tots. It is possible! "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Pack quiet snacks and a sippy cup for tots and small children. Put snacks in a plastic container that silently opens and closes. Put

water, etc. in a non-spillable sippy cup. Keep a napkin or moist cloth handy and allow little ones to neatly eat a little snack when the preacher gets behind the pulpit. Then your child has a smiling face for the preacher to see. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1.

Two or three quiet items are permitted during church time. Babies learn early what their parents will and will not allow. If you give a baby many items to choose from during church service, they will make a mess in a short time. Do not pack many items but change the two or three items for every service so they are new ones. Encourage the older ones to listen and ask them questions after service. Reward them for knowing the answer from the message. Expect your children to listen. Children feel what you expect from them. "...Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths:..." Isaiah 2:3.

Punish quietly. Avoid talking (whispering) in church. Keep babies and tots within an arm's reach and train them with your hands and facial expressions. A quiet reminder—a gentle nudge, pinch or squeeze on the thigh is just as effective

as a slap that will be heard. Train a small child to know that continued misbehavior in church means remedial action at home. If a child is punished all the time at church, they will dread coming. Separate an unruly tot or small child (preferably closer to the parent) and keep them there. Continue to discipline the child to sit still and look ahead only. "...I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8.

Train your children, do not let them train you. Try to never let the baby, tot or little child know when you are frustrated. They will sense that and act even worse. Pray continually and ask the Lord to guide you through the training. Each child is different. What may work for one may not for another. However, always remember attitudes are caught, not taught. If necessary, have prayer as a family before entering the church doors. Let the little ones know that church time is very special. You want them to have happy memories of attending church so that when they become older, they will want to go themselves. "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17.

Young parents, do not be weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap, if you faint not. (Galatians 6:9)



PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

May 1974

There is a great responsibility resting upon fathers and mothers. There is entrusted to them for instruction and guidance a priceless, immortal soul. Jesus died for that little soul. He has given it to the parents to direct its little feet in the way that will lead it to heaven. God gives parental authority to parents. They are to restrain their children from the ways of sin and the world. It is not enough to say to them, "I do not want you to do this wrong thing." You are to use your authority, in love, and let them know that they must not do it. Parents, be careful. It will be an awful thing to come up before God in the great day and find that your child is forever lost because you made some compromises with it. Then be sure you live holy lives. Right in your home in your daily life you are to be the best reflection of God that child will ever have. You have the opportunity of setting Christ before your child as none other can have. If your child has nothing before it but the picture of Christ in you for the first tender years of its life, that picture will be stamped upon the little heart so that it will be difficult for sin and the world to efface it.

That son and daughter will come to understand the fatherhood of God by looking upon the fatherliness and motherliness of the parents as they can in no other way. Parents have the highest opportunity of showing Divine love to their children. Let Christ shine out in your home life. —C. E. Orr

"I beg leave to propose a short, clear and strong argument to prove the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

"1. The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

"2. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord,' when it was their own invention.

"It could not be the invention of bad men or devils: for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls for all eternity.

"Therefore I draw the conclusion—that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration." —John Wesley.

—::—
 "Though beautiful may play the organ,
 And sweet may sing the choir,
 There's nothing makes heart melody
 But the Holy Ghost and fire."

God Bless America

submitted by Mark Beard

Billy Graham's daughter was being interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayton asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" And Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said "I believe that God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman that he is, I believe that he has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand that He leave us alone?"

I know there's been a lot of email going around in regards to 9/11/01, but this really makes you think. If you don't have time, at least skim through it, but the bottom line is something to think about. In light of recent events... terrorists attacks, school shootings, etc.

Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body was found recently) complained she didn't want any prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then, someone said you better not read the Bible in school; the Bible that says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as your self. And we said OK.

Then, Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide) and we said, an expert should know what he's talking about so we said OK.

Then, someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued. (There's a big difference between disciplining and touching, beating, smacking, humiliating, kicking, etc.) And we said OK.

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents. And we said OK.

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire, and we won't have to tell their parents they got them at school. And we said OK.

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. And agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good. And then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude women, and call it wholesome, down-to-earth appreciation for the beauty of the female body. And we said OK.

And then someone else took that appreciation a step further and published pictures of nude children and then stepped further still by making them available on the Internet. And we said OK; they're entitled to their free speech.

And then the entertainment industry said, let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex. And let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes. And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Training The Conscience

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"My soul is continually in my hand:..." Psalm 119:109

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12. The deeds of man, whether good or evil, are recorded by God in a book of remembrance, and Jesus said, "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. For this reason we must obey and diligently teach our children the precepts and standards of God's Word. What an awesome responsibility!

In the beginning the "...LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (an eternal being)." Genesis 2:7. As God is eternal so is man who was created in His image. Every human has a soul that will return to God and give account for what they have done while living on earth (Romans 14:12 and Ecclesiastes 12:7.)

Parents should establish standards of right and wrong and impress them at a very young age upon their children. This is done primarily by not allowing yourself to transgress God's commandments, also by stories, memorizing scripture and day to day instructing. Making babies be quiet during worship is training them to respect God. When a baby arches its back in rebellion it is time to teach submission. Any naughty action at any age should be taken seriously and not laughed at.

This is building a moral conscience in the child. This moral conscience is like a million dollar bank account that your child can draw from at any given time. From this stored information the conscience will interact by prompting, confirming, warning or accusing. A child without this moral storehouse is like a ship without an anchor. He or she may drift into the teen years and make decisions that will ruin many lives. Parents, please do not let the years slip by.

James Dobson, who has dealt with thousands of children, said, "A child believes in God because her parents say it is the right thing to do.... About five or six years of age, however, she begins to think more about what she is told. Some children come to a fork in the road about

that time. Either they begin to internalize what they've been taught and make it their own or else the Bible stories become like the fables....I certainly don't mean to imply that parents should wait until the child is five or six to begin spiritual training. Neither are the subsequent years insignificant. But I am convinced that our most diligent efforts ... should be assigned to the child of five or six years." It is preposterous to think that our actions, the child's teachers, childcare givers, older siblings, television, videos, radio, etc., do not affect which fork the child will take.

Every child has the right to be protected from satan. Building a moral conscience is also a way of helping to protect your child. However, we can protect them only if we stay under the authority of God and receive of His wisdom. ("...It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23.) God will show us how to deal with each individual child. ("...The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.)

Although every person is born with an inclination to sin, the soul cries out for communion with God. The conscience is God's avenue of communicating with humans. The Hebrew word *heart* refers to conscience in most passages. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11. A Greek verb that means *to know with* is translated *conscience* in the New Testament. Even people who have no Biblical teaching sometimes do what is right because they communicate with God by listening to and obeying their conscience. (Romans 2:14-15.)

God, working through the conscience, will warn us when we are about to do wrong and prompt us to do right. It will accuse when wrong is done and confirm when right is done or when a wrong is corrected. As choices are made throughout the day, the conscience is continually sending messages that either confirm or accuse our actions. The guilty feeling is a warning and the happy feeling is God's pat on the back.

Besides supplying a sense of right and wrong, the conscience also causes fear of rejection,

shame and accountability. After Adam sinned he doubted God's approval and hid. (Genesis 3.) Cain felt he would be killed because he had killed Able (accountability—Genesis 4:14). David felt ashamed after he cut off a portion of King Saul's robe. (I Samuel 24:5.)

Fathers and mothers are the child's conscience before a storehouse of right and wrong is developed. However, it is very important that we teach even very young children how to listen to and obey signals from their conscience. Positive and negative training does this. Negative is restrictions, warnings, consequences (spanking etc.), and are used predominantly in the early years. Positive training is primarily just encouragement when right decisions are made or when instructions are followed.

Positive training such as instructions, encouragement and reinforcement are used mostly in the middle (8-12) and upper years. If parents do not move from negative to positive training in the middle years they limit the child's capability to understand his own conscience. In these years he must assume the responsibility of his actions and report to you and God. Let him practice what you have taught. You will then have a chance to confirm good actions and encourage more right decisions. We must encourage children to do right as opposed to only discouraging from doing wrong. They should see obedience as attractive, not just to avoid punishment. Only very young children should refrain from doing wrong because they might be punished. Older children should think, "I will do this because it is right," or, "I ought not to do this because it is wrong."

The conscience of your child will become insensitive if he or she is allowed to do wrong and not be held accountable. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11. It is easier to ignore the wrong. But what is that doing to your child's conscience? By neglect is it not teaching that God does not see every action? The Bible speaks of a "...conscience seared with a hot iron." When a conscience becomes seared or insensitive the child will find it difficult to respond to God's call to repentance. Do we want that to happen?

It is also important to teach children how to clear their conscience after wrong is done. Children respond in different ways to a guilty conscience; some are hyperactive, some are irri-

table, some withdraw and some become fearful. Be sensitive to each child. Abnormal actions may be a clue that a child needs help to clear a guilty conscience. It will take time and attention to be so alert but it will save time and worry in years to come. Patience is needed to probe into your child's mind and help him understand guilt feelings then bring him or her to an attitude of accepting the responsibility for his actions. This is not done by accusing or manipulating. It is done by asking key questions that will lead the child to understand his feelings, see his mistake and admit his error.

After responsibility for wrong has been accepted, then show him from God's Word (if there is a verse to fit the situation) how he has displeased God and must ask God's forgiveness as well as the person offended. Sometimes instruction and prayer is all that is needed. But there are times when suffering a punishment also helps to clear the conscience. When the conscience is clean the child will feel happy again. Help your child stay happy by helping him keep a clean conscience. This feeling of confirmation is God saying, "Great job."

The devil is seeking to capture our children's souls, not in one great leap but slowly and subtly. He does this by destroying bit by bit the keen sensibility of their conscience, thus hardening their conscience and blocking the avenue by which God speaks to their soul.

How will a child with a hardened conscience be able to hear God's still small voice? Without hearing Christ's voice how can he or she live so that at the judgment day he will hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant;... enter thou into the joy of thy lord"? Matthew 25:23. "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." Matthew 25:34.

Master, Say On!

Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! for oh, Thou knowest
All the yearning of my heart,
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak! and make me blest indeed.

Master, speak! and make me ready,
When Thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.

I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak, oh, speak to me!

—Frances Ridley Havergale

"Create in me a clean heart, O Lord..."

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Every child comes into this world with a clean, empty heart. His tiny mind is like a video camera recording and storing what he or she feels, hears and sees. We cannot be too careful about protecting our child's heart. (We condemn using the video and television for a baby sitter because the child would be learning things he should not learn.) If you are a stay-at-home mom, almost all of what fills your child's heart in those first four years is what you have taught either by intent or by neglect.

A scientific study shows that 50 percent of a child's intelligence (his ability to understand and reason) is acquired by age four. What an awesome opportunity! We can help our children to understand God's ways and to reason like God by filling his or her heart with good biblical principles! As you work and play together keep introducing them to God's love and commandments. This is done through the normal activities of the day. (While washing dishes say how thankful you are for water, or for the food without which there would be no dirty dishes and for such a good helper.) Teaching is a part of all child-parent activities for training is not only done when we sit down and have special Bible studies or family worship. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "And thou shalt teach them (God's laws) 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." That covers the entire day.

Jesus said our words and behavior originate in the heart. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Now consider, if we have filled our child's heart with godly morals that is what will come out of their life. On the other hand, if we neglect this awesome opportunity, the heart will fill itself with other things. The intelligence (the ability to understand and reason) will be greatly frustrated by the actions of a neglectful, inconsistent parent. Such actions are often the cause of parents not being able to reason with their children when the child is a teenager.

Reasoning with another person takes self-control. One must sit, listen, think, sift through his or her feelings and then express thoughts.

Sitting still and listening should be mastered the first few years of a child's life. It will be a great benefit in school and on the job and is a safeguard throughout life.

The same study showed that 80 percent of a child's intelligence is acquired by age eight. So, his ability to reason is almost completely developed during the years he or she is under our care. He or she can then reason about salvation. God said, "Come now, and let us reason together,...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18. If the child has been taught through those first eight years the eternal love and the eternal commandments of God, he will likely submit his life to Christ. If his training has been neglected, frustrated by inconsistency or by poor parental example, he may not be able to make that good decision.

God grant us wisdom to fill our children's minds with good, positive memories of their childhood. May we stay under the shadow of the Almighty and receive from Him the wisdom and graces that are necessary.

Clay

I took a piece of plastic clay
 And idly fashioned it one day.
 And as my fingers pressed it still,
 It moved and yielded at my will.
 I came again when days were passed,
 The bit of clay was hard at last.
 The form I gave it still it bore,
 But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
 And gently fashioned it day by day.
 And molded with my power and art,
 A young child's soft and yielding heart
 I came again when years were gone,
 It was a man I looked upon.
 The form I gave him still he bore,
 But I could change that form no more.
 —Author unknown

Let us pray, "God grant me wisdom that I may wisely fashion my child each day, from early morn till late at night. Help me to guide each in Thy light, to stamp God's love upon each heart that they will never from it part. And then when I am old and gray, I will thank God for them each day."

The Family Structure

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"...Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him...For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." Genesis 18:18-19.

The family structure is very important because it must be strong, generation after generation. Each generation of life is a cycle of dependence on other members of the family. If the structure is faulty the cycle can break. A broken cycle inflicts pain of different degrees on members of the family. We have all seen the evidence of this in abused or neglected children, rebellious teens, deserted spouses and neglect of the aged. People of every age and social and economic levels are effected by emotional problems caused by a break in the family structure.

The family cycle begins with a baby that is totally dependent on adults. Those first five or six years are the formative years when the behavior patterns and moral conscience of the child are developing. What happens to the child in these years has a lifelong effect. This is the parents' most opportune time for training that will produce good results in later years. (Training is educating in behavior patterns through the use of negative and positive stimuli.)

As a child moves into middle school age, parents become teachers and coaches for their children. They show the children how to study, how to work, how to make goals for themselves, how to bring their bodies and emotions into control so they can be successful—just as a sport coach coaches his students to achieve a goal. In the later high school and college years, parents continue coaching and also become counselors in whom God has invested both wisdom and authority. If the parent-child relationship is a good one, this will be a precious time for both child and parent.

Then comes the child's adult years, when the parent and child are friends. This is the longest period of time and is when the parents reap the rewards of their parenting years. Later, when the parent becomes aged, the roles switch. Adult children become the adviser and author-

ity over the parent. That completes the beautiful cycle that God ordained for families.

When your children are old enough to choose their friends, will you have given them reason to choose you? Have you proved that you are trustworthy by being truthful to them? Or in their forming years did you tell them little white lies to get them to do what you wanted them to do? Have you often weakened in confrontations when you should have calmly stood for truth? Have you respected them as a valuable person and kept a good relationship? Do your teenagers consider you to be a part of their desirable relationships? If they do, it is because your family has learned to depend on each other. Your family structure is probably interdependent. It is God's desire that families be interdependent, just as His church is interdependent—many members but all one body. (I Corinthians 12:12-27.)

The two predominant structures for families are independent and interdependent. To illustrate the interdependent family, imagine a family standing in a circle holding hands and facing each other. They are connected through touch and can easily communicate, as each one can see the other. The members of an interdependent family find social, emotional and spiritual fulfillment together. The interdependent family is likely to stay in close contact after the children are adults and have families of their own.

The family with an independent structure is likely to fall apart when the children are old enough to choose their friends. To illustrate an independent family structure, imagine a group of people standing in a circle with their backs to each other and not holding hands. Communication is difficult without either hand or eye contact. Each one in this group is looking outward to his own selfish interests. The members of this family think and do for themselves without much consideration of other family members. They do not love their neighbor (those closest to them) as Jesus commanded in Matthew 22:39. Their social and emotional needs are met outside the family. A family with an independent structure often becomes dysfunctional. Divorce, child abuse, child neglect, drug or alcohol abuse and sorrows of all sorts are the

results. Some families fall into such depraved conditions as is described in Joel 3:3. "They...have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink."

Other independently structured families become fragmented but are still able to serve as decent citizens. However, their hearts are void of the rich blessings that God intended for a family. Many times these persons suffer depression, loneliness and other emotional disorders, which often leads to the need for professional psychotherapy.

It isn't hard to identify an independent teen that is finding his social and emotional satisfaction outside the family. They will conform to the group to gain approval for their hairstyle, clothes, music and speech. They have become a part of another family—their peers. They have found a relationship that was not found in their own family because the members of the family were working independently. However, that teen will never find spiritual satisfaction until they come again under parental authority.

Is there hope for a family who is becoming fragmented to regain a healthy relationship with their children? In Joel 2:12-13, there is a promise for those who have disobeyed God. It says, "...Turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping....for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness...." In verses 25-26 it says, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm....and my people shall never be ashamed." Zechariah 1:3 also gives a promise. He says, "...Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."

Parents who are willing to admit they have made mistakes have already taken a big step toward a better family. Repent and ask Christ to help you to know how to train yourself and your children to depend on each other. Then gather your family and explain the mistakes you have made in the past and ask their forgiveness. Be careful not to focus on your children's mistakes. Remember, you are rebuilding relationships. You must take the blame for the state your family is in. If you have been lax on obedience, explain what God's Word says; if it is respect, explain that. Then explain the course of action that you believe God wants you to take. Kindly

answer any questions they may have, and pray together as a family.

To be successful in reconstructing a family, you must be determined; for an interdependent family structure is very opposite of the way the world believes a family should be. It is also contrary to human nature. Every person is born with a desire to be independent. (Eve was acting independently of Adam when she ate of the forbidden fruit.) Every child needs the consistent supervision of a mother in order to become skilled in living interdependently with other members of a family. You may have to make some difficult changes such as, the mother quitting her job. You'll need to put family above advancement in business.

"The aged women...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *showing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned...." Titus 2:3-8.

Older children will watch to see if the attitude and the relationship between their parents has changed. They will want to see humility, genuine love, repentant attitudes and that they are striving to do better. Teenagers can sense hypocrisy in parents and usually do not want to identify with a hypocrite; however, they will often forgive and try to conform if the parents are sincere. Make good the chance you have to restore your family, for you may not get another. If we, as parents, will seek God to give us a heart that will fear Him and give us courage to obey all His commandments, it will always make a difference in our families. We can then have faith that God will bless our children and it will be well with them. (Deuteronomy 5:29.)

Thank God we can have the blessing of God upon our descendants as Abraham did, for we are children of Abraham and heirs of the kingdom. Galatians 3:7, "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

An Eternal Being In Our Hands

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Let us consider some important Biblical reasons for training children. Every child is born with a soul that will live forever. (Genesis 1:26-27.) This soul must give account to God for the deeds done while living in the body. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Do we realize how serious it is to train a child? We are not dealing only with today and this life. A quick fix for today's frustrations may help a parent but what does it do for the child's soul? Close your eyes and ask God to help you project your mind out into eternity. Then ask, "How will what I am doing today affect him or her in eternity?" Make a note of what God shows you and refer to it often. We have the responsibility of an eternal being in our hands. May God grant us wisdom above and beyond our own human wisdom to lead our children to God. Our job is to gently lead or draw—like a magnet—our children to the Savior. Then their names will be written in the Book of Life.

Revelation 20:12-15 gives a picture of the end of the world. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Also verses 21:27 and 22:15 of Revelation gives a list of some sins that will keep people from entering into heaven.

Each of our children will be there on that final judgment day. Will God say to one of our children, "...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" or will He say "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the foundation of the world?" (Matthew 25:34, 41.)

Parents must keep in mind they are training the heart. The heart is of the mind, will and emotions. It is those parts which makes the decisions to serve God's spirit or to gratify the desires of the flesh. The desire of the flesh for continual and immediate gratification begins at birth, therefore the need for cultivating self-control in your child also begins at birth. We train this heart by teaching God's character. One way to begin doing this is by singing or talking about God while you feed or dress your newborn. Don't think for a minute that your baby doesn't record your voice when you sing or talk. Babies, within the first year, understand most of our communication although they cannot verbalize an answer to us. Many mothers are teaching their babies simple sign language before they can talk. This decreases much frustration for both mother and baby. It also shows that babies do understand.

The primary focus in early training is the child's heart and not simply outward behavior, but we train the heart by insisting on correct outward behavior long before the child is capable of understanding the Biblical concepts. Children first learn how to act correctly and then they learn how to think Godly. Adults act on what they believe, but in childhood actions precede believing. External pressure is necessary to bring about acceptable behavior in small children. The first five years parents must concentrate on bringing the child into submission and obedience. If this is done, many children will begin to realize just how difficult it is to control themselves and will want to ask Jesus into their heart to make obeying easier.

Consistency is of uppermost importance throughout childhood training because children equate the parent (especially the father) to God. The child will believe that God rewards or disciplines inconsistently as parents do; if allowed to indulge in certain activities at one time and not at another. The child becomes frustrated about the eternal justice of God. He perceives that God shows love according to His whims and that God will also overlook sin

The differences of a husband and wife because of gender and personalities help the children grow up in a more well-rounded environment. These differences are meant to be a blessing.

An Eternal Being In Our Hands

(Continued from page 3.)

according to His mood. What an awful deception! That deception can be learned in a Christian home from inconsistent parenting.

The bottom line in early training is self-control. It influences kindness, sharing, gentleness, proper speech, anger, concentrating, focusing, the ability to sit quietly and many other behaviors. Humanists believe that the creativity of a child is hindered by self-control but the opposite is true. The child who learns early to control his emotions will be able to produce the creative ideas that come into his mind. Without self-control the idea often dies in the making when the going gets tough.

Every parent's goal should be to raise a morally responsible child who comes to salvation in Jesus Christ, whose life is governed by the precepts of God, and one who reflects the love of Christ. The absence of self-control and knowledge of Biblical values hinders this, while the presence of Biblical values and self-restraint aids the process. Knowledge of God's laws is not a substitute for regeneration. However, it will aid greatly in helping your regenerated child to conform to God's standards. Parents are to act as governors in the child's life until the child is capable of rightly governing himself. God holds parents responsible for their children's actions. At what age are parents no more responsible? I do not know. Eli was held accountable for the actions of his grown sons. (Read I Samuel 3:12-14, also Deuteronomy 21:18-20.)

God must always be number one in our personal life. Each child is different and must be dealt with according to the leadings of the Lord. We must stay close to God ourselves and be attentive to the impressions we feel in our soul. Sometimes God will show us how to handle a problem through His Word, sometimes in a dream, by counsel from another, most often by our knowledge of where the offensive action may lead or sometimes by an uneasy feeling. The only way to be able to deal with child rearing problems in God's way is by having God's presence.

Although the parents are in many ways responsible for their children's actions, every person "...shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son:..." Ezekiel 18:20. Read all of Ezekiel 18. Then let us do all we can so that when "...the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" that God will say to our son or daughter, "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...."

Time is Eternity Begun Mother's Love

Blest infant! Whom his mother taught
Early to seek the Lord,
And poured upon his dawning thought
This was the lesson to her son,
Time is Eternity begun.
Behold, that is a Mother's love.

Blest Mother! Who, in wisdom's path,
By her own parent trod,
Thus taught her son to flee the wrath,
And know the fear of God:
Ah, Youth! Like her enjoy your prime.
Begin eternity in time.
Taught by that Mother's love.

That Mother's love! How sweet the name!
What was that Mother's love?
The noblest, purest, kindest flame,
That kindles from above,
Within a heart of earthly mold,
As much of heaven as heart can hold,
Nor through eternity grows old.
That's the true Mother's love.

Children of the Royal Family

Feb '06

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverbs 29:17.

Balance is very important in teaching God's character. God is love and God is also a consuming fire. These two personalities of God must be kept in balance. We often hear about God's love but hear very little about His wrath. Children need to learn of and experience God's love. They must also be taught to fear His judgments if they trample over His principles.

Christians who have experienced God's protection, love and blessings for many years will serve Him out of a genuine love for Him. Children, however, who have not had personal experiences with God are not endeared to Him as older Christians and therefore will not obey Him because of their love. They need to fear His wrath as a reason to obey until they do fall in love with Him.

Our training should include both love and a healthy respect or fear of God. As well as learning John 3:16, they should learn such scriptures as, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." Proverbs 30:17. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:..." Psalm 111:10. "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God,.... And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God...." Deuteronomy 11:26-28. "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Proverbs 29:1.

There must also be a balance in the family structure. It is easy for parents, especially a mother, to fall into child-centered parenting and downplay the husband-wife relationship. The greatest influence you will have is not in parenting but in your role as husband or wife. The marriage relationship is the first social relationship established; all other relationships must be subject to it. Many parents neglect this first relationship and center on their child. This is dangerous to the family structure and for the child. It fosters in the child self-centeredness, self-reliance and independence from the family and comes perilously close to idolatry. God

promises blessings on those who follow His principles. The family structure—father, mother and child—in that order is one of them. If violated the blessings are forfeited.

There must also be a balance between siblings. Children must be loved and treated equally. This does not mean the small and older children are allowed the same privileges. Privileges are earned by older siblings as they demonstrate ability and trustworthiness to handle privileges.

Balance in work and play is also important. As the old saying goes, "All work and no play makes Jake a dull boy. All play and no work makes Jake a lazy boy." In play, children develop creativity. They dream and imagine what they will be in adult life. Often people have become the person he or she pretended to be in play. Many inventions are products of a childhood dream. Let your child dream and soar to great heights in play. The self-confidence he gains may be what will help to overcome some obstacle in the future.

Whether children are working or playing they must be supervised carefully. We should know with whom and what our children are playing. Many a conscience has been blackened during unsupervised play. Question your children when they have played with older or questionable playmates. If needed, help them clear their conscience through prayer.

We are raising kings and priests in the kingdom of God or soldiers for Christ. Just let your imagination work a bit and think how carefully royal children are trained. Are they left alone to do their own thing? Or are they guarded so the crown stays in the family? Our crown is Christ's approval. Many a parent has lost Christ's approval because they were neglectful or not willing to obey God's commandments about child training. Children of the royal family must be equipped to take responsibility when the time comes. Our sons and daughters must also be able to take responsibility for their actions so that they may keep a guilt free conscience. Then they will not be condemned when they stand before God. They too are of a royal bloodline, an eternal bloodline. Do we treat them as such?

The self-confidence, approval, money or other rewards earned from work help children get a

handle on life. Children who have learned to take responsibility for their own homes, keep their room tidy, bed made, clothes and toys in order, school book and homework in proper place and other housekeeping chores, will be far ahead of their peers who have not learned these disciplines. It is a curse to allow children to come to marriage without having learned these simple disciplines.

Let us keep balanced in all we do with our children. Let's teach both the love and fear of God. Keep balance in the family, among siblings and in work and play. The struggle you have balancing all these things will be over sooner than you realize. Then you can enjoy your children. They will give you rest because you have, by example and training, taught them how to lead responsible, balanced lives. It can be done. Don't lose heart.

I Am The Child

I am the child.
All the world waits for my coming.
And the earth watches with interest
To see what I shall become.
Civilization hangs in the balance,
For what I am
The world of tomorrow will be.

I am the child.
I have come into your world,
About which I knew nothing.
Why I come—I know not.
How I came—I know not.
I am curious; I am interested.

I am the child.
You hold in your hand my destiny.
You determine, largely,
Whether I shall succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you, those things
That make for happiness.
Train me, I beg you, that I may be
A blessing to the world.

—Selected

Needy Children

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

As our plane lifted off the runway at the airport in Culiacan, Mexico, last November, I looked out over the city and wondered how many thousands of people living there did not know God's saving grace. The little church was full every night of the four-day meeting, but that was such a few in comparison to the city's inhabitants. I wiped tears as I thought of where they might spend eternity.

About 40 children attended daily. How eagerly they sang, and when the preaching started they hurried out to listen to their Bible Lesson. I knew there were hundreds more children in that area who were spiritually hungry. According to Child Evangelism Fellowship, three-fourths of the world's children are without knowledge of Christ, and the February 2002, Newsletter from World Vision said, "One-third of the world's population is younger than 15. They estimate that more than 80% of the world's young people, totaling 1.4 billion, are growing

up in non-Christian settings or non-Christian homes. Approximately 1 million children are estimated to work in the Asian sex trade." What heaviness; thousands may never hear about Jesus. We know that innocent children belong to God. However, I cannot imagine how sad life will be for some of them without having Jesus as their helper. Moreover, what will happen when they become accountable?

Nicolasa was raised in a non-Christian home. She knows it is important for children to understand the message of salvation. Although she teaches 41 second graders every day from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., when there is worship at the church she cheerfully takes the children up on the open air, second story of the chapel for a Bible lesson on their level. In addition, every Friday she and others from the congregation go to a suburb and have children's meeting in a vacant lot. Several children and one young man have been saved. The young man was baptized while we were there in November.

One time when I was in Sinaloa, I visited the tomato ranch with Sis. Minerva. We had to park

on the road beside the irrigation ditch and walk almost a mile into where the workers lived. On one side of a gray-water ditch were beautiful acres of invernaderos, (green houses) ultra modern, and perfect for producing strong healthy plants. On the other side of the ditch were rows and rows of long low cement buildings that housed the 2,000 plus migratory workers. In each 10ft.x15ft. stall lived one entire family. The stall was one room with a door and one porch the same size, nothing more. The sun beating on the tin roofs made the heat inside unbearable so the porch served as bedroom, kitchen and sitting room. There was a central bathhouse and a place to get water. Among this extreme poverty, bright-faced happy children came running to meet us. Sis. Minerva has been having service at this ranch for about four years with good success.

Each year workers return to their homes in other states and some never come back to Sinaloa, however they carry the truth with them. It is hard to imagine the kind of lives these children will live, but one thing we know; it will be easier with Jesus by their side. Although they know very little doctrine, they know to call on Jesus when they need help.

Before we arrived home from Culiacan, I promised by faith to send \$200.00 each month to Minerva. She is a widow who has two children at home. Her son works and she and the daughter sell in the flea market four days a week to add to his earnings for their living. Throughout the 15 years we have known Sis. Minerva she has consistently worked in bringing people to Christ. We are hoping this offering will help her have more time to teach others about Jesus.

Lionell Hunt in *Handbook of Children's Evangelism* said that 85% of all Christians are saved between the ages of 4-14. It is true that some who get saved will not remain faithful, however, remembering the blessing felt in childhood has caused many to come back to the Lord. A recent study by the Barna Research Group, showed "the probability for young people from ages 14-18 to be saved is 4%, while adults (ages 19 till death) is 6%." Therefore, it is very important to introduce children to Jesus, for few are saved at a later age.

Another report stated, "There were over 72 million children in the United States, including 23 million preschoolers and 48 million school age children." All these children belong to the

Lord while they are innocent, but the following report shows what is happening to children who are not saved in their tender years.

"Every Day in America, 180 children are arrested for violent crimes, 367 children are arrested for drug abuse, 1,328 babies are born to teen mothers, 4,248 children are arrested, 7,883 children are reported abused or neglected." This information was taken from the Children's Defense Fund, October 30, 2002. What shocking statistics—and it may be worse today. What are we doing to help stay the hand of these grim conditions? Are we helping children around our homes? They are God's little people.

Jesus said, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." Matthew 18:10-14. What are we doing about not letting "one of these little ones perish?" And are we teaching our sons and daughters their duty to the lost children?

Romans 14:7, 11 says, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself....As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Will there be some children who we could reach for Jesus that will not bow to Him until the Day of Judgment, when it is too late?

Do we believe that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16. If so, what are we doing to help others believe in Him? Are we obeying Christ's last commandment "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature?"

Do not wait! Begin now to help the children around you. Sis. Vera Forbes evangelized children in the apartment complexes. She would stand at intersections where many children passed on their way home from school and gave

out portions of Scripture and character building stories, and then offered to have a Bible class in the children's yard or home. Soon she was having a Bible class once a week in each of five different neighborhoods. The Sunday school at Pacoima, California, where she attended doubled, then tripled in size and kept growing. The church bought a large bus in which to bring the many children to Sunday school.

I believe we could each one invite the neighbor children into our home and bless them with

our love and time while telling them about Jesus, and helping them to memorize Scripture. Eternity alone will manifest the good from these little efforts that we can do.

Daniel Webster said, "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we build temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal souls, and infuse them with principles, with the fear of God and love for others, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten eternity."



Making the Best of Our Opportunity

July 2007

Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4.

Will our opportunity to share the gospel be prohibited in the next decade? Young people are being taught that, "Christianity is the enemy of progress." Matt Kaufman reported in the *Citizen* magazine, "What is taught in many college classrooms today is that Christianity brought on the Dark Ages, held back science, imposed superstition, promoted slavery, oppressed women and minorities, fostered brutal imperialism and generally caused or aggravated a host of evils throughout history." What kind of opportunities will believers have when the generation of students who believe that Christianity brought on the world's ills take over our nation's leadership? Some of today's leaders seem to have that opinion already.

World Net Daily reported that Anthony Mirto and Ernest Simpson, with Gideon's International, were criminally charged after handing out Bibles near a school in Key Largo, Florida. Their first charge was for trespassing. When that charge was dismissed, the Monroe County officials then charged the men under a state law that bans anyone from being within 500 feet of school property without authorization or legitimate business. "This obviously is unconstitutional for several reasons," Cotman said. "The First Amendment gives you a right to be out there and engage in speech. Does this mean that anyone who uses the sidewalk or highway is in violation?" Is giving a Bible to a minor already a crime to our political correct officials? If so, we have strayed far from the principles that made our nation so great and gave Ameri-

cans religious freedom. How many of these freedoms will be ours in a few more years? Should we not be making better use of our opportunities while we have the liberty to do so?

We have many songs in the *Evening Light Songs* book that encourage us to spread the message of salvation: "Do we well, my precious brethren? While they starve and die for bread; we with heaven's richest blessings are so bountifully fed. If we tarry till the morning, mischief shall our souls be fall. Go and tell earth's dying millions, there is bread enough for all." ELS # 451.

"Have we done what we could leading souls out of darkness into light that is shining through heavenly gates?" ELS #254.

"The Shepherd dear, aloud doth weep Because one lamb afar doth roam; The ninety-nine He'll safely keep, We'll seek that lamb and bring it home." ELS # 323.

Jesus said, "...Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. There are children in every neighborhood who do not know of Jesus' saving grace. Some have only heard the name "God" or "Jesus" used in cursing. In my childhood, most every child had a grandparent, aunt or uncle who had some Christian principles. Today two or three generations of the same family are, or have been, incarcerated. The majority of other parents are so busy serving the American idols of sports, entertainment, sensuality, the arts or material prosperity, that they are not taking the time to train their children in what is most necessary. Some do send their children to church where they are

Making the Best of Our Opportunity

joyfully entertained, but so seldom are taught the truth of God's Word.

What parent, grandparent or caregiver will stop what they are doing when a child tells a lie and take the time to help that child know the significance of being honest? The story is told that President Abraham Lincoln walked five miles to pay back a penny that someone had over paid him. Lincoln knew the importance of honesty because what God's Word said was an important part of his childhood training. President Lincoln walked five miles and today, when transportation is so easy, will parents bother to immediately take a child back to the store when they have brought something home without paying for it? Even parents who are teaching their children to be honest are likely to say, "Let's put this away, and we will take it back to the store when we go again." Is the right lesson learned from this?

It is very sad that so many children are growing up ignorant of what is, and what is not, acceptable to God. We think of the drug addicts, criminals and cannibals as being in gross darkness; but so are the children who do not know their responsibilities before God or the saving grace of Jesus. Who will take the time to teach these children that there are "Commandments" that God requires them to obey? Who will help these children see the truth? Who will help them find forgiveness in Jesus and a clean conscience? Today we have an opportunity to teach the children in our communities, churches and schools. Let us not let this chance be wasted.

Recently I read the book titled *The Pastor's Wife* by Sabrina Wurmbbrand, which describes what happened in Romania before freedom was taken from the people. Christian students were not allowed to speak of anything related to Jesus or the Bible. Among other segregations and rude treatments, the Christian children were expected to attend mandatory school field trips on Sunday mornings to keep them away from church. Disrespect was sharply imposed on Christian parents, pastors and teachers. Similar things that took place in Romania are happening in our country. This year, Rio Linda High School in California suspended students for wearing shirts that had quoted Scripture printed on them. A student attending Oakridge High School in Michigan was reprimanded and sent home for writing "I'm straight" on a piece of tape and putting it on his shirt. Children are

gathering attitudes from worldly entertainers, teachers and peers that Christian parents are ignorant. Moreover, many other exalted thoughts against God are acknowledged and given space. Our children are under pressure to be silent about the Truth. How many days do we have left to work for God legally?

Scott Davis, youth manager of Exodus International, said this about our youth being so confused and uncertain as to who they are, "With the growing acceptance of homosexuality among today's youth, the average age for a student to identify themselves as gay is around 13. If we don't pay attention to the youth, we're going to simply lose anything we might protect or gain in this decade." The world sees the need of giving attention to the youth. How much more should we, who are in the light, see it? We must be alert to their needs and take advantage of all the opportunities God gives us to bring understanding to this generation. Are we going to do all we can to reach the children while we have the chance to save them from a life of misery and an eternity in Hell, or are we going to procrastinate and wait for a better day?

Moses relates the story in Deuteronomy chapter one concerning Israel missing the promised land when the spies discouraged the people from going in to possess it. Have we been discouraged because of what other groups are doing, or do we feel that people will not accept God's Way? Do we believe Jesus Who said, "...Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest?" Do we believe the fields are ready to harvest or have we accepted discouragement and, like Israel, refuse to go forward, therefore not reaching the children of this generation? Deep in our hearts, do we feel unable or unwilling to make the sacrifice?

Hezekiah said, "...This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth." II Kings 19:3. May God give the church strength to bring forth children. Through prayer God equips us with His love, kindness, wisdom and anointing. His Spirit also prepares the heart of those to whom He sends us.

The opportunity is ours. Let us make the space in our lives to utilize it!



That Messy Room!

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

Do you have a messy syndrome child? I had one. He delighted in kneading food and dessert through his fingers, then propelling them to his mouth with both hands. Fork and spoon were not tools for eating but extraterrestrial objects. Half-empty oatmeal bowls served as hats, delightfully squealing while slimy oatmeal ran down his cheeks and neck.

After breakfast routines were bathing and hosing down the high chair (when weather permitted.) That kind of routine didn't last long. I soon found out that it was much less work for me to leave other jobs and sit beside this child and see that he didn't make such a mess. Today he loves order and cleanliness.

Knott's Berry Farm is an amusement park in Anaheim, California, near Disneyland. Years ago entrance was free and we lived near-by so we sometimes went to visit it. At that time it was just a replica of an 1800 California town with shopkeepers making and selling their goods as was done in the 1800's. There were also other attractions.

One of the attractions that interested me was “Old MacDonald's Farm.” Old MacDonald had trained animals on this farm. Pigs pushed empty mining carts on a track through a gold mining tunnel and they came out full of oar! Chickens slid down a slide. Other chickens kept the merry-go-round spinning. One red hen walked around and around a tiny mill that ground wheat. A horse could spell. Just give a name and he picked up letter blocks with his teeth and placed them in a row to correctly spell the name.

Each of these animals were trained by the same common denominator, a desire for food. Now if a chicken, that is considered on the lower end of the intelligence scale, can be trained, I think a messy syndrome child can also be trained.

Like the animals, children develop habits. Whether the habits are good or bad depends on their keeper. Do you think the trainer taught the animals by getting mad and fussing, shouting or hitting them? Did he use threats or scare tactics? Not likely. When we lose control and give our children a “piece of our mind” they

understand about as little as a chicken would of what performance we desire from them. So why waste your time and breath fussing? Why not get busy getting rewards and consequences in place to make good behavior the most convenient thing to do.

The next time you start blaming the children for their messy rooms, maybe it would be better to apologize for not being responsible. Perhaps that would help you remember to see that these special children do clean their rooms.

The animal trainer makes things convenient and conducive for the animals to perform the way he wishes. He also rewards the animals when they do perform correctly. If they do not perform, starvation might be their option. The usual reward is love and an appetizer. Yes, an appetizer, just enough food so the animal will perform the same way again for more of the same reward.

I am not advocating we train our children like animals. I'm just thinking that if dumb animals can be taught to perform right by giving approval and limiting food, maybe messy syndrome children could be taught the same way. Most of them like to eat.

If Thessalonians 3:8-12 instructs us that every one who eats must also work. If parents would make and enforce rules such as, “No work, no food,” “Room clean before breakfast” or “Homework and chores done or no supper” they might get more cooperation out of these special children. Parents should consistently make the consequences for being messy not worth the suffering that follows.

The parents would also have to make it convenient for their child to be able to do these things. He or she cannot have homework done before supper if allowed to play, visit friends, shop, etc. until mealtime. It is the trainer's responsibility to see that he stops playing and has a quiet time to study and that he bathes and tidies the room before going to bed. Then he or she must rise in the morning in time to put away sleeping clothes, straighten the bed and have his chores done before breakfast.

Keeping their room tidy is much easier when children are allowed to take out only coordinat-

ing toys for play. These toys must be put away before another group is brought out. (Example: playing house—dishes, food, dolls, etc.) These habits can be taught to toddlers. If they are not, you may have to put signs on their door. "Danger! Disaster area, child at play." Five-year-olds should keep their rooms tidy, make their bed and begin learning to cook and clean the kitchen.

Another consideration is the child's future. What effect will "being untrained" have on your child's marriage? A spouse who does not take their share of responsibilities has caused many divorces. I personally know of a divorce for this reason and also a husband who became an alcoholic because of an untrained, messy syndrome child. Your child's self-esteem might be destroyed if his or her spouse, instead of you, has to train them. Have mercy on your messy syndrome child and train him or her now. She

and your future in-laws will bless you for it.

I have also seen that messy syndrome seems to carry over into spiritual life. A person who is disciplined about natural things is also careful about spiritual duties. Our "inner" room must also be kept clean by the "washing of God's Word" each day. Apologies should be made quickly and bad attitudes nipped in the bud.

Of course there are those children who just love to skip meals. So this idea may not work you say. Don't say so until you try. Every child will get hungry sooner or later. Especially when food is denied. Watch closely if he doesn't get hungry. A sibling may be sneaking him food, which is what happened in our family.

Some families have a child that is tidy without training. Thank God if you have one and pray for the parents of the messy syndrome child. They need a lot of prayer.



The Dinner Table

Nov. 2007

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

I wish I could put on paper what I feel about family time around the dinner table. It is a most marvelous experience. Some of my fondest childhood memories are when our family shared the day's experiences while eating Mom's homemade cooking. I can still see my Dad leaned back in his chair telling stories. We would laugh until our sides ached. And while the words were flying; I was learning values that are still with me today. You have probably heard the phrase, "The family who prays together, stays together." Well, I feel that way about eating together. It is second in importance only to prayer.

President Ronald Reagan said, "All great change in America begins at dinner tables." This is true in business, in politics, and in families. What happens at the dinner table has a profound effect on our lives and those of our children. Much good can be accomplished or much bad can result from our eating habits. Polite, respectful, grateful attitudes can be

developed. Vast amounts of knowledge can be absorbed while enjoying a good meal. Wounded spirits can receive healing, and depressed emotions can soar again making amazing and positive changes in ones ability to live for God's glory. And children who are failing in school can acquire enough courage to pass a history test after sharing dinner with those who love and support them:

However, no good comes out of a meal where mother is complaining, children are jumping up and down like Jack-in-the-boxes, toddlers are washing their hands in the water glasses, boys dropping food, girls fussing over places to sit, and Daddy, all the while, reading the evening paper. I know some children who quit eating with the family in their teen years because mealtime was a hurtful, instead of a happy, time. Sad is the child who grows up in such an atmosphere or in a home where each person eats what he wants whenever he wishes. They are missing a great experience. Let us seek God to know how to make dinnertime profitable for the family and bring glory to God.

Parents set the mood for productive meal-time. Mother, no matter how grumpy you feel, serve your family lovingly and show appreciation for Father, who provides for the food, and gratefulness for each son and daughter that God has so graciously given. A mother's respectful attitude will foster respect in each member of the family. Children will be thankful for father's provisions if mother is grateful. They will respect mother if father is grateful for her. We must do as Jesus did, who took upon himself "the form of a servant." He served even his enemies. While parents are serving their families to love, the children are learning respect for one another, and the joy of serving others. Submission to God's way is so rewarding that the results will be an awesome blessing to the entire family.

Dinner should also be a time of reverence to God, for without His blessing there would be no food. Children should sit quietly while a sincere prayer of thanksgiving is offered. Many families say a memory verse together or individually. Some sing a hymn before eating. (I know a family of twelve in California, and each one said a memory verse before eating. As far as I know, only one child strayed away from God.) Whatever good habit you are striving to form, be consistent and do it to the glory of God. Be careful that it does not become a hurried ritual. Every time the family gathers around the dinner table, invite Jesus to be there. Pretending that He is there with you will encourage a happy experience. (If your children are young, impress on their minds that Jesus is there by setting an extra plate for him.)

Children should not be allowed to complain and fuss about the food. They should be encouraged to at least taste new foods. If a child fusses or refuses to eat what is served, just calmly send him or her to bed without eating, while forfeiting snacks between meals. Let them hear the family laughing and having fun at the table. If they cry themselves to sleep, hopefully, they will eat without grumbling the next time. However, if they throw a fit, beat on the door or come out of the room, they must be disciplined for that behavior. If the child is accustomed to getting foods he or she wants, then this method will need repeating several times until he knows you will not give in to his whims.

If our children experienced hunger like children in third world countries do, we would not have a problem getting them to eat food that is

common and nutritious. Even though we have the opportunity to give our children what they want to eat, we should not. They must learn to eat whatever is served, wherever they are. There is no spouse waiting for your child who will gratify all of his or her wishes. We should prepare them to face a real future. Moreover, think about how Jesus looks at us when we're spending money to satisfy our selfish whims or those of our children. Our hearts should be full of compassion for the poor, and God should be free to lead us to give generously to help others for God's glory. Jesus said, The law is fulfilled in this one commandment, "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27. How is our love for the saints in poor countries manifested, and how do we support our afflicted and persecuted brethren? How does that compare to the times we pamper our children's appetites and ourselves?

Family dinners do not need to be expensive to be enjoyable. The atmosphere is what makes the meal beneficial or detrimental. Some of my family's most enjoyable meals were a bowl of potato soup and a wedge of corn bread. When we lived in Mexico, one day all I had to cook was corn meal, pizza sauce and a little cheese, so I made corn meal pizza. It became a family favorite. My younger children asked, "Why doesn't Pizza Hut offer corn bread pizza?" Be creative and see how you can improve your family's dinnertime and at the same time have money to give to the poor.

We ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" However, do we follow Him? Did Jesus over eat or eat food that hurt His body? Jesus said, "...for I do always those things that please him." "...He humbled himself, and became obedient..." Philippians 2:8. Jesus brought His body into submission in every area of His life. Are we willing to "do what Jesus would do" when it comes to eating? To be glorifying to God, one must submit to all of God's will.

Jesus said, "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Matthew 15:11. It seems that we like to excuse our bad eating habits with this verse while devouring

(Continued)

junk food, scrumptious high fat and high-carb deserts, sugars and caffeine-laden drinks. I know there are thousands of ideas about which foods are good and not good for consumption. What we eat is not the main point of this article, but the ongoing effect that our eating habits have on our children, especially what happens when the family gathers around the dinner table. If our eating habits are harmful to our children, or us, we must bring that area of our life into submission to His will and glory.

How many little children have seen Mom, Dad or other sincere Christians continually indulging in foods and at the same time saying, "I know I should not do this?" We laugh and think nothing of it. The phrase, "I know I should

not do this" is being recorded in little minds. A small child does not reason that eating is a choice but not a sin. Do you not see the danger of the child thinking, "I know I should not do this..." when he or she is tempted to do evil? When that happens to a child, a special protection called inhibition breaks down and a portion of its protective power is lost. Consequently, submitting to the next temptation becomes easier. Most of us can relate to this, especially about eating. Each time we indulge, it is easier than the last. Let us ask ourselves, "Are we, by example, teaching our families that whatever we want is alright?" When the flesh has control, it is impossible to do all to the glory of God.

Remember, a child's mind is much like a secret video camera, which is recording our words and actions. It was clean and empty when it came into the world. So let us strive to do all to the glory of God, including the way we eat, so that no child is hindered.

Nov. 2005

A Grave Mistake

By Sis. Charlotte Hvskey

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,..." Psalm 1:1.

Do you wonder why that for nearly 200 years God blessed America above all nations? It was the most secure peaceful place to live in all the world. Then suddenly in the late 1960's social satisfaction turned to social resentment, which spawned riots in our cities, violent demonstrations, political figures being assassinated, dishonoring of the presidency and our national flag being burned. What brought about these atrocious upheavals? And what has it to do with child rearing? Perhaps Martin Luther gave the answer when he said, "To educate children without the fear of God is to educate devils."

Brewing in universities all over our country for more than a hundred years were the collective thoughts of humanist thinkers. Men such as Jean Rousseau, Henry Thoreau, Arnold Gesell, B. F. Skinner, Rudolf Dreikurs and many others pushed hard to revolutionize parenting beliefs. Rousseau was the first in the eighteenth century to seriously attack the Biblical view of a child's sinful nature. It is strange so many other intellectuals accepted his analysis of children, as he had neither child rearing

experience nor love for children. The five he fathered by his mistress were disposed of at the *Hospital des Enfants-trouves* that received 3,000 abandoned infants per year. Two out of three died in their first year, and only 14 of the 3,000 lived to maturity.

In the early 1930's a chosen few of our more "open-minded" professors from Columbia University were sent overseas to learn new (and supposedly better) ways of teaching. These intellectuals returned and taught the new "open mindedness" to thousands of public school teachers who in turn taught the children. In this way the humanist way of thinking crept into the children's minds. Sis. Geneva Ray told of her personal experience with the educational system in this time period. She was taught to teach this new way of thinking, only to the children, for adults in the general public were too closed-minded to accept it. My Aunt Mae Hightower also complained of having to return to school to learn new ways and new things to teach.

By the mid-1950's, these students had become parents and were ready to accept the new ideas for parenting that the humanists were pushing. Since our nation's beginning the Judeo/Christian traditions for parenting were

strongly entrenched in American homes. The Judeo/ Christian parents believe children are born with a natural waywardness and need to be trained in Biblical truths that they may become peaceful, productive adults. The humanists say babies are born good and if left uninhibited will grow into productive adults. Did not the children who were left uninhibited become the leaders of riots, violent demonstrations and flag burning? This godless generation was birthed when parenting ideas were revolutionized. Who wouldn't exchange today's turbulent, unsafe society for that of yesteryear, those years when parents believed and practiced Biblical parenting?

These humanist thinkers have promoted a psychology of parenting that is not Biblical and their changes have done great harm to our society. God's Word states, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15. Jeremiah 17:9 reads, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:..." Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19. King David said, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...." Psalm 14:1. The foolishness in a child's heart, is not childishness, or being silly, it is that which says, "There is no God; so I have no need to be responsible for my actions." Jesus says that man will give account to God for every sin, even idle words.

Who believes they are responsible to God? Those who have been taught and believe the Scriptures.

We will not be able to train our children right unless we believe what the Bible says about children. It strongly states that every child is born with a tendency toward sin. If we believe our angelic little child is born basically good and that it is only our mistakes which cause his or her bad behavior we shall fail. Every child is born with self-gratifying and self-legislating desires. (This is easily seen. The newborn screams for food or attention, and he wants it pronto!) Without the self-disciplines of life, these two factors can literally kill a child or adult both physically and spiritually. It is our task to teach our children self-control so they will not allow this to happen. This can only be done by following Scriptural principles—not by following the counsels of the ungodly.

A Teacher's Prayer

*I want to teach my children how to live their life on earth,
To face its struggles and its strife and to improve its worth;
Not just the lesson in a book or how the rivers flow,
But how to choose the proper path, wherever they may go;
To understand eternal truth and know the right from wrong,
And gather beauty from each flower and each song.
For if I help a child to grow in wisdom and in grace,
Then I shall know that I've won and that I've filled my place;
And so I ask Your guidance, God, that I may do my part,
For character and confidence and happiness of heart.*

—from a Teacher's Prayer

The Importance of Our Promises

June 2006

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12.

"What shall I do, for my people are starving?" David asked God. "There's been three long years without rain and no rain is in sight."

"It's because of a broken promise." God told David. "The promise Joshua made to the Gibeonites." (II Samuel 21.)

Do you have a son or daughter that is rebelling? It might be related to a broken promise. It might have been one made many years ago.

There was a son who had been a very obedient child but in his teen years he began showing signs of rebellion. The parents were hurt and sought to find out what had happened to cause this change.

After praying daily for several months about the situation, the father decided to take the boy out for lunch and open up the subject. First, he made small talk about school, his friends, etc. Then the father asked questions about his son's interests and about what he planned to do in the future. Then he told the son that he loved him very much and asked forgiveness for anything he had done to offend the son.

The father was surprised when the son said, "Dad, do you remember the time you promised to take me fishing? That morning I got up and had my fishing gear ready before the sun came up. Mom told me that someone in the congregation needed your help. I waited on the porch until the sun went down. You never came for me nor called to explain the situation.

"Every hour I became more bitter as I thought of other times similar things had happened. I was convinced others were more important to you than me. I also concluded that others were more important to God because He didn't answer my prayer that you would return so we could go on the fishing trip. Why should I strive to please either you or Him?"

The father had a hard time remembering the occasion. He was a busy minister, but he also worked another job so his family could have what they needed. Wasn't that proving his love to his son? How could a child not appreciate what he was doing, and excuse him for not keeping those little appointments that he had made?

King David's generation was suffering drought because of a promise made many years before by another leader, Joshua, who had led the people into Canaan. Their first battle with Jericho was a great success, but the second was not successful because soldier Achan had broken his promise to God. After Achan had admitted his sin and God's wrath was appeased, then Ai was easily conquered.

The people of Gibeon, in another area of Canaan, heard what had happened to Jericho and Ai. They feared what might happen to them so they drew up a plan for their protection. They gathered worn out shoes, ragged clothes, old wine bottles and threadbare sacks. With these they dressed their leaders and their families. Moreover they packed moldy bread for the journey and set out to visit Joshua.

"We have traveled from a distant land," they said, "Our shoes (now falling apart) were new when we started out, so were our clothes, our wine bottles and sacks. This moldy bread we took fresh from our ovens the day we left."

Immediately, Joshua and his princes felt sorry for the poor travelers and took them in. Not only did they give immediate assistance, but without counseling with God they promised the Gibeonites residence in the land of Canaan.

Three days after the league was made, it was discovered that the Gibeonites were nextdoor neighbors. The promise was made, so it had to be kept. The Gibeonites lived among the Israelites for many years. Although they served as servants, they were as thorns continually pricking them.

More than 200 years later Saul became king of Israel. After learning of the trouble the Gibeonites had caused his people, he had many of them killed. David became king after Saul and during his reign a drought came. King David inquired of the Lord the reason for the drought. God answered, "It is because Saul broke the promise with the Gibeonites."

We might think that after all those years God had forgotten, but He had not. God's commandment to not make a league with any nation in the land of Canaan had been broken when the league was made; but nonetheless the league had to be kept. "You must be reconciled with the Gibeonites before I will answer your prayers," God said. King David made restitution and God sent rain.

We can readily see that the percentage of saved children coming from Christian parents is not very high. Are these children offended because of unkept promises? How often parents make promises just to get the child "out of their hair" at the moment. That's a good way to keep the child heavy on your heart for years to come.

Maybe the promise was made long ago and we have forgotten it. Has the child forgotten it or is he or she holding in there mind an offense against you? Is someone else offended because we have not kept a promise? Does your child know about a promise you made to your spouse that has not been kept? He or she might be resentful because of that.

Do you have a son or daughter growing bitter against you and the church because of a broken promise or promises? Rebellion is often caused because of offenses growing into bitterness. Take some time with your daughter. Try taking that troubled son out to lunch and find out if the roots of rebellion might have sprouted in you.

The Sin of Sodom

March 2007

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness...neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Ezekiel 16:49.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because "...the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." Genesis 13:13. Abraham's nephew, Lot, chose to live near Sodom because of its well-watered fields, a good financial promise. His main interest was for material gain, while Abraham's was in pleasing God. God destroyed the city because of wickedness. However, what happened before they became wicked? Ezekiel tells us it "was pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness." Therefore, in their path that led to wickedness was pride, plenty of food and idle time.

It is very easy to be influenced by our surroundings. Many saints are driven to seek material things much like their neighbors. This flesh-pleasing standard would have been considered excessive and even sinful a few decades ago. Years ago, the bottom line of many messages was strong against "the pride of life." Believers were taught to live simple lives so they would have more to give to God's work. Every action and all our earnings were to be consecrated to God. All were for His glory. They were taught to "Quickly leave thy cottage door, spread the truth from shore to shore." (Number 464 in *Evening Light Songs*.) This they did in horse drawn buggies, boats or on foot. What are we doing today to spread the gospel? Are we content with just a few knowing the truth, and billions being lost for eternity? There is a mindset that ten percent of one's income belongs to God, the rest is for them. Do we believe that? (When have we tried giving 90 percent and living on 10 percent, or giving ALL our living as the widow did in Mark 12:44?) Are we unconsciously following the pattern of the world?

Are we not leading our children on the path to Sodom's wickedness when we keep them full of bread without giving them responsibilities equal to their ability? Even small children should be responsible for keeping themselves and their rooms clean, doing school homework and family chores. Abundance of time was one of Sodom's sins. Each person has the natural desires to

please the flesh, and when children have too much free time the devil has more chances to influence their desires toward evil. When the mind and body are busy cleaning, sewing, taking music lessons, doing art projects, woodwork or fixing mechanical things and especially helping others, then evil temptations cannot enter so quickly. My parents often quoted the old saying, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Moreover, they kept us busy. A child who is kept busy working or physically playing will be tired at night. A tired child will not be staying awake all night wasting time or doing things that appeal to the flesh.

Religious complacency, being at ease in Zion, and materialism have already wrecked many a Christian's experience and is pounding at the door of others. People are blinded to God's vision. Believers do not feel God's pulse for the lost. They do not feel Jesus' agony when He died without a friend. Jesus told us that near the end, "Because iniquity (inherited injustice) shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12. Some of our generation has inherited thought patterns and living habits that are self-centered and very unlike Christ, Who willingly gave up Heaven to suffer for us. We must guard against these iniquities lest they cause spiritual disaster.

K.P. Yohannan in *Living in the Light of Eternity*, said, "What I see happening in Christian circles concerns me deeply. Believers are being bombarded from all sides to invest their time, efforts and finances in everything but a lost and dying world. Material things, trips, social gatherings, building projects and the comfort of their families, all these and more, may come at the expense of souls who are lost for eternity. And believers who have already committed their lives to reaching the world with the Gospel are in danger of losing their focus."

Our focus is so often on ourselves, our job, our church, our future, our retirement, our family. Why do we not take up our cross and follow Christ Who sacrificed even a place to lay His head? Are we blinded by selfish desires? Jesus' focus was on the lost, so shouldn't it be ours?

Another sin of Sodom was that they did not "strengthen the poor and needy." A Christian

should sacrifice to help the poor, but are we even sharing our abundance with the needy, or throwing it in the trash? While we are living a standard far better than that of kings in former ages, the lost and the poor barely exist in their miserable conditions. Many parents are keeping their money for their family's unnecessary comforts instead of giving to the Lord or to the poor. Moreover, instead of benefiting from their parents sacrifice, many in their teenage years are choosing to be selfish and experimenting with things of the world, pleasures, fame, gaming, drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography etc.

Romans 10:13-15 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?..." What are we doing to send a preacher to those who are lost? Jesus sacrificed the comforts of Heaven to save the lost. God sacrificed His son. What are we sacrificing so others can hear and believe on Jesus?

Christians often listen to the advice of others and huddle in their comfort zones, not realizing their lack of involvement is propelling them toward a tragedy ahead. It would be much better to do God's will, although it's difficult. The Israelites in Numbers 13:25-14:11, were afraid to enter the promised land because of the giants. It would have been much better for the Israelites to have given up their fears and comforts and fought the giants.

I believe the devil is playing a similar trick today, saying, "You can't do enough for the lost billions to make a difference, so why try?" Your friends warn you to stay balanced. Others quote, I Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own....he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." When others say discouraging words, we need to ignore them as Christian did in Pilgrim Progress, when he put his fingers in his ears and cried, "Life! Life!"

Should we not take our sons and daughters into the icy waters of self-denial, and give of our money so others hear the gospel, and by so doing save our sons and daughters? Or we can huddle in our comforts with them and both die spiritually. I believe we should enter into the battle for souls. Let us not allow our children to grow up in the sins of Sodom, for they may take up the practices of those cities as well. God help us to save ourselves from "...pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness...."

Oct. 2006

Time Management

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah." Psalms 39:4-5.

Sometimes I want to yell, "Wake up mother! Wake up dad! Your baby will soon be packing his things and moving out." You will be standing on the porch wiping tears, wondering: Is he equipped for the real world? Have I done my duty? You'll be wishing you could have another good talk, pick up another sock, serve another meal or play another game. Parents you have but a "hand-breadth" of time with your children.

I've stood teary eyed on the porch and watched six children leave. I had given my life to do the best for my children yet it was so difficult to see them go. I don't think I could have borne up under it with the added weight of guilt.

James 4:14 reads, "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." When we were children, life seemed endless. I remember thinking that eternal life would be far, far too long. Those years trying to make toddlers obey, I hoped would end before I lost my mind. Then suddenly those toddlers were teens and I started an emotional roller coaster ride that lasted seven years. I'm seventy-one now, still thinking of myself as a middle-aged adult when life is screeching to a halt. It has vanished like a vapor.

Time is one commodity we all have. It is the stuff that life is made of. We may not have an inherited estate to manage but we have inherited time. Some have a lot, long lives, some little. How we use the time God gives is up to us. Paul told us to redeem the time because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16.)

I think the only way to redeem time wisely is to eat every day from God's Word. Unless we feed on His Word, our priorities will get distorted. We'll be running endless circles caring for our family, chauffeuring children, fixing meals, cleaning, attending services, teaching Sunday school, trying to maintain good marriages, friendships and family relationships. While striving endlessly to be good parents, we will be starving them of the thing they'll need most in life.

An experiment conducted by the French naturalist Jean-Henri Fabre illustrates this point. The processionary caterpillar tends to march in unison. Fabre lined these caterpillars around the inner edge of a flowerpot and then monitored them carefully as they marched one behind another in a circle around the edge of the pot. At the end of the third day, he placed their favorite food, pine needles, in the center of the pot. But they continued marching in rank four more days. On the seventh day one died. The others continued marching until one by one they each rolled over and died of starvation within inches from their food.

Are we starving our family's spirits while running in a circle? Is our object to get as much of what we want in life, as time will allow? Mealtime is the best time of the day for training. We have a captive audience. During mealtime we train in subtle ways through interesting stories, sharing experiences of the day, giving words of appreciation in front of the whole family, etc. Many families have found it is the best time to have family worship. But we rush through our meals so we can take our children to the batting cages, to Bass-Pro, to fish at the lake. We omit family meals to take the girls shopping, to music lessons, to birthdays and tea parties. The list of good places to take children is endless and so is the circle. One mother told me her two-year-old pleaded, "Mommy can we just stay home today?" We drag our children here and there trying to be good parents when the things they need most are right at home.

I'm sure each one reading this has a desire to use time wisely. We lived on a mission field with extra duties and without normal conveniences for 23 years. This experience helped me to develop some time saving skills. I believe what helped me most in time management was getting up 30 minutes before my family. Those few moments feeding with the Lord and organizing my day, (at least in my mind), saved a lot of time later in the day.

Second to that was to act as if I was going out of the home to work. It was usual to have someone at our home at bedtime and early every morning. I dressed, made my bed and straightened the bedroom before leaving it. I usually never found time to enter again until bedtime that evening. A stay-at-home Mom's work day starts when her family gets out of bed. Be dressed, prayed up and at your job. Take it seriously as if you had a boss who would pay you at the end of the week for you do have a boss, Jesus, and He will pay better than any other.

Christians want to be used of God. But using our minutes carelessly hinders us from being available. Every housekeeper has many duties. Organization and routines can minimize time taken for these. A lot of things can be done habitually leaving your mind clear so you can be solving problems or seeking God for spiritual food for your family.

Clean where you are. Clean your bathroom while you are getting the children bathed. Put a load of laundry in right after you bathe the children in the evening, another load the first thing every morning. Clean the bathroom before leaving it. Wipe the washer and dryer, clean up the lint and trash from the laundry room while there. Laundry should never pile-up with automatic washers. Take clothes out of dryer when a little damp and hang so as to minimize ironing. Clean the kitchen as you are cooking. Do dishes quickly before food dries on them. Teach the whole family to help with after meal clean up, then it will take only a few minutes.

Every mother needs an apron with large pockets across the front and a clip on the side for a cleaning cloth. Organize these pockets for different parts of the house. Then pick-up and deposit clutter in the appropriate pocket. When you find yourself in those different areas, put the picked-up objects where they belong. Clean the smudges and dust wherever you are. It will save many steps.

At the end of each day let us look back over our day and see how we have used our precious minutes. Ask yourself, have I used them wisely? Where can I improve? We must have a conviction that this precious gift of time will float away like a vapor. We are just stewards of the time and the children He has given us. At the end we must give account to God of what we have done.

Open Thou Mine Eyes

Feb. 2007 By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

There is a verse in Proverbs that parents often quote. It says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. I suppose we parents find a certain amount of comfort in this verse. We console ourselves thinking we have trained our children in the way they should go so they will stay with it or return if they go away. We have tried to train them right, kept them in church and made them conform to its teachings. There are generation after generation of some families whose children do not depart from the way and some of these parents had unsaved spouses. Through the years I have noticed that quite a few of the saint's children have returned to Him in their elderly years, but numbers of people go away and never return to the Savior.

Why do some stay true, and others go away? What drew those who returned? And what about the multitudes who have departed and never returned? It says "they will not depart from it" if trained in the right way. But many have departed and more are leaving everyday. Isn't the Word of God always true? It is a puzzle why so many supposedly "well-trained" children go astray. I am begging God to show us the missing pieces of this puzzle. According to the Scripture, training is the reason children stay in the right way. How many, many thousands would be in our ranks if all of the saint's children had stayed "in the way?"

It is our privilege to train them so they will not depart, and to expect them to stay in the right way...Or we can console ourselves with common excuses such as, "You can make them do right but you can't make them be saved." Another is, "Everyone is free to choose to serve God or not to serve God." An old favorite when this topic comes up is, "You can take a horse to water but you can't make it drink." However if a horse is worked all day or kept running for a good while, he will become thirsty. Then he will drink. We need God's wisdom to make our children thirsty. Thirsty for God. He promised to give us that wisdom if we ask.

"If any of you lack wisdom,...let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is

like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James 1:5-6. Faith is the key in getting the wisdom we need. Emotions are like waves raising and falling. Faith holds steady when emotions are going up and down. On days when all satan's imps seem to be controlling our children, we must keep faith in God. As David said, in Psalm 56:3, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." Who hasn't been afraid at one time or another that their child was doomed to Hell? In these times, go to God and ask Him to keep you steady to give you wisdom to bring those children in line. Sometimes we become careless about listening and obeying God's faint whispers. Then we try controlling them with our wisdom, and our faith as well as our emotion wavers. Faith is always connected with a willingness to obey. Our faith increases as we obey nudges of the Holy Spirit.

I knew a mother who prayed much for her boys to be saved. However, judging by the way she spoke she expected them to do evil and when they did wrong she would sigh and say, "I knew you would do that." I wondered why she prayed for them to do right if she expected them to do wrong? I think God expects us to put wings on our prayers by rebuking doubts and trusting Him and our children. Our expectations reveal our faith or lack of it. Although we may fear they will choose to do wrong, we shouldn't verbalize it nor let them know. Her sons did as she expected. They departed from the truth.

"...For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." James 1:6-7. We have all watched the waves dashing against the shore and tumbling back out. Back and forth the water rolls. Some parents training habits are about as changeable as the waves. Back and forth with no consistent faith. One day Johnny can do nothing right. He is constantly being reprimanded for first one thing and another. The next day Mom is feeling great, so Johnny can throw his toys, stomp in the mud puddles and Mom laughs at his cuteness. This kind of training confuses and discourages a child. Even though the child has a desire to do right he or she does not know from one day to the next what is expected. He becomes bewildered and will surely depart from

such a hectic life. To train a child in the way he should go, parents must have their emotions under Christ's control. A parent enslaved by emotions is training by example to be in bondage to self. Whoever is in bondage to self wavereth and is not faithful to God. So according to James he will receive nothing from the Lord.

Another thought about "training up a child in the way he should go" is that the literal translation of "Train up a child in the way..." is to bring into a narrow way or a disciplined manner of living. The nature of a child is to be unrestrained. Psalm 2:3 says, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." The cry of every unregenerate child or adult is to live without boundaries, but Jesus said, "take up your cross and follow me."

An undisciplined person cannot be successful in life much less can he be successful in the high places with God. We must teach our children that they must discipline their desires and bring them into subjection to their parent's desires first and then to God's desire. Apostle Paul said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Corinthians 9:27. Our children will be cast away unless we help them bring their desires under God's approval. Early in life children must be given the responsibility of their own soul—be taught they are responsible to God, that they will give account to God for every idle word, the way to heaven is narrow and there is a cross for everyone. Every parent needs to have earned enough respect to tighten the reins on their children in a way that the

children will not become bitter. This is another place the wisdom of God is needed.

I did not want children when I married. I was afraid of the responsibility of an eternal soul in my charge. It was a far too serious matter for me. I was afraid I would fail and my children would suffer because of me. But God challenged me with four children within the first six years of marriage. Later He added two more. In those early, fearful years God showed me that I must shepherd my children. I must take them by the hand and lead them away from the low, earthly things into the high fields of God. I realized I should be more careful about nurturing their souls than nourishing their bodies. As I went about my daily duties, I was asking God what I should feed my nestlings. God gave me daily spiritual portions for them. Those spiritual portions He gave were enough to make them thirsty for God.

According to Matthew 18:14, we know, "... it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." In John 12:32, Jesus said, And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. This was spoken about Jesus being lifted up on the cross. He was lifted up, therefore we know He is drawing all men. He is drawing our children. Praise God! Let us be very careful that careless harsh words or hasty actions do not discourage them and thus keep them from being thirsty for God. Jesus said, when we do it to the least one we have done it unto Him. So as we honor our children and others, we are honoring Christ.

Will Your Children Survive This Blizzard?

January, 2007

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15.

Blizzards often completely paralyze the activities of city and country areas, and cause death to those caught without warm shelter or food. Many people in the United States have died in blizzards. In 1940, when I was a little girl living in Oklahoma, 144 people froze to death when a cold arctic front swept across the midwest. In 1958, there were 171 deaths in the northeast, also in the same area 100 died in 1996. New York lost 400 people to a blizzard in 1988. In 1993, 200 died in the eastern part of

our country. These are records of some of the worst blizzards in the United States, but Europe records losing 1000 lives as the result of only one blizzard.

A blizzard occurs when masses of cold, polar air move out of the arctic regions and into the Temperate Zone. When these air masses meet moist, warm air masses coming from the tropics, a cold front forms, separating the two kinds of air masses. Heavy snow falls along the cold front. High winds blow around the low-pressure

area where the two air masses meet.

It seems to me that a spiritual blizzard is blowing across the Church. The chilling spirits of satan have moved into the temperate regions of Christendom and are paralyzing many. Revelation 20:7-9 tells us "...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,...and compassed the camp of the saints..." Chapter 9 also tells us that the bottomless pit would be opened and spirits would come out that were commanded to hurt all men which had not the seal of God in their foreheads. These prophecies of the end time are surely being fulfilled. Millions of seductive spirits are swarming across the land chilling down those who were once on fire for God. God said, "So then because thou art lukewarm,...I will spew thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:16. I wonder how many will be spewed out and eventually die in this awful spiritual blizzard? Then what will happen to the children of those who have cooled off or died?

Many people have lost their lives in blizzards because they did not suspect its force or from where it was coming. The World Book Encyclopedia states that weather forecasters can usually tell when a blizzard is coming. But occasionally blizzards change direction and strike cities unaware because only the most skilled forecasters can see all the changes that may occur in a blizzard's path. This spiritual blizzard is the same. There is a subtle, intangible, spiritually evil force behind those things that cause the cooling off.

The impact of that spiritual force is far greater than we suspect. And satan is shrewd. He changes his tactics often so that only those who are the most skillful in spiritual warfare can detect the attack. From the history of the Church we know satan has deceived even those who were skilled in spiritual warfare. Lord, help us to be watchful and seek God to know when and how satan is working.

The subtle power of this blizzard is similar to a magnet or suction. Like quick sand, it will take us under while we're struggling against it. Have you not seen someone struggle and struggle to get loose from material things, but eventually a power stronger than they pulled them under? Satan will storm us with different things—pleasure, doubts, unforgiveness, the cares of life, etc. The cares of this life seem to be the most

dangerous. Material things are necessary; our very existence demands their attention. But Jesus told us, "...seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. He feeds the birds of the air and are we not worth much more than they? Yet to judge by our anxieties it seems that God cares for the birds but not us.

Jesus also warns in Luke 17:26-30 that as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot so shall it be in the days when the Son of man is revealed. What was happening then? They were eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling and building. What are we doing today? One would think that since food and shelter are more easily obtained than in years passed, that we would be more carefree about them. But we are not. Our conversation shows that the devil's snowflakes of materialism are flurrying through our minds. What is our conversation about? What shall we eat? What shall we wear? Where we are living and what we are driving. "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34.

Listen the next time you are in a group. What are the conversations about? The mouth speaks what is in the heart. So what then is on the heart? Jesus said, "(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:)" By our conversations and where we spend our time and energies will our children judge us to be spiritual Jews or Gentiles?

The force of satan's blizzard is blasting every heart. He forces himself into our hearts through the lusts of the flesh that are not sinful. Food and shelter are not sinful, but satan through his demonic power is using these things to lure us into loving the world more than we love God. I John 2:15-16, says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Oh, that parents who love only legitimate things of the world could only see the damage it does to their children. Those things that are luxuries to us will be necessities for our sons and daughters. A blizzard of sinless desires will blind them. Will they be able to survive the awful storm and come out loving God with all their hearts?

During storms of physical persecution the saints have gone through all sorts of pressures,

yet stayed true to God. But the pressures of materialism are so different that it is hard to distinguish when "things" are a blessing from God and when they are a curse. Planting and building, buying and selling are perfectly legitimate and even beneficial, but the power behind them presses upon men today until they lose their direction and become unbalanced. Notice how Christians are feverishly making business deals? They are hurrying here and there doing business and talking on the phone in every place, and all hours of the day and night. Their affections are buried by materialism and their spirits are so lean they fall under the lightest pressures.

Men talk about being caught in the rat race, and for what is the race? Is it not to accumulate the world's goods? Isn't it to enjoy as much of the world as possible? If we want to enjoy the world it's because we love the world. For who wants to enjoy what he does not love? In the days when it was really hard to make ends meet, a man would work at one vocation and spend his evening at home with his family. Today,

fathers are working two jobs, or both mother and father are working, leaving little time for teaching children the Word. Some entrepreneurs have their fingers in several business speculations. They are caught up in a marketing maelstrom that is whirling them madly around like a rat on a treadmill.

Are we not able to see that this is not God's plan for His people? God says, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Colossians 3:2-3. Are our children convinced that we are dead to the things of the world? At which do they see our eyes sparkle? When we hear God's Word or when we have obtained something at a terrific bargain or earned extra money?

A storm has formed under the direction of satan and has moved out over the world. Let us say, "No" to collecting more "things" and take shelter under God's Word. That is the only way to protect our families and ourselves. It is the only way to avoid being paralyzed by satan's blizzard.

Become a Living Sacrifice

May 2007

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:15-17.

Realizing the dangers in our materialistic world, many have asked the question, "In America today, how can we keep our children from having too much leisure time or too many unnecessary things? The following ideas may be of some help.

(The famous American evangelist, Charles G. Finney said about child rearing, "The word train is to ground them in correct views of truth, and in right principles of actions. Catechize, is to thoroughly instruct them in the great principles of righteousness.") The first question we should ask ourselves is; am I thoroughly grounding my child in the correct views of truth and the great principles of righteousness or am I just

babysitting my child as he or she is growing up?

Romans 13:13-14 reads; "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." The things mentioned in this verse were the normal things that people living after the flesh did in those times. Today there are many new forms of entertainment for the flesh, which may not be sinful. However, we must watch these things. All entertainment is to fulfill the desires of the flesh. In excess, it becomes sin.

Our goal for every child is that he or she attains Heaven. Does entertainment help in reaching it? Entertainment satisfies the flesh, the Word says, put on the Lord Jesus and make not provisions for the flesh. The problem with

Become a Living Sacrifice

the flesh is that it is addictive. What satisfies the flesh today will not satisfy the flesh next year. If children habitually satisfy their flesh, the child's carnal desires will become a monster beyond control. Self is not only hard for a child to control but it is everyone's worst enemy. Dear Bro. Trimble from Pomona, CA; would say, "My worst enemy is ME."

Becoming a living sacrifice for Christ is the most rewarding way to obtain that heavenly goal. God's Word says "...be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed..." and become "...a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God..." Romans 12:1, 2. Also, "...holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" Hebrews 12:14.

Within the first year, a child should begin learning to control his or her emotions (himself). With your help, he can bring his desires under reasonable control, whether it is eating, drinking, sleeping, playing or manipulating parents. Jesus said to "...do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31. Of course, that is impossible without Christ in the heart. A person who has been taught to control their desires while they were young can do this much easier. The first years are the time to form the foundation of a strong disciplined character. A parent can help a child form this kind of character by consistently approving godly behavior and consistently reproving selfish behavior.

Most children during their second year are able to understand some spiritual concepts. At that age, begin teaching him or her to serve Jesus by obeying you and serving others. Doing for others is how to practice living sacrificially for the Lord. The younger a child learns to be a living sacrifice, the more he enjoys its benefits. He will grow up thinking it is a normal way of life and will not be whining about his wants. Children can enjoy serving others by helping with a younger sibling, helping clean house, putting away his or her things, serving their father, washing dishes, setting the table, making cards for sick friends, pulling weeds, raking leaves etc. These are some ways they can serve others. By doing these things, your child will be learning the concept of being a living sacrifice which will bring them rich rewards.

Complimenting our sons and daughters for their godly attitudes and actions is the best way to motivate them to do good works. Most children want to please, or at least they want approval. Constantly throughout the day, give your approval for constructive things they are doing especially when it is something to bless another person. Even if the job is imperfect, do not humiliate. If they are trying, that should excite your praise.

Having plenty to do will also keep down the boredom and fussing with siblings. When you hear a fuss, quickly think of something for the 'fussers' to do. They will soon learn to curb the fussing. When you hear a child say, "I'm bored," you will know you must find projects for him or her to do. (For the "abundance of idleness" was one of Sodom's sins.) If nothing excites his interest, then let him or her work with you and force him to stay with the job until it is done. Start this training when the child is small. It is very difficult to get older children (six and up) to work after they have had six years of pleasing themselves.

Children who have to help earn their living, learn many lessons that are needful for life. If your child does not have to help earn his living then have him work around the home. Parents must actively teach their children to make good use of their time because a child's mind is never idle, and he must give account to God for both actions and thoughts.

Many are yielding to the temptation of getting their children "out of their hair" by sitting them in front of entertaining videos. It is a great temptation, I understand. I also know that Mother's have little time for themselves, however, be happy that you have children, and be thankful that your child is able to enjoy a carefree childhood. The important thing is that they be kept busy doing constructive things instead of becoming "couch potatoes" which could lead them toward the road to Sodom.

Here are some of the things to do with your children:

1. Make picnic lunches to enjoy in the backyard. Children spend a lot of time rigging up a table, finding seats, and carrying dishes and food. You will have a few minutes of quiet and no kitchen to clean.

2. Read and read and read character building or Bible stories. Read to them when they lie

down for naps, when putting them to sleep at night, when traveling. Listening teaches a child to sit still, to appreciate what they hear and it forces them to form images in their mind, which helps them to be creative. The mind is robbed of creativity in motion pictures because the images are already formed. Educational videos are profitable but should have limits.

3. When a child does not want to sleep after reading, kneel beside his bed and pray. Put your hand on him or her. They will lay quiet while you are praying and before you are through praying, they will usually be asleep.

4. Have a set of World Book Encyclopedias. Whenever a child brings in an insect or flower, stop whatever you are doing (when possible) and study about it from the World Book.

5. My friend began teaching her children to cook when they turned five. Their first project was their own birthday cake. Children can help in the kitchen early on. By age 8, they can make simple foods and clean the kitchen, wash and put away their clothes.

6. Play educational games together, Monopoly (how to count and add money), checkers, (reasoning) and Uno (colors and numbers). I made up games, matching Spanish and English words, Roman numerals to Arabic numbers, Multiplication tables and their answers, geometric symbols to their names, etc. We played them like "Memory"

7. We worked together, and then played together. We played ball, ran races, I scuffled with the boys.

8. Each of my girls sewed themselves a dress at age eleven. They had already sewed smaller items. Every girl should learn to sew. There are always mending, alterations and special garments to make. Who knows when America may fall into another depression and our daughters may have to make trousers for their little boys from the backside of their dad's worn-out jeans?

9. Every child should learn to garden and to preserve foods, by drying, freezing, or preserving in other ways. During World War II, children made victory gardens to help with needed food supplies.

10. Teach your children how to arrange flowers and have bouquets ready to take when visiting. Buy vases, baskets, and artificial flowers at garage sales or second hand stores.

11. Teach them to give by sponsoring an

orphan or some other worthy project. They can earn their own money or use their allowance.

12. Children can keep the lawn presentable. It could develop into jobs for money.

13. Girls can do baby-sitting in your home or only in the homes of trusted friends.

To say "I don't have time for all that," is not a good attitude to have. We all make time for what is most important to us. I had six children and usually another or two (sometimes five others) living with us. I lived four years without electric and no washing machine. When we did get a Maytag wringer washing machine, it took all day to wash a week's laundry and left the clothes so wrinkled they had to be ironed. Beside the domestic work, I also did a lot of entertaining guests, visiting, caring for the sick, teaching children's meeting twice a week, and home schooled a few years.

Is the most important thing to you, where your child will spend eternity? Then take time to discipline (disciple) him or her. Train your children to be a living sacrifice, that he must do "all to the glory of God" and when he is older he will still be doing it. You should start very young and trust God to give you strength and grace to keep at it. "The word train is to ground them in correct views of truth, and in right principles of actions." Are you training or just baby-sitting?



**"Faith is not believing God
can, it is knowing
that God will."**

**How To: Rediscover
Solid Family
Virtue**

May 2006

Obedience

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Colossians 3:20.

Obedience is the foundation stone on which a person keeps a relationship with Christ. Therefore it is very important that children learn to obey. God says in I Samuel 15:22-23 "...to obey is better than sacrifice,....For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness (*insubordination*) is as iniquity and idolatry...." There is a great blessing in obedience but rebellion and stubbornness brings a curse.

Obedience is the first commandment with promise. (Ephesians 6:2.) When a child learns true submission to parents he or she is more likely to submit to God. The goal of every Christian parent is to train each child to let Christ be Lord of their lives. However, a great part of obedience is learned through example. All the care, love, prayers, training, and biblical devotions have little effect on children whose parents are not submissive to Christ and other authorities in their lives. Knowing to do good does not guarantee right conduct. The rewards are given for doing. Training is the easy part, but living in submission to the authorities that Christ has placed in our lives can be challenging. However, it makes obedience attractive to children.

Even parents who are obedient to God will find it hard to bring some children into submission because they are not people pleasers but naturally selfish or just freedom lovers. Sometimes, however, children are insubordinate because parents in reality are encouraging disobedience while trying to get the child to obey. This is very stressful to both parent and child. Here are three principles that, if followed consistently, may reduce stress and increase willful submission.

Principle one: When a child is spoken to in a way that requires an answer or action, always, always expect an immediate and complete response. Children often disobey because they have conveniently not heard or they habitually ignore mother's voice. Sometimes, however, they may not have understood what is expected. Every child should respond politely when spoken to by an authority, then clear instructions can be given.

The mother or father who first coaxes, then threatens and finally punishes a little or bargains, is fostering stubbornness and encouraging disobedience. Their hope for compliance is great, but the will to enforce it is weak. Is this laziness or being merciful? Mercy could not be so cruel as to encourage habits of rebellion that will cause the child trouble all his life. And how is it that a child will obey the third time but not the first?

When parents consistently require first-time obedience the child knows when he will be punished. When parents repeat, bargain and threaten to get obedience, the child is kept in continual confusion. Consequences are no longer tied to disobedience, but to the mood and whim of the parent. This is very undermining, because children often believe God has the same characteristic as their parent. Are our eternal rewards dependent on our obedience or on God's mood when we die? Who wants their child to believe God rewards according to His good or bad days? They will, if we require first-time obedience one day and fourth-time obedience another day.

Bribing can also encourage disobedience. Bribing is different from goal incentives. Goal incentives help children take responsibility for their obedience. Children should be rewarded for obedience, but should not be obedient just to gain a reward. There is a difference. Children who have been bribed to obey tend to be self-oriented and manipulate others. They seek rewards and serve others only when there is something in it for them. A child should obey in obedience to God and not for personal gain. Bribing is training the child to have unrighteous characteristics.

Principle two: Never give a command unless you intend for it to be obeyed. The perfect way to train a child to be disobedient is to give instructions that you will not enforce. Before speaking, consider carefully what you are requiring. Is it possible? Is it appropriate? Is it pertinent for the situation? Then give the command and see that it is obeyed. When the child is concentrating on other things, give a time-related warning. Sometimes allow a little discussion for good understanding but don't let yourself be caught negotiating in conflict.

Children love negotiating in conflict. Choose your commands well, then hold to them. Total obedience produces joy. Half obedience leaves both child and parent frustrated. If we negotiate the standard when the child objects, there is no true surrender, only an agreed upon suspension of conflict. Without a complete surrender, there will always be a member ready to wage war.

A child's willingness to accept total submission to his authority is the first step to freedom or self-rule (which is the desire of most every child.) The child must first surrender his will for his parent's desires. Then he can surrender his will for God's will as directed by the parent. When this is mastered, he or she is able to have certain freedoms.

Misuse of compassion is another way parents foster disobedience. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11. Be watchful and alert to little deeds that seem innocent and correct them even in very small children. Inappropriate behavior should be stopped when it first appears, before it takes root in the heart. Tolerance of behavior such as repeated disobedience, deceit, disrespect for authority, stealing

in the home, shirking responsibility, etc. fosters criminal characteristics. Repeated spankings are better than any jail term.

Principle three: Be sure your command is clearly understood. Require eye contact if possible. Then require a verbal response. "Yes, Mom," or "Yes, Sir." Some children also need to be touched while listening to instructions. It is good to have instructions repeated back to you. Routine requirements also make obedience easier for any child. Older children do well to have written instructions.

Children should obey immediately, completely, without challenge and without complaint. Is this possible? Yes. God has never given a command that He does not give strength to obey. Please note that following the command for children to "obey in everything" the parents are warned to "...provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Colossians 3:21. Coaxing, threatening, bargaining, bribing, negotiating in conflict, misuse of compassion or mercy and parental inconsistencies will surely provoke children and it could easily cause them to be discouraged.

Children want parental approval. Their feeling of acceptance and approval is directly related to the standard of behavior required by their parent. This is especially true in without-challenge obedience. A child who meets these high standards of obedience receives approval not only from his or her parents, but from society. This approval makes obedience attractive to the child.

Don't allow yourself to think that some children will not obey. I have heard parents say, "I cannot get John to obey." You are sinning when you do this. Take him by the hand and force his hands to do whatever you have commanded. This isn't hard when the child is one or two years old, but after years of inconsistent training you will have some problems. Don't give up. Older children, in whom unrighteousness has been fostered through ignorance or neglect may have developed bad habits that will take time and patience to break. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

Disobedience is sin just as devil worship, witchcraft, stealing, murder, etc. (1 Samuel 15:23.) Allowing disobedience in your children is also sin. Repent for allowing your child to ignore your commands or shirk their responsi-

bilities. The child's soul is in your hands, don't allow yourself to train him or her to be disobedient (ungodly).

If you have not been enforcing your commands, ask God for more strength—then require a higher standard. Be consistent, give clear requirements and stand your ground when they are challenged (and they will be). God will help you to turn uncooperative teenagers into self-motivated obedient ones.

Are you completely obedient to Christ? Have you found peace in being submissive to the authorities in your life? Unless you have, that spirit of rebellion (which you may not realize exists) will surely effect your children. Your children may conform to your wishes and show outward obedience just as you attend church and conform to its standards. But are you submissive in your heart? Don't expect your children to be truly submissive to you unless you are totally consecrated to God.

How To Rediscover
Solid Family
Virtue

God Hears Our Cries

Sept. 2007

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me." Psalm 120:1.

Do you sometimes feel that the things you value most are being ripped away from you, leaving your heart torn and bleeding? You feel hurt and angry, and you cry until you have no more power to weep.

"Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep." I Samuel 30:4. In I Samuel chapters twenty-nine and thirty, we read this account of David during the time he was hiding from the wrath of King Saul. He was spending a few years of reasonable peace and safety in the homeland of Israel's worst enemy, the Philistines. However, Achish, the king, trusted David to the extent that he asked him and his men to help fight with him against Israel. The Philistine lords, however, thought that perhaps in the heat of the battle, David might decide to appease King Saul's wrath by fighting with the Israelites and slaughtering them. So they persuaded King Achish to send David and his men back home.

Three days later, when David and his men finally arrived back to Ziklag, they found nothing but the smoldering remains of their homes. The enemies had taken the women and children captives and burned the city with fire. Every one of those tough men broke down and cried. They "...lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep."

Just like these fathers, many exhausted parents are weeping for their children. They watch in anxiety as their sons are destroyed while passing up golden opportunities to be saved, educated and established. Distressed mothers wring their hands while carnal daughters given to sensuality invite immorality by the way they spend their time, by their dress and actions. Does it look as if what you have worked for so long is being destroyed? Are those years of careful training, consistent prayer and your Christian example being burned to ashes by the liberal philosophies of the world. Does their conscience once so easily pricked by the Holy Spirit seem brass? How about all those appropriate behavior patterns you thought were programmed into your child's mind? Are the aspirations you had for your precious son or daughter being consumed by the love of worldly pleasures that have no lasting value? Do you sometimes feel this way?

In this anguish, David sought the Lord. When he followed the instructions given to him, they were able to rescue every man's family and cattle. Then David said, "In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me." Psalm 120:1.

Let us look at this story from another angle. David had lived for several years in conditions fit only for a wild animal, yet he kept his integrity with God. When it seemed no longer possible to protect himself in his own native land, he escaped into enemy territory. There he lived among

sensual heathen idol worshippers who did not love and respect God.

David was an honest and intelligent person, so he was trusted and promoted into an honorable position by the king. After many other satisfying experiences among these wicked people, he even joined ranks with their army. In his younger years he risked his life to protect his people against the Philistines and would never have considered such a coalition. His attachment to the Philistines may have started from sheer respect for their protection of him, but it grew into a patriotic allegiance. Surely, David had not bowed his knees to their god, Dagon, or other idols. However, living among them had changed him so greatly that instead of risking his life for God's people, he now took his 600 men to fight against them.

Perhaps when we see our training going up in smoke it would be helpful to look within and see if maybe we, like David, have changed. Are our priorities the same, or has the spirit of this world changed our values? Is our own conscience as keen to the Holy Spirit as it once was? Do the cares of life crowd out God's Word? Is the tenderness and respect for our spouse the same as in years past? Have peers left their mark on us? Has promotions of the world dampened our fervency for God? Am I unconsciously helping the enemy? Another question to ask ourselves is, Am I away from my home helping others when I should be at home watching out and caring for my family? Have I robbed my children by working too much? Answering these questions honestly and then repenting of mistakes may help us turn these conditions around.

We may be like David, a man or woman after God's own heart. And just as David failed, we may have failed in some areas. If you feel you have made mistakes then do as David did. Repent and cry out to the Lord until there is no more strength to cry. Our desperate and repentant prayers move God.

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus told about a hard-driving, inconsiderate judge who helped a poor widow, not because she could pay him, but because she worried him by her continual coming and persistent begging. Jesus added to this story in, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will

avenge them speedily...." So we have our promise straight from the Word of God. And not only do we have that promise, but a multitude of others.

Here are a few: "Therefore thus saith the LORD,...Jacob shall not now be ashamed,...But...they shall sanctify my name,...and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured (rebelled) shall learn doctrine." Isaiah 29:22-24.

"...He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;...to comfort all that mourn;...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; ...And they shall build the old wastes,...the desolations of many generations." Isaiah 61:1-4. "Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border." Jeremiah 31:16-17.

In the tenth chapter of Ezra we have the account of the Israelites who repented of their transgressions and found God's favor again. Although it was a grievous sin and many had committed it, yet, in verse two, we read, "...We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing."

Jesus said, in Matthew 18:18-20, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Dear parents take courage. God is on His throne, and Jesus is there interceding for us and our children. He has given us power to bind spirits that have our children bound. He has also promised to be wherever there are two or three gathered in His name. Where He is, there is power for deliverance. Let us meet together by twos or threes and pray for our children. There is victory in Jesus' name.

"Do All to the Glory of God"

What About Christmas?

Dec. 2006

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

December is the happiest time of the year for most children in the West. It seems the air is charged with a magical enchantment. Cool weather clears the atmosphere and even the stars sparkle brighter. Strings of beautiful lights glow in the lowliest hamlet. Red bells sway against evergreen and glittering garlands brightening city streets. Christmas music sounds from every corner. Stores display a vast array of attractive toys that set children dreaming.

But it can be a very stressful month for Christians who are trying to "do ALL to the glory of God." The world's advice is "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly" and have a very Merry Xmas, forgetting Christ or the consequences of celebrating. The Christian community demands we defend our rights and hold up Christmas as the birth of our Savior. Others say, "It is a Pagan Holiday and should not be celebrated in any form." At home the children beg for gifts we can't afford. Teenagers want gifts and social activities that sap our wallets and our spirits. Some spouses succumb to massive expectations and utilize credit cards. While one parent is seeking God to know His will the spouse is racking up credit card bills. How stressful!

We should ask God, "How much can we spend and still have Your approval?" or "What kind of gifts will bring you glory?" God gave His only Son for sinners. Jesus left the splendor of Heaven and offered up His life so men may be saved. Yet, millions of people don't have His Word to read. How can we happily spend our money for unneeded gifts when with a little effort we could help supply Bibles? We must find the line that separates getting too involved in Christmas, thereby reinforcing children's natural selfishness and love for the world; or being uninvolved to the point of causing resentment in our children. This answer may be different for every family. Where can these answers be found? "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

Resentment is more often caused by parental hypocrisy than by strict standards. Whatever parents are passionate about their children will believe to be important. Your children must see that what motivates your Christmas decisions is a passionate desire to please God. I was totally convinced that was my parent's motivation.

Other answers to seek for are, how much Christmas celebrations should my family partake of? The song "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" ascribes powers of a deity to Santa.

He's making a list checking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty or nice...
He sees you when you are sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows when you've been bad or good
So be good, for goodness sake!

Santa is described as omniscient, (all-knowing) omnipotent (all-powerful) and omnipresent (he can be everywhere at the same time delivering gifts). What about a Christmas tree? Read Jeremiah 10:2-5.

Even those who have escaped the Pagan customs can get so caught up in legitimate Christmas traditions such as gift giving, buying, cooking, decorating, etc. until it takes us away from our intimacy with God. When we do find a little time to read the Word or pray, our spirit does not connect with God's spirit. And our family gatherings are not blessed of God nor relaxed, because we are up tight about unrealistic expectations, or worn out from over work, or burdened down with bills to pay. But "...brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;..." "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:13, 1.

Some Christians who have a great desire that Christ be kept before the public sometimes use Christmas as an opportunity to exalt Him in the world. That is how the slogan, "Put Christ Back into Christmas" was started. It is satan's plan to remove Christ from every heart. In his struggle to do so he works to remove every

symbol of Christianity from public view. Celebrating Jesus' birth whether it is in December, June or any other month could hinder Satan's plan and it helps to keep Christ before the public. It is profitable to exalt Christ before the world at any time and all the time. "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." I Corinthians 10:33.

Christmas is also an opportunity for Christians to visit and testify to relatives they seldom see. It is valuable to sing carols and share some of God's Word with unsaved loved ones. The message in the carols exalts the holy attributes of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. So if you feel that your family is blessed by celebrating Christmas, you are free to do so, only watch your attitude toward your brother who feels strongly that Christmas is Pagan and does not allow his family to celebrate. And the brother who does not celebrate must watch his attitude also so that brotherly love can still flow. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Romans 14:7. Romans 14:5-6 reads: "One man esteemeth one day above another: another

esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..." This was spoken in regard to the feast days under the law, but I believe it is appropriate here.

It is very easy to get caught up in the Christmas spirit but Jesus tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:15-16. Christmas appeals to the lust of the flesh and the eyes. The pride of life tempts many Christians to buy and celebrate in ways that their own conscience condemns. If we mind the checks of the Holy Spirit we can avoid grieving God's Spirit. We must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength "...do all to the glory of God" and our spirits will be blessed as we exalt our Savior.



Earn Respect

Nov. 2006

Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed;..." Believe that your children want to bless you and let your conduct excite that kind of love. Proverbs promises the virtuous woman that her children will rise up and call her blessed. We can have the same promise, although the idea that children will bless their parents is foreign to most people—even some who believe in God. When faced with an angry rebellious teen-ager, sometimes the best most godly parents doubt the child will ever bless them. Sometimes a lack of training in younger years is responsible for this. If we have failed let us repent and start today to cultivate in our sons and daughters a desire to bless us.

Respect is a foundation stone on which this desire is built. There are three reasons why respect is important:

1. The child's relationship with their parents provides the basis for their attitude toward every other form of authority that they will encounter.

2. If your daughter is to accept your values when she reaches her teen years, then you must be worthy of her respect during younger days. When children can successfully defy your authority during formative years, they develop a natural contempt for everything you stand for.

3. Unless a parent gains respect, standards cannot be transmitted to the child. Young children typically identify their parents (especially the father) with God. If Mom and Dad are not worthy of respect, neither are their morals or convictions. If the child can manipulate the father or mother they will feel he or she knows more than the parent does. Can we see how respect is critical?

Our society is bombarded on every side by subtle messages that parents and children are at odds with each other. Usually parents are the "meanies" and the poor innocent children are being taken advantage of or abused. I know there is much, much child abuse but I also believe that fear of abusing has caused some

good parents to be far too flexible with their children. One of the devil's master plans is to destroy families; to get them out from under authority which is God's umbrella of protection. Every child is born with a spirit. His or her spirit wants God's approval. To have God's approval your sons and daughters must obey the fifth commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother:..." Exodus 20:12. There is a war inside every child. You must help your child's spirit win over his selfish flesh by training him to respect you and by conducting your life in a way that deserves his respect.

Realize they will not honor you naturally. The very nature of a child makes him or her unable to control himself. They will naturally yell when angry or fight when afraid. You must curb this consistently by a soft rebuke. "A soft answer turneth away wrath:..." Proverbs 15:1. You must insist upon allegiance, for you represent God to them. Never allow mockery. "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." Proverbs 30:17.

At birth every child is without respect and totally selfish. Who enjoys a selfish child? His friends? No. His teachers? No. His siblings? No. A good parent will not allow a child to nurture selfishness. Parents know things are not fair in adult life. Love will train a child to enjoy life when they end up with the smallest cookie, or do not get their fair share of pie. Love will teach them to change what they can change and be content with what they cannot change. "But godliness with contentment is great gain." I Timothy 6:6.

Children disrespect parents who do not take the time or have the strength to make them behave properly. A properly trained child will sit quietly during worship, be quiet while Dad (or others) are resting or adults are conversing. Then he will hear people comment, "What a nice child." Or "Your son is exceptionally good." When he hears these comments he will feel the whole world loves him. He will respect you because you made him be that "good child." "Withhold not correction from the child:...Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 23:13-14.

Respect is earned by respecting your spouse. A child will mentally and sometimes physically fight against a parent who does not respect the other parent. Fathers, are you willingly laying down your life for your wife as Christ did for the

church? Mothers, are you willingly laying down your desires and opinions and quietly submitting to their father's opinions? (Ephesians 5:22, 33) Be strong to stand by home rules and Christian principles when you are tested. Some children test the rules because they are insecure. Sometimes children will use other adults (peer pressure) to get your permission to do what they want. If you will kindly stand by the rules you and your spouse have established they may become angry but will later respect you for your strength. Show them you love God with all your heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind (Luke 10:27.) by praying and reading God's Word every day. Let them see you spending your time wisely and cheerfully sacrificing for others. "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:39.

Show genuine interest in their interests, looking carefully at what they show you or into their eyes when they are speaking. It seems that strength, love, and encouragement is transmitted through eye contact. Sacrifice your desires for theirs. Put aside your goals for a few minutes and listen to them talk or play a simple game with them, or let them help you clean when it would be easier to do it alone. If we would bundle all the minutes we spend in individual attention they would only be a few, but the good they do cannot be measured. By your everyday actions your children will know if you are selfish or unselfish and will respect you accordingly.

Make him respect others. Usually children have friends because they respect others. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:..." Proverbs 18:24. When you train your child to respect others he or she will have friends and appreciate you for it, although he may not tell you until he starts training his own children.

Be a friend to your child and train him to be a friend of Jesus. Christ proved His love for His disciples by preparing them to continue in the real world after He was gone. He did this by imparting His wisdom to them. The greatest love we can give to them is to connect them to God's wisdom. By passing our wisdom on to our children as Isaiah 28:13 says, "...line upon line; here a little, and there a little;" they will grow up being responsible teens. Teens will believe our advice is good if during their younger years they have seen that what Mom and Dad forced them to do worked out best.

In most cases defending your child when others try to correct him will cause him to disrespect you. At such times we must remember that every child is born with a nature to lie in self-defense. Defending him if he is lying (which you do not know) will add more guilt and thus increase his misery. He will unconsciously blame you for his misery. It is best to take time to explain your doubt, give needed discipline and relieve his guilt. This may anger the child but it will teach him that your love is deeper than the moment. And it will gain respect if he is lying. Our goal is not a quick fix for current problems but to prepare our children for adult life.

Our children will respect us when we train them to do their best. When parents criticize the demands of teachers or caregivers or allow their child to do a job half way, the child will be happy because he escaped temporary trouble. However these actions will later cause disrespect for that parent. (Two of my adult children said to me, "You should have made me study harder.") Appreciate the crude drawings, messy jobs, and barely readable letters when small. But don't praise him when you know he could have done better. "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." Proverbs 20:11. His third grade teacher will not accept a first grade work. His employers will not accept many half-done jobs. Prepare your child for the real world and he will respect you and thank you. He or she will bless you as in Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed;..."

Babies Don't Keep

*Mother, oh Mother, come shake out your cloth
empty the dustpan, poison the moth,
hang out the washing and butter the bread,
sew on a button and make up a bed.*

*Where is the mother whose house is so shocking?
She's up in the nursery, blissfully rocking.*

*Oh, I've grown shiftless as Little Boy Blue
(lullaby, rockabye, lullaby loo.)*

*Dishes are waiting and bills are past due
(Pat-a-cake, darling, and peek, peekaboo).*

*The shopping's not done and there's nothing for stew
and out in the yard there's a hullabaloo
but I'm playing Kanga and this is my Roo.
Look! Aren't her eyes the most wonderful hue?
(lullaby, rockabye, lullaby loo).*

*The cleaning and scrubbing will wait till tomorrow,
for children grow up, as I've learned to my sorrow.
So quiet down, cobwebs. Dust go to sleep.
I'm rocking my baby and babies don't keep.*

—Author Unknown

The Language of Love

I grew up on a farm in Willamette Valley, Oregon. We worked hard and I loved it. I felt like I was the best-loved child in the whole wide world. Our parents treated all of us equally, without any partiality; but my older sister grew up feeling that our father did not love her. How could this be?

It must have been something about our love language that triggered our different feelings. The information that I have gathered from men who study family relationships, and from my own 50 years of observing families, I believe that every person has a different way of perceiving love. My perception of love happens to be acts of service. I watched my father working year after year from sun up to sun down to supply for our family. This convinced me that I was dearly loved.

In John 13:34 Christ says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Christ's love is honest and sacrificial. God is "love." Also in John 13:35 Christ said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Love, therefore, is a very important ingredient in the Christian home. Faith, hope and charity (love) are all parts of a Christian's life; "but the greatest of these is charity." Our neighbors will not believe we are Christians unless our families have love one to another.

My father expressed love through acts of service and honor. Rarely did he say, "I love you." He would say, "I will not permit you to do that because I love you and know that is not good for you." "You girls do the dishes and show

Mother that you love her." He showed great respect for each child and Mother, never ignoring us or humiliating us. Mother wasn't allowed to lift heavy things if Dad was near, or even to carry a bucket of water or to hoe in the garden. He would take the hoe and tell her to go sit down. Only once did I hear him scold her. But neither did he say, "I love you." Honoring and doing for her spoke his love to my mother and to our family.

Love is an emotional language. It is part of the nurturing that is spoken of in Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Love must be expressed in a way that touches the emotions of the person we love. If it does not touch their emotions in a positive way it is like speaking a language they don't understand. To avoid frustration, we should learn what is thought to be the five basic languages of love. Then observe attentively each child and our spouse so we can express love to them in their preferred way.

The five basic love languages are: 1. Words of affirmation, 2. Acts of service, 3. Gift giving, 4. Quality time, and 5. Physical touch and closeness. Every person feels a degree of love through each of these expressions, but one will mean much more than the other four. Most small children will respond to all five, but around pre-teen years, one will become more desirable. Think of yourself. Which of the five do you most enjoy? Which one means the least to you?

Words meant the least to my father. He would say, "Words are cheap." "It takes no sacrifice to talk." "To prove love you must put some muscles in it." Words of affirmation were least meaningful to him. However, they might have been most meaningful to some of his four children.

1. Words of affirmation are especially meaningful to persons suffering from low self-esteem. But it must be legitimate praise, well thought out and from the heart. Even children see flattery as meaningless. Our words must build up. Let it be a job well done, a good grade earned, a character change for the better, etc. Anything they have worked to accomplish. Let it not be a God-given talent or natural beauty, which they did not earn.

2. Acts of service, I John 3:18, "...let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Do something that person likes, or something out of ordinary. Maybe clean their

room or fix a bike tire. Don't do something you want done and expect them to accept it as a love token. Example, I wash the dishes and expect my husband (who couldn't care how messy the kitchen is) to accept that as an act of love to him. It won't touch his emotions.

3. Gift giving is another way to show love. Be sure to get something that the person likes. Don't buy a cookbook for your daughter that hates cooking. Bringing a gift home when you have been away lets the person know you thought of them while you were away. Gifts need not be expensive, just wrapped pretty to show you put some love into it. Handmade gifts are excellent.

4. Quality time is the number one language of love for many children in today's families. We have too many things that take our time to care for or to make payments on. This leaves us too little time to enjoy our children. When you do have a moment, give them your undivided attention. Play his game. Read her choice of book (if appropriate). Fix his toy or just sit and talk with him or her. Don't promise to do something with them and spend the evening reading. Instead of your time being spent at home saying, "I love you," it will be saying, "I love myself more than you."

5. Physical touch and closeness is one of the ways Jesus showed love. Mark 10:13, 16, "And they brought young children to him... And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." A soft touch from the one you love says, "I love you." All childhood worries flee away when the little one snuggles up in Daddy's strong arms. Stay in touch with your children by touching them often—hold their hand, put your arms over their shoulder or give them a hug.

Besides showing your love, it will help your child develop both emotionally and physically.

Words touched my older sister's emotional cord. Her preferred love language was words of affirmation. In adult life she was deceived by sweet words more than once. Dad struggled to make each of his children feel loved, but he never understood that what he considered almost useless could have meant more than gold to my sister. Quality time was her second choice of the love languages.

Dad and Mom married in November, 1929 with no assets except a car. The Great Depression hit the U.S. the same year. The first 15 years of their marriage was in survival mode.

The Language of Love

They had two choices—work hard long hours or starve. Dad chose to work. Evenings were spent visiting around the supper table and then a time for feeding our souls. Only on very rare occasions did my Dad permit family worship to be omitted. We sang, (only Church of God songs) he read and explained the scriptures and each of us prayed aloud.

We moved to Oregon, (the promise land for many people) in 1944. That year the war ended and our country was booming. We were all happy to earn money. So we worked hard (from sunup to sundown in the summers) pooled our money and paid for a farm and home in about seven years. By that time we four children were about grown. While I grew up happy and care-free amid this wonderful home life, my sister's heart was aching because her preferred love language of encouraging words and quality time were rarely spoken.

Many a dedicated Christian parent (with a heart full of love) does not understand their child's love language. Some have judged their child of being unthankful, which could cause even more distance between child and parent. It is my prayer that this writing will help a frustrated parent and a child's aching heart. God bless every reader.

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

This has to be one of the best emails I have received in a long time because when you sit and think about the meaning, it is so true.
Law of the Garbage Truck

Law Of The Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches!

The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked,
"Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.'

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment.

As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally.

Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on.. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

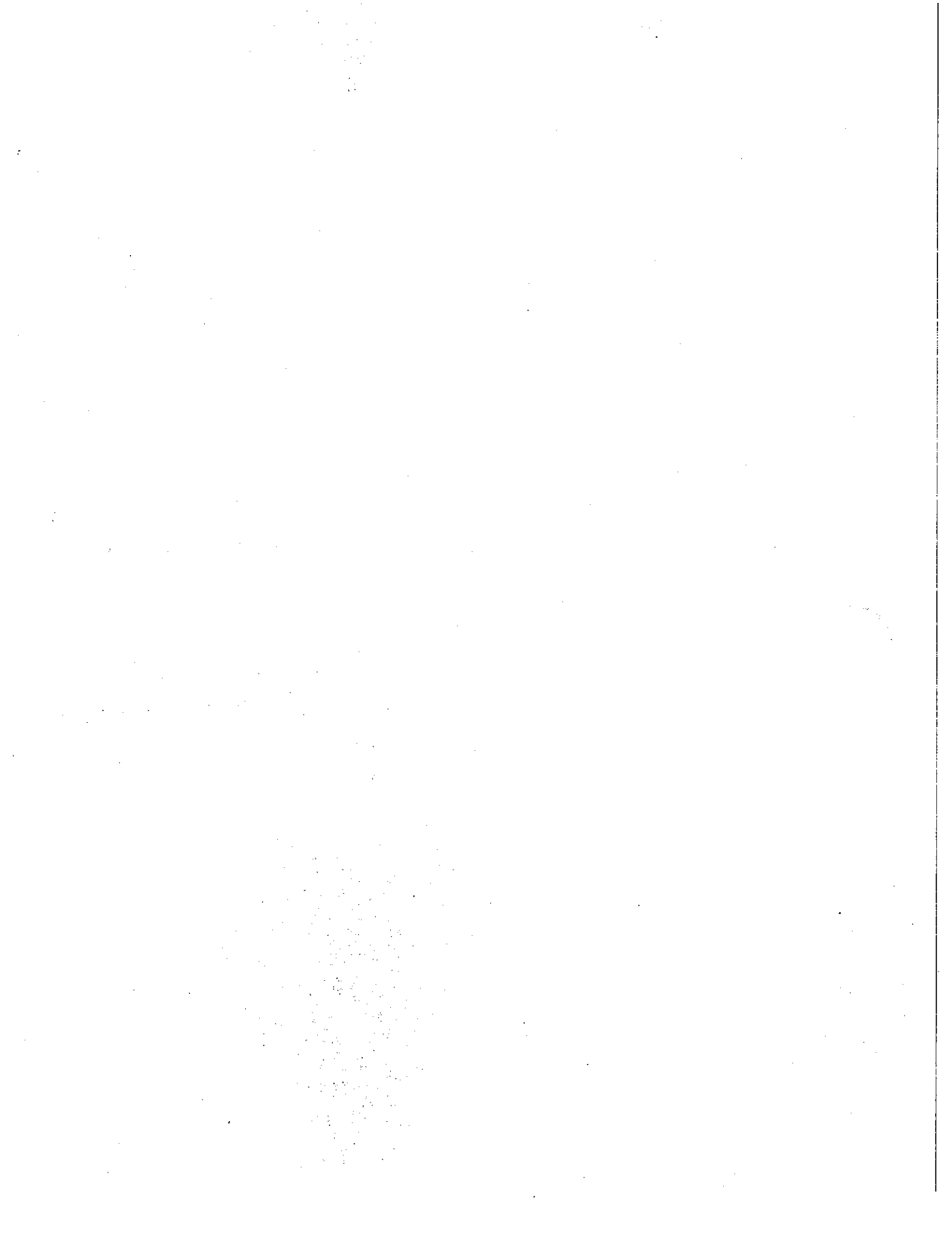
The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets,

so ... Love the people who treat you right.
Pray for the ones who don't.

>Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a garbage-free day!

"one  under God,"



HOME



LIFE

Wanted: Christian Fathers

Have you ever stood on a high promontory and gazed in awe upon a vast expanse of mountains and valleys, rivers and forests, and marvelled on the miracle of creation? I have, but in this article I wish to relate an experience that, if possible, even surpasses that splendid wonderment, in which my godly earthly father played a vital part. I was a boy of sixteen years with a Sunday School knowledge of God and His Word, and with no surprisingly great degree of faith. We were operating a small farm and it was the time of haying. The clover and timothy mixed hay in a seven-acre triangular field had been cut and, after a period of drying, had been dumped and hand-cocked, suited for pitching on a rig for drawing which we were about to undertake. While engaged in the process of harnessing the team to fasten them to the wagon, the sky darkened and, as we drove into the field, a heavy storm rapidly approached us. For a moment we were in a quandry as to whether to proceed or wait out the storm. We realized that there was no time to make up a load, and clover hay loses much of its nutritional value and palatableness and, also, it will sustain a loss of many of its leaves after it has become wet and dried again. What to do? Dad looked at me, and in serious reflective deliberation said, "Earl, let's ask God to keep this hay dry until we can get it into the barn."

If this arbitrary suggestion gave me a moment's hesitation and doubt, I quickly dismissed it in favor of the hope such a proposal offered. I had been brought up to believe in a miracle-working God and was mindful of the many articles portrayed in Scripture in God's dealing with His people. We dropped to our knees there in the middle of the field and, after we both had prayed, we arose and went about making our load as though there were no black, threatening and thundering sky above us. The storm broke and we could hear the heavy drops of rain falling, but we and the hay in the field were untouched. A little later, I traversed the entire perimeter of the field and, to my amazement, everything outside the hay plot was literally and liberally drenched with rain.

Some people make a great play on the word "utterance", but there is a spiritual glory whereby one is made speechless. I just stood there, emotionally enrapt in wonderment as my heart lifted up

to believe that God, too, had just visited this spot. He had actually heard our prayers and had answered! In later years I have realized that two predominant facts stood out in this experience giving me a more perfect realization of God: first, the incident presented to me, at least, a virtual monumental revelation—a spiritual awakening—a soul consciousness in the fact that "God . . . is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.) Second, it is to His eternal praise and my everlasting gratitude and good fortune that I had a God-wise father who, without benefit of eloquent sermon, theological discourse, or trumpet's blare, led me quietly into this unsurpassed knowledge of living faith in Jesus Christ which has stood by me through the years.

Though many are the flowers strewn at mother's feet and many the eulogies delivered in her honor expressing the feeling of loving universal humanity, and while, perhaps, fathers have not been known to be so universally adored, still, fathers, too, are very often loved and respected by their boys and girls, and fathers have an obligation—God ordained—to play out their vital role of spiritual leadership in the home. And what a soul-exalting privilege to know that you are monitoring these precious little lives to salvation and eternal life! But the day is far spent; times are perilous and there is no guarantee that we may have tomorrow in which to do the Father's work. So, in view of the incredulously temporal-minded wickedness and atheism in the world today, let me urgently entreat you fathers to rise up in all your manhood and dignity and assert the spiritual leadership in the home which God has charged to your account. I am convinced that as you draw toward the portals of life you will discover nothing more heart and mind fulfilling (not the love of money nor of fame) than the fact, possessed in the knowledge that you have tried, and with God's help, done your best.

Now I should explain that I have rarely given the foregoing testimony of dry hay versus the rain, and never before have I done so publicly. The public, generally, are not susceptible to supernatural phenomena and my testimony has not gone without skepticism and incredulity. To the "Greeks" it was "foolishness": "but unto us who are saved it is the power of God," (1 Cor. 1:17-31) as He witnesses His love and His care for His own. The only party who could have validated the account would be my father and he would gladly have affirmed its accuracy. He has gone to his reward many years past. But I positively do affirm that the account as I have given it is absolutely true. Now here I close with a dictum: To His everlasting praise, we Christians have the supreme honor of serving a miracle-working God. He ever has been, and He's just the same today.

—Earl Langley

Fathers

HOME LIFE

We are living in a day and age when there is very little time devoted to children by their parents. Many children grow up and never know real, true companionship from the ones who should be the closest to them and show them the way to live. Following we have printed two poems that we hope will be of encouragement, especially to fathers.

If I Had a Boy

If I had a boy, I'd say to him, "Son,
Be fair and be square in the race you must run;
Be brave if you lose and be meek if you win,
Be better and nobler than I've ever been.
Be honest and fearless in all that you do,
And honor the name I have given to you."

If I had a boy, I'd want him to know,
We reap in this life just about as we sow,
And to get what we earn, be it little or great,
Regardless of luck and regardless of fate.
I would teach him and show him the best that I could,
That it pays to be honest and upright and good.

I would make him a pal and partner of mine,
And show him the things in this world that are fine.
I would show him the things that are wicked and bad,
For I figure this knowledge should come from his dad.
I would walk with him, talk with him, play with him,
too,
And to all of my promises try to be true.

—Anonymous

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

When Father Prays

When Father prays he doesn't use
The words the preacher does;
There's different things for different days,
But mostly it's for us.

When Father prays the house is still,
His voice is slow and deep;
We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud
So quiet we must keep.

He prays that we may be good boys,
And later on, good men;
And then we squirm and think we won't
Have any quarrels again.

You'd never think, to look at Pa,
He once had tempers, too;
I guess if Father needs to pray,
We youngsters surely do.

Sometimes the prayer gets very long
And hard to understand,
And then I wiggle up quite close,
And let him hold my hand.

I can't remember all of it—
I'm little yet, you see;
But one thing I cannot forget—
My father prays for me.

—Unknown

HOME LIFE



Has Your Son A Father?

Has your son a father? This would seem at first glance rather an impertinent question to ask the head of any family, but if it were answered in the spirit in which it is asked many a man would have to say, "I supply my son's temporal needs and give him a lecture if he gets into mischief; otherwise I know little about him."

Clothing, food and shelter are necessary, but your boy could be provided with these if he were an orphan, for they are the things that money can buy. Your boy needs most what only a father can give, loving, thoughtful understanding care and guidance.

What do you know about your boy? Who are his associates and best-loved friends? What is his behavior and standing in school? What are his favorite studies? Has he a natural liking or inclination towards any trade or profession? What books appeal to him most? What kind of books is he reading? What is his moral tone, and what does he think and talk about most? These are simple, practical questions which, it seems to me, every father should be able to answer. Unless a father is well enough acquainted with his son to know something about him, how will he know what to expect of the boy?

What does a boy need in a father? He needs a pattern by which he can fashion his habits and disposition. If your son is to have high ideals, he must find them somewhere; are you the kind of man you want your son to be? Your habits, your manner of speech, your attitude toward your family—all these are telling on the character of your son.

A boy needs in a father someone to whom he can come for counsel and advice and find sympathy and be understood. Your boy will soon be a man, and with manhood will come a man's responsibilities. He has many perplexing problems this growing man of yours has, which a real father can help him to solve. The boy needs in a father one who invites confidence and holds it after it is obtained. He needs to rely safely on you. A boy needs a father that will

watch for the pitfalls that surround him and point them out. A general warning against sin and ungodliness is not sufficient.

A boy needs a comrade in his father. There should be common interests. The boy cannot rise to a man's estate and meet his father on that ground, but the father can go back to the things of boyhood and meet his boy. Your boy is most interested now in the development of his body. He likes to try feats of strength and endurance. He will open his heart and take you in as a full comrade if you will run races with him or other physical enjoyments. While you are being a comrade to the young boy in his boyish fashion, he will be talking out his heart to you, and you will get acquainted with him.

You may give all your time to labor and leave your son houses and lands; or all your time to business and leave him money and stocks and bonds; or all your time to public service and leave him a good name and honor, but none of these are as necessary to a boy's development as a father. —Mabel Hale

June 2011

When a father overheard one of his sons say, "If you do that, father won't love you," he approached his children with these words: "I shall always love you. When you do what is right, I love you with a glad heart, and when you do what is wrong, I still love you, but with a heart full of sorrow."

.....
Horace Mann, speaking at the opening of a reformatory for boys, said that if only one boy was saved from ruin, it would justify all the cost and labor of establishing the institution. Afterward a friend asked the eminent educator if he had not exaggerated a little. "Not if that boy was my son," was the reply.

.....
A father who was discussing his wayward son with a friend received this reply: "If he were my son, I would kick him out." The father answered: "Yes, if he were your son, so would I. But he isn't your son; he is my son, and I can't do it."

One winter day a man found it necessary to go to see a neighbor who lived beyond a steep and rugged mountain. He had climbed the dangerous trail for some minutes through the drifted snow and along the edge of a precipice when he heard a voice call: "Be careful, Daddy. I'm walking in your steps."

.....
When a little boy said an ugly word, he looked sheepishly at a man who stood nearby. The man told the boy that the use of the word wouldn't hurt him and that he should learn to say whatever he wished. The little boy was puzzled for a moment and then said: "If you were my father, you would not say that."

.....
When a young man had been given a prison sentence, the judge reminded him of the distinguished career of his father, a famous lawyer. "When I went to him for advice or companionship," the youth recalled, "he would look up from a book on the law of trusts and say, 'Run away, boy. I am busy.' My father finished his book, and here I am."

Fathers

A Little Fellow Follows Me

Dec. 2004

A careful man I ought to be
A little fellow follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

Not once can I escape his eyes:
Whate'er he sees me do he tries.
Like me he says he's going to be,
That little chap who follows me

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see—
That little chap who follows me.

I must remember as onward I go
Thru summer sun and winter snow,
I am building for the years to be
That little chap who follows me

—Author Unknown



A Parable of a Prodigal Father

A certain man had two sons, and the younger of them said to his father: "Father give me the portion of thy time and thy attention and thy companionship and thy counsel which falleth to me." And he divided unto them his living in that he paid the boy's bills and sent him to a select preparatory school and to college, and tried to believe that he was doing his full duty for the boys.

Not many days afterwards the father gathered all his interests and aspirations and ambitions and took his journey into a far country—into a land of stocks and bonds and securities and other things which do not interest a boy; and there he wasted his precious opportunity of being a friend to his own son. When he had spent the very best of his life and had gained money, but had failed to find satisfaction, there arose a mighty famine in his heart; and he began to be in want of sympathy and real companionship. He went and joined himself to one of the clubs of the country; and they elected him chairman of the house committee and president of the club and sent him to congress. He would fain have satisfied himself with the husks that other men did eat, and no man gave unto him real friendship.

When he came to himself he said: How many men of my acquaintance have boys whom they understand and who understand them, who talk about their boys and seem perfectly happy in the comradeship of their sons, and I perish here with heart hunger! I will arise and go to my son, and will say unto him, "Son, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, I am no more worthy to be called thy father. Make me as one of thy acquaintances." He arose and came to his son, but while he was yet afar off, his son saw him and was moved with astonishment. Instead of running and falling on his neck, he drew back and was ill at ease. The father said unto him: "Son, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, I am no more worthy to be called thy father. Forgive me now and let me be your friend." The son said: "Not so; I wish it were possible, but it is too late. There was a time when I wanted companionship and counsel and to know things, but you were too busy. I received companionship and information, but it was the wrong kind; and now—alas—I am wrecked in soul and body; there is nothing you can do for me. It is too late—too late—too late." —Selected

HOME LIFE



The Worst Punishment

I know my daddy is the best
 A boy could ever own;
 He plays like he's another boy
 Whenever he's at home.
 We get right down upon the floor—
 Ma says we are too rough—
 But I keep on until I beat,
 And make him cry "Enough!"
 Just the same, he makes me obey
 He says God wants him to;
 Because He left me in his care
 To teach me how to do.
 He never scolds me—much—at all,
 But once I disobeyed,
 I didn't want to see him then,
 Because I was afraid.
 He punished me the most that time,
 For what I did that day,
 Perhaps you will not understand;
 'Twas in a funny way.
 I guess he never thought for once,
 That he was hurtin' me;
 Because he never whipped at all,
 'Twas just like this, you see:—
 When he asked "grace" at dinner time,
 He said to me, "Look here;
 There's something wrong with Jimmie boy;
 Tell Daddy 'bout it dear."
 Then I told what the matter was,
 Though I was 'bout to cry;
 I thought for sure he'd whip me, but
 Of course I wouldn't lie.
 He never said a single word,
 My heart just beat and beat;
 Ma passed him lots of victuals, but
 He said he couldn't eat.
 He always eats so heartily;
 And Ma likes for him to,
 I saw without her tellin' me,
 That she was sufferin', too.

An Effective Kiss

By Sis. Connie Sorrell



The bell rang wildly over my head.

“Okay! It is class time! Everybody line up!” called the lower learning center supervisor. As she attempted to organize the pushing, talking children, I picked up tossed-aside winter coats, caps and mittens. How many times had we told these youngsters to put these things where they belonged? Now their winter wraps were getting muddy from the tracked in snow.

I glanced down the line of squirming children. Their hair was ruffled from their stocking hats. Some had damp clothing and some had drippy noses. Most of them had wet shoes or boots.

My eyes looked upward and I sent a silent prayer that direction. “Oh, Lord, it is a new year but with the same old problems from the last year. I need a reviving touch from You today.

Please, Lord, give me patience with these children. Amen.”

The supervisor had been counting noses. “Where is Ricky?” she asked me.

“He wasn’t with us during our chapel time,” I replied. “I will call his mother to see if he is sick.”

But there was no need to do so for Ricky and his dad came in the front door of the school right at that moment.

“Good morning, Ricky,” I said as he tracked past me and into the gentlemen’s room.

Ricky’s dad spoke a few words with us while we all waited in the hallway for Ricky to join the line of fidgeting children. Finally, he

emerged with a mischievous grin on his wet face. He knew we had been waiting on him and he was enjoying the prolonged attention.

“Same naughty child,” I thought. “Dear Lord, please add ‘more love’ with the patience that I just prayed for.”

As Ricky walked by, his dad reached out and took hold of his arm. Everyone watched as Ricky’s father gently cupped Ricky’s small chin in his big hand. He bent his large frame over Ricky’s little one and carefully looked for toast crumbs around the child’s mouth.

Then the father bent down a little further and kissed his son on the forehead. Ricky smiled. He skipped over and joined his classmates while his father turned and quietly went out the door.

A wave of calmness rippled through the adults and down the line of children. Talking had ceased. Hands became quiet. Backs straightened and heads turned toward the classroom door as the supervisor opened it for them to

quietly file through.

My eyes made contact with the supervisor’s. No command for order had been given, but the children were divinely peaceful.

A simple kiss from a loving father had disciplined the children. They felt something very grand had happened.

So had I. In that touching moment I was reminded that these little children are precious in the Father’s sight. He is entrusting into our care valuable jewels wrapped in fleshly bodies. A current of patience and love flowed over my soul. I lifted my eyes to heaven. “Oh, Lord, thank You for sending me Your love in such a beautiful way. Amen.”



Fathers

FATHER'S DAY—JUNE 19

A Bedside Confession

The hour was late. A conscience-accused father, not being able to sleep, went to the bedside of his sleeping son and poured out his heart in a tearful confession:

"Listen, Son, I am saying this to you as you lie asleep with one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. I have stolen in your room—alone. Just a short while ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a hot, stifling wave of remorse swept over me. I could not resist it. Guiltily I come to your bedside.

"These were the things I was thinking, Son: I had been cross to you. As you were dressing for school, you gave your face a dash with a towel, and I scolded you. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I spoke angrily when I found that you had thrown some of your things on the floor.

"At breakfast, I found fault with you. You spilled things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thickly on your bread. And, as you started off to play and I entered my car, you turned and waved your little hand and said cheerily, 'Good-bye, Daddy!' I frowned and said in reply, 'Hold your shoulders back.'

"Then it began all over again in the late afternoon. As I neared home, I spied you down on your knees playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boyfriends by making you march ahead of me back to the house. I said, 'Stockings are expensive and if you had to buy them, you would be more careful.' Imagine that, Son, from a father! It was such a stupid thing—silly logic!

"Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in softly, timidly, with a sort of hurt look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door.

"What is it you want?" I snapped. You said nothing but ran to me and in one tempestuous plunge threw your arms around my neck and kissed me again and again. Your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set

blooming in your heart which even neglect could not wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

"Well, Son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hand, and a terrible sickening fear came over me. Suddenly I saw myself as I really was in all my horrified selfishness, and I felt sick at heart. What had habit been doing to me—the habit of complaining, faultfinding and reprimanding? These were my rewards to you for being a boy. It was not that I did not love you. It was that I expected so terribly much of you. I was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years.

"There was so much that was good, noble and true in your character. Your little heart was as big as dawn itself. All this was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me good night.

"Nothing matters tonight, Son! I have come to your bedside in the darkness, and I have knelt here choking with emotion and shame. It is a terrible atonement. I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours. Yet, I must say what I am saying. I must burn sacrificial fires alone here in your bedroom and make full confession. I have prayed to God to strengthen me in my new resolve. Tomorrow I want to be a real Daddy. I will chum with you, suffer when you suffer, laugh when you laugh. I will bite my tongue when impatient words come. I will keep saying, as if it were a ritual, *He is nothing but a boy, a little boy!* I am afraid I have visualized you as a man. Yet, as I see you now, Son, crumpled and weary in your bed, I see that you are still a boy. Yesterday you were in your mother's arms, your head on her shoulder!

"I have asked too much, too much of you, my dear little boy. A penitent kneels tonight at your bed as if it were a shrine. I kiss the little fingers, the damp forehead and yellow curls. If it were not for waking you, I would snatch you up and press you to my heart. I think of a greater and deeper love you displayed when you ran through the library door, embraced me and kissed me!"

—Selected

A Lesson From Two Fathers

One of my earliest interests was my father's bookcase with all its delightful volumes. Daddy often read aloud to his family, but I looked forward to the day when I would be old enough to go to school and learn to read, so that I might better share in his pleasure in the books.

No doubt Daddy was just as eager for that day of more complete sharing as he let me look at the pictures and illustrations in some of the books, somehow trusting my childish fingers to use the necessary care for proper handling. Of course, I was taught that certain rules went with this privilege and that I must abide by them.

One of my favorites was a book profusely illustrated by a well-known artist whose drawings even a child could enjoy. I looked through this book often.

A pencil was another thing that I needed to make life complete. I needed one for endless scribbling and to balance over an ear as I had seen Daddy do. Again my parents granted my wish and gave me a tiny stub of a pencil—and necessary rules to protect the walls and other things from my "literary" efforts.

All went well for some time, and then one day while looking at my favorite book, I was overcome by temptation. I marked on several of the illustrations and even some of the text.

My act was immediately discovered and the book was taken away. Daddy took the pencil from my guilty fingers and said, sadly, "Pearl is just not old enough to know how to use a pencil properly."

He tossed the poor little stub into the fire and it was consumed before my eyes. I did not know that on a recent trip to town he had purchased a new pencil especially for me. At that very moment it reposed in a compartment of his desk, waiting for the moment when he could present it to me. But this was certainly not the time.

Like Cain, I thought my punishment more than I could bear. But even greater than the loss of the book and of my cherished pencil, was the knowledge that I had broken my father's rules and betrayed his trust.

At my first opportunity, I got the book down from the shelf again and tried to erase the marks that I had made. I had no eraser, but used a dampened fingertip to rub the spots. I succeeded in removing some of the marks—along with the print and even some of the paper. My mother rescued the book at this point and explained that the marks must remain just as I had made them, lest I do even greater damage.

Only a few days later, Daddy seated himself at his desk and opened it to reveal all the fascinating pigeon-holes, nooks and crevices that so enticed me. As usual, I gravitated toward this center of interest and he had only to speak to have me up in his lap. He asked if I had learned my lesson and I assured him that I had. Then he gave me the new pencil that he had so desired to give me all that time. Perhaps his joy was even greater than mine, but my joy seemed complete. I had been restored to Daddy's confidence, for he had demonstrated his forgiveness by trusting me again with his books and a pencil of my very own.

A few years ago, when it became necessary to divide the household things after the death of our parents, you may be sure that one thing I really cherished was that battered old book. Today those pages still bear the scars of my disobedience, but also call back the memories of a loving and forgiving father.

What a picture, in a small way, of our loving heavenly Father! He too is eager for the day when He can share the blessings of His heavenly kingdom with His children. He grants us

daily previews of some of those blessings while we are not able yet to grasp the whole of them. He has provided the Unspeakable Gift for us and eagerly awaits the time when He can bestow it on our penitent hearts.

How useless it is for us to try to erase our own sins! Though some scars may remain as reminders to us, our Heavenly Father forgives and forgets them and restores us to His confidence and trust. All praise to His matchless name! And a special thank-you for the Christian fathers in this world who help us to better understand the love of the heavenly Father!

—Selected





HOME LIFE

In a world full of divorced homes, abused children, effeminacy, and strong-willed women, the world, the Church, and the home need strong men to stand up and be counted. Our homes are plagued and split apart so often today because of men who don't fill their role as the head of the house. (Eph. 5:23). Our children are being abused and warped because fathers are not real men of character who can stand firm in the face of evil and temptation. Our society is destroying the family unit by emphasizing to men the need to be soft, weak, and delicate, instead of strong, unbending, and courageous.

In the founding of our country, the land was big, rough, and virtually a wilderness. It required strong men to chop down the forests, plow the new ground, and build homes. A strong man with muscle, character, and strong determination was a necessity if families were to survive. Today we live in the same country, but the wilderness is gone. The need for a strong back has diminished as technology has replaced muscle power. Most of us today do not depend on our physical strength for survival, but men, we still need to be strong! We don't necessarily need strength of back, but strength of backbone. We need not strength to tread up and down mountains, or through rivers and forests, but strength to tread through an evil world full of wickedness and temptation. We need to be able to do all this, and yet stay true to God, our wives, and our children.

Due to the fact that our country has no new frontiers to explore and wilderness to settle, men have relaxed and filled their lives with pleasure-seeking instead of work. Pleasure has become the god of our twentieth century. It is turning men into mere imitations of men, creating sports figures as idols instead of real men. What a shame that we would idolize men who run up and down a field with a little ball, beating each other and abusing each other. It is a pity that we consider these men as real men after which to pattern our lives. Almost every day the newspaper exposes one of these "men" as a drug addict, homosexual, or an adulterer. These are men?

It is said that the only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys. There are multitudes of men who spend all of their time and extra money on three-wheelers, hunting equipment, fishing gear, and many other expensive hobbies as they try to satisfy their desire for pleasure and somehow express their manliness through them. There is nothing wrong with any of these in their place, but in a time when true, dedicated, godly men are in short supply, and the work of the Lord is suffering due to the lack of good men and their money, should these things be the main emphasis of our lives?

Another quality that men need to be strengthened in is courtesy. How gallant we were in our

courting days! We made sure that we treated our wives-to-be with respect and appreciation. Did you open doors for her, buy her little gifts, and treat her as a weaker vessel? Sure you did! Why don't you do that now? Is it because you don't appreciate her as much now as you did then, or is it because you are just too lazy to put forth the extra effort those things would require? Fathers, your sons are watching you! Your actions are making little impressions in their memories that will mold their ideas concerning courtesy years in the future. Men, be strong enough to lay aside whatever excuse you are using for your failures and begin to set a proper example before these little footprints that are trying so hard to imitate your big ones!

One other area that I feel men have become weak in is in their relationship with their children. Children need the example of a strong man in their lives. They need consistent correction on a daily basis from their father as well as their mother. They need to see a father who is strong, yet fair, who is willing to lay down the law, yet willing to humble himself and ask forgiveness when necessary. Fathers, our children need to know that we love them, not just because we provide a home, food, and clothes for them, but because we are also willing to stop in our busy schedules to pick them up and hug them and put them on our lap and read to them. Take some special time for them each day.

God needs more strong men. Are you willing to deny yourself of your selfish desires and personal ambitions and take up the cross of responsibility that God has placed upon every man's shoulders? It will take God and His grace to enable you to be a strong man in this modern world. —Toney Samons

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

A Boy

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6).

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still
It bent and yielded to my will.
I came again when days were past
The bit of clay was hard at last;
My early impress it still bore
And I could change its form no more.

You take a piece of living clay
And gently form it day by day;
Moulding it with your power and art
A young boy's soft and yielding heart.
You come again when years are gone,
It is a man you look upon.
Your early impress still he bore
And you can change him nevermore!

—Author Unknown

Every time I pass a church I stop to pay a visit;
Lest someday when I'm carried there, the Lord will say:
"Who is it?" —Selected

Home Life

In looking on the husband as the head of the family, there is also great danger of forgetting the important place that the wife fills in the home. If you are the head of wife and home, what is your wife to you? Is she the foot? By no means. She is the body — the real substance and the one most necessary for husband and home. God said it was not good for man to be alone; therefore He made the woman for an help meet, to be with man and to help him, because he needed her and could not get along nor be happy without her. Neither can you get along nor be happy without your wife. What is a home without a mother? She is indeed the last one that a home could spare, for she is the very light and life of home.

If you are the head and the king of home, she must be the body and the queen of your home. Therefore we read, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For noman ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." This shows the only right relation between husband and wife; and only by acting accordingly can you make yourself, your wife, and your home happy.

Your wife is to you like your own flesh; and you might as well stick your hand into the fire and not expect to feel the almost unendurable pains of a burnt limb, as to treat your wife in any way contrary to love, care and kindness and not expect to suffer as much as she or more. Whatever you bestow on your wife, you will have to share with her. If you make her happy, you make yourself happy. If you make her miserable, you make yourself the more miserable. So do not forget that it pays to be good to your wife and to give your very life and all for her good and happiness. Do it, and

you will be a happy man and have a happy home.

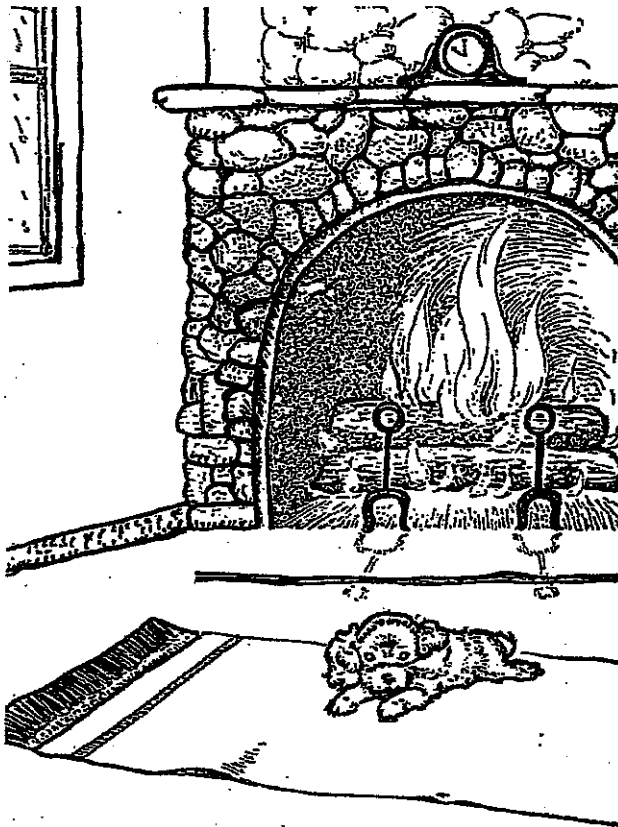
Don't scold her. It would be better for you to go out and scold yourself or hurt yourself, and maybe your wife will pour oil on the wounds; but if you hurt your wife, you will also hurt yourself, and who, then, will apply the healing balm? You are told in the Scriptures not to be bitter against your wife. It does not pay. Don't blame her. Don't complain at her. Don't ever have an unkind thought

about her for anything she does; for if you do, you may say unkind things to her, and then you not only inflict wounds both on her heart and on yourself, but also wound your home. You may say, "He doesn't know my wife." Is she below standard? Then, improve her by being all you should be to her. That is the only way to do it.

As husbands we must not only avoid the things that tend to make our wives and our homes unhappy, but also follow after the things that increase love and happiness. If your wife does not suit you, and you think that she does not have the tender love and care for

you which you would like for her to have — for although we are men, we do like to be tenderly and fondly treated by our wives, and we might as well confess it — do not put on a bold front and a "don't care" in order to spite your wife or to wait her out. This is an unnatural and a very tormenting thing to do for any length of time. If you want your wife to be very good and loving to you, remember that you must win her love and draw out her affections. In doing this you make her sweeter, happier, and better — just what you want her to be.

Does your wife ever appear to you to be sour and bitter? Well, have you not sometimes given her a bitter cup to drink? And has not that, at least helped to make her so? Now change the program



Fathers

and be loving and sweet to her, and you will soon notice the change. Does she act indifferently toward you? Well, have you not caused it by forgetting to nourish and cherish her affections? Have you not forgotten to be the attentive gentleman you once were? If so, you have ceased drawing out her affections, and how can you expect her heart to be a burning flame of love toward you? You say, "All this is true, but how can I help it?" Not by scolding, blaming, faultfinding, etc.; not by staying away from your wife and home all day and then in the evening going somewhere to loaf, nor by reading the newspaper when you are at home. Had you acted thus in the first place, you would never have gotten a wife. You can do it only by seeking her company as you once did to win her, and when in her company by being as attentive and as much of a lover as you were when you once wooed her heart and courted her love.

—Taken from *Home, Health and Success*, by Thomas Nelson.



A Priceless Portrait

I have a masterpiece of art
Hung up on mem'ry's wall;
It is a portrait of my dad
When I was very small.

I can't forget when Dad hitched up
The wagon to the team,
And let me go to town with him
Which made come true my dream.

He bought the things a farmer needs
To till the fertile ground,
And when the wagon bed was full
We soon were far from town.

He added up his coins and made
The team halt in its tracks.
"The man shortchanged himself," he cried,
"I'll have to take it back."

I thought he meant he'd take it back
Next time he drove to town,
But soon he left his wagon seat
And stood upon the ground.

He said, "Son, drive the wagon home
And help them milk and feed.
I've got to take a dime to him
Who sold me garden seed."

"But we're four miles from town," I said,
As I begged Dad to wait.
"In just a half a mile or so
We'll pass our barnyard gate."

He cried, "My boy, I'm tired, but I
Must trudge back into town
And get this matter straightened out
Before the sun goes down."

"But it is just a dime," I said,
"And you are not to blame."
He sighed, "My son, it's more than that,
For it involves my name."

"What if the Lord should call me home
This very night in fact?
I don't presume my friends would know
To take the ten cents back."

"I live each day aware that I
Will stand before God's throne
And that I'll give account for dimes
I've spent which weren't my own."

I saw him bravely turn toward town
As I toward home did start;
'Twas then a priceless masterpiece
Was etched upon my heart.

I gazed through tears until I saw
Him fade behind a curve;
I vowed right then if I grew up
My Daddy's God I'd serve.

The years have flown since that resolve
When I was merely eight,
And Dad, all tired, walked back to town
To set the record straight.

I wonder if all daddys know
That one such deed alone
Can do more good to make boys straight
Than all the sermons known.

—Perry Tanksley



Fatherhood is to be admired and esteemed as a position instituted by God. God has established a plan in which each member of the family fills a special place. The place of the father in the home is one of stabilization and leadership. He should be a figure of strength to the children who need help in their formative years.

The father is a stabilizing factor because he is the one, who with firmness supports his wife in enforcing the rules and regulations that give a sense of security and guidance in the life of the children. Solomon admonishes, "My son, keep thy father's commandment . . ." Proverbs 6:20. For a home to run smoothly without bickering, fighting, discontent and unrest, guidelines must be established. When the father fails to do this, it places a great load upon the mother. We are living in a time when mothers also are forsaking the children for other materialistic goals. Therefore we understand why our age is producing many rebellious young people.

A child tends to look upon his father with hero worship as the father provides for him the things that he is incapable of attaining for himself. A child believes his father can do anything and will strive to be like him. What a great responsibility falls upon

the fathers of our land. A father can use his influence to instill morality, honesty and integrity toward God, or he can fail in this duty and spiritually cripple that child. God is able to save to the uttermost, but how much easier it is for a child who has been properly trained to bring himself into submission to God.

A man's first responsibility is to his family. He should not bring a reproach upon the cause of God because he fails to provide the material needs of the family. He should show that he is one who maintains self-discipline and is able to accept the duties of life. It is a good example to the children.

It is the privilege of the father to have the respect of his family. As he conducts himself in a proper way towards them, his fellow man and toward God, the family will love, cherish and admire his life and the memories that he creates.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Good Fathers

That a good mother is a gift from God is a truth we often hear attested, and it can be said with equal truthfulness that good fathers are God-given. It is true that the mother has the greater care of the child, especially in its infancy, but it is a mistake to thrust upon her all the responsibility of its training through childhood and youth. The mother has her part, but there is a part that belongs to the father, and if he fails, the child is robbed of part of its rights.

It is the father's part to provide for the temporal needs of his child, and to this responsibility every right-thinking man responds; but too often when the temporal needs are supplied, the father thinks he has done his part.

A good father keeps acquainted with his children. And this is no small undertaking if there are several little people in the home all rapidly growing and developing. He will have to be with them more than at mealtime and on Sunday afternoons to keep up a continuous acquaintance. And he will have to unbend himself and meet the children on their own territory and be a child with them. It is a good cordial for tired nerves just to have a merry romp with the children; and Father seems so close after such a romp. It is through play that children meet and know other children, and fathers also can best know their children if they meet them frequently this way. If the father keeps his eyes open, he will be able to detect the very tendencies that, unrestrained, will injure his children in coming years. And he can make the child see the fault much easier because he has seen it from the child's point of vantage. Good fathers, then, are good comrades with their children.

A good father respects the feelings of his children. He will not single out one little offender and make him and the rest of the family miserable during a whole meal with his scathing

reproofs and jeering remarks. He will not growl or roar at them till their little nerves tremble. "Like as a father pitieth his children" is an application which his children can understand. Even if he must correct severely, underneath his severity will be pity and compassion.

Good fathers are interested in the things that interest their children. Many a child has stood anxiously by with some work of his own hands desiring to show it to his father, but fearful lest he be sent away with an admonition not to bother, or that the father would look it over with a hasty glance and a "h'm" and then go on with his reading. Children want to please their fathers, want their association and appreciation, and will seek after them; but only a few fathers are truly responsive.

Our heavenly Father remembers that we are dust; and a good earthly father remembers that his children are weak and inexperienced, that their characters are yet unformed, that their judgment is yet unstable, and for these reasons he does not expect them to be able to act and think like men and women. He can be considerate with them when they are at fault, can feel compassion when they are in trouble, and forgive them when they repent. He cares more for their welfare and happiness than for his own, and not only toils day after day for them, but is able to meet them with a smile when the day is done.

—Mable Hale

Fathers



"It is not flesh and blood," wrote Johann Schiller, "but the heart which makes us fathers and sons."

.....

"Father!—to God Himself we cannot give a holier name."

"one  under God,"

HOME



LIFE

A Father's Duty

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4.

It is true that a father's chief duty is to provide the temporal necessities of life—food, clothing, a comfortable home—but we learn from the latter part of the foregoing text that a father's responsibility does not end when he has supplied these things. He is expected to share with the mother the task of training the children. A mother is able to do much for her children, but it is unfair and unscriptural to add to her already heavy burdens the part that the husband and father is designed of God to perform.

From a reading of various Bible texts relating to the character of a father, it develops that one of his principal duties is to admonish, guide or chasten, as necessity requires. "Whom the Lord loveth he correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Prov. 3:12. Since the apostle, in two instances (Eph. 6:4 and Col. 3:21), exhorts fathers not to provoke their children to anger, it would appear that he recognized the sterner nature of men and realized that it must be softened by love. That this view is a correct one is illustrated in every-day home life. How often it is the case that children respect and fear father, but when sympathy and love is desired they go to mother.

The words of our text, though very brief, set forth an important principle or method to follow. The process of nurturing and admonishing requires much care and watchfulness. It would never do to set out a tender plant, leave it untended and unwatered for a time, then, in frantic effort to stimulate growth, dig deeply around it, loosening the roots and pouring upon it a flood of water. Or, who would suggest letting a choice vine run on the ground until the tendrils begin to grow and reach out, then grasping it roughly and tying it up where it should have been placed in the beginning? Again, a little spark can easily be quenched, but what devastation and ruin it leaves in its path when allowed to become a mighty flame. These illustrations from natural things appear perfectly plain, yet methods that men will condemn as foolish when practiced in garden, workshop, or in business will be followed unthoughtedly in the home.

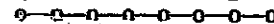
Johnny and Ethel may perform many little acts that are wrong, without the father's reproof. Instead, in many cases, he waits until an accumulation of offenses stirs up his wrath, calling forth drastic treatment, upsets the peace and harmony of the household, and provokes the anger in the child. The little sparks of disobedience, selfishness,

rudeness, should be quenched by the parents before a great conflagration of anger with its attendant harmful effects upon the moral nature of the child takes place.

The father stands between his children and the outside world, and to them he is a pattern which they are likely to follow. A consideration of this fact should cause every father, whether a Christian or not, to give serious attention to the example he is setting, as every man desires that his children be moral, useful, and well-behaved. Especially should Christian fathers give heed to bringing up their offspring in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The most serious thought of all is this, that from the conduct of the earthly parent, the boy or girl forms his conception of the heavenly Father. Is it making too strong a statement to affirm that thousands of people have an erroneous idea of the love and fatherhood of God because their fathers did not treat them as they should have?

In talking with a wayward boy about his soul's salvation, a Christian worker was trying to explain to the boy the love of God. In the course of his talk he said, "Harry, God loves you just as your father does." Instantly there came into the boy's eyes a peculiar look that the gentleman was unable to understand. Soon they parted for the time, no progress apparently having been made. A few days later the worker decided to visit the boy's home and have another talk with him. While conversing with the mother about her son, the mother burst into tears and told how the boy's father, who was a drunkard, greatly abused them and made the family-name a reproach to the neighborhood. It was then that the gentleman understood the meaning of the look in the boy's eyes. Later when he talked with him he said, "God loves you as your mother does." The appeal was effective and the lad gave his heart to Christ.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." —By. R. F. Lamm
—Sel. from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1912



HOME LIFE



"Daddy, Would You Play With Me
A Little Bit?"

By Dave Drury

"Tomorrow night he'll play with me,"
that's what the young girl said,
As she slowly climbed the lonely stairs
and put herself to bed.

October, 1994

"I know my daddy loves me,"
she kept saying in her head.
"He's such a very busy man
and he must work instead."

But somehow way down deep inside
she knew that it was true,
That tomorrow may not ever come
for next day's busy too.

But still she keeps on dreaming
that soon the day will come
When daddy will have time for her
and then they'll have some fun.

Still weeks pass by and turn to months
and months turn into years.
The little girl is waiting still
although it is with tears.

She's growing up, her life has changed
and she has teenage fears
"Oh, why won't daddy talk with me?"
but this is all she hears.

"I'll talk with you tomorrow night,
I'm awfully tired right now.
You know I really am concerned
but can't find time somehow."

And so she slowly climbs the stairs
her tender heart so crushed,
By all the years she's been put off,
by daddy always rushed.

Oh, Christian friend don't hesitate
to spend an hour or two,
With a child our Lord has sent your way.
It will help the both of you.

And when your days on earth shall end
you'll have no heartfelt sorrow
About the many times you said,
"I'll play, or talk to you tomorrow."

HOME LIFE

A Father's Prayer

Lord, teach me understanding
That I may know the way to my child's heart and
mind;
Give me strength,
That I may not fail him in minor tragedies or in
great crises;
Give me courage,

That I may stand firm when he is wrong, or
wayward, or heedless;
Grant me humility,
That I may acknowledge my own mistake when
he is right. —Gordon Phillips

This poem holds a vital secret to being a
successful father. If we want to have an influ-
ence on how our children turn out, we must
know how to stay close to their heart. This
entails a series of being an authoritative figure
and of being a friend. The father must build a
trust with his child so that the child can respect
him at all times. When a child is small, the
father is a hero to him, but unless the father
continually evolves with the spiritual and men-
tal growth of the child, his affections and guid-
ance will turn to others; such as friends, who
hold forth a more exciting time, and the icons of
society, who represent material goals.

Just as motherhood, fatherhood at times
requires personal loss in order to gain that
trust. I read of a boy who asked his father for the
use of the car on a Friday night to take some
friends to an event they were wanting to attend.
The boy was just 16, and only had his driver's
license for a short time, so naturally the father
hesitated, but finally agreed. The group of young
people had a great evening, until on the way
back the engine over-heated and quit, miles
from town. The boy feared he had done irrepa-
rable damage to the car. They all caught rides
home without any trouble, but the son was very
worried about his father's reaction when he
found out about the car.

To the son's relief, the father only said,
"Don't worry about it. We'll get it fixed tomor-
row." Then he laughed and recalled the first
time he'd used his father's car, a brand new
Model A. "I side swiped a pole and tore off a
fender."

The son never forgot his father's reaction. It
helped him a great deal in similar problems, in
later life, involving his own children.

If you have doubts about how to be a good
father in a particular situation, let your child
know your concern and then apply the fruits of
the spirit as found in Gal. 5:22-23, for it says,
"...against such there is no law." If the child has
been cultivated up to this point to have a tender
heart, the fruits of the Spirit will have a guiding
force in him.

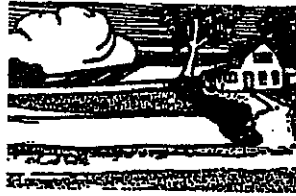
As we think of and honor fathers, our atten-
tion turns to our Heavenly Father who is a tower
of strength and encouraging love. If we can
come before Him, as a humble child in need of
help, when we face uncertain problems with our
children, He will give us the strength and wis-
dom to be to our children what He is to us.

June, 1994



Following Father Home

by John Talman



Years ago, when I
 Was just a little lad,
 An' after school hours used to work
 Around the farm with Dad,
 I used to be so wearied out
 When eventide was come,
 That I got kind of anxious-like
 About the journey home;
 But Dad, he used to lead the way,
 An' once in awhile turn 'round an' say,
 So cheerin' like, so tender, "Come!
 Come on, my son, you're nearly home!"
 That always used to help me some;
 An' so I followed Father home.

I'm old an' gray an' feeble now,
 An' trembly at the knee,
 But life seems just the same today
 As then it seemed to me.
 For while I am still so wearied out
 When eventide is come,
 An' still get kinder anxious-like
 About the journey home,
 But still my Father leads the way,
 An' once in awhile I hear Him say,
 So cheerin' like, so tender, "Come!
 Come on, my son, you're nearly home!"
 An' same as then, that helps me some,
 And so I'm following Father home.

A Tribute To Father *Jeanne 1966*

"Honor thy father and thy mother." Eph. 6:2.
 This was a commandment given by Moses, reinforced by Jesus in His teachings and repeated by the Apostle Paul which makes it an obligation for every person.

I am glad that I did not wait until my parents were both gone to the Glory World to honor them. It is a wonderful feeling today to know that I have no regrets. As a teen-ager, I tried to please and respect them. I didn't leave home until I was 22 years old, and then I left with their permission. I went with my father in the gospel work and helped in printing the gospel literature. I was glad that I was able to help take care of my precious mother the last two weeks or more of her life and was able to help my father in the gospel work by his side the last nine years of his life. Not all children have these privileges, but I am thankful that I did.

Children do not have instincts of obedience that naturally express themselves. They have to be taught obedience. I am glad that my parents did just that. They freely used the leather strap to make us mind. Prayer was included. We were clearly made to know that we not only disobeyed our parents, but also disobeyed the Lord at the same time. I am thankful for the strict teachings and care that I received while growing up, although at times I did not understand it all. I can look back now and see that it was good for me. I was taught what was right and what was wrong. It was a boundary line for me in life.

One time when I was a teenager with my father in the gospel work, many came to him with their problems and heartaches. Some parents came to him about their son who had taken his own life. I didn't understand at that time why so many had so many troubles. I asked my father about it, saying that I had not had troubles like that. He told me that I

had parents that had protected me from troubles by not letting me become exposed to sin to the degree that others had. I understand more now what he was talking about. I appreciate their love and care. Some parents have even sent their children out to steal, and even some let their teenagers be in positions that they lost their virtue. Today I honor my parents and thank God for them for their love and protection.

On June 19 is the day that the nation is to honor its fathers. We thank God for godly fathers. We thank God for the discipline and instruction that they give their children while they are young, and then for the example, admonition and reproof that they give them when they grow older. We appreciate the time that they take to show love and interest in their family. They work long hours, but they still show their love and care. They sacrifice very much for their family. They seem to understand many problems and know how to correct, forgive, and forget.

My father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, was consistent in having daily family worship with all of us. His life of faith and devotion to God stands as a monument to me of real devotion to a real, living God. When I was a child and would get sick, I called for him to pray for me. God heard and answered prayer. God was real to me then and is today. My father did not leave me any inheritance in this world's goods, not even one dollar, but he left me the greatest inheritance that could be received and that was an example of faith in God that has caused me to have strong faith in God today. I miss him greatly today, but feel it is very selfish to want him to come back. Today he is basking in the sunshine of Glory and is resting from all of the burdens of this life. I expect to meet my parents some day over there.

—Mrs. A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles

The Heart of the Fathers

June 2005 By Sis. Marilyn Cole

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:6.

Our nation is experiencing many social ills in the twenty-first century that have germinated in the confusion about how fathers are to wisely nurture their children. Current trends include fathers who totally deny their responsibility and seek to end the lives of their sons and daughters even before they draw their first breath, and fathers who are excessively indulgent to their children in a wish to buy their respect. There are dads who are physically present but not involved in the lives of their children, and fathers who dominate with a self-willed heavy hand with little regard for the developing child's needs. None of these represent the kind of Father we have in heaven. A great number of our children are coming of age without ever having known the guidance they so desperately need to mature healthfully into young adults. This situation leaves both sons and daughters with gaping wounds that are too often passed on to their own children. God is good to us, however, and He has promised to be a Father to the fatherless.

We have the most wonderful heavenly Father that can be imagined, but children who have had an unfulfilled relationship with their earthly fathers have difficulty believing just how deeply God really cares for each of us. He gave us a beautiful example in His own love to us. If you are presently a father or may be one someday, please take time to examine and study the effects of your actions, as they will surely impact your children. God has placed great responsibility in your hands, and surely one day you will be accountable for your efforts or lack thereof in filling the needs of your children as God has designed.

A wise father leads his family in the paths of righteousness. The love he gives his children reflects the love that the Father bestowed on us while we were helpless and undeserving. So the young child is not able to earn or deserve the

earthly father's love, but it is given because man was created in the image of the loving Father, God. The child belongs to him, it carries the father's name and is loved because he was engendered or created by the father. Mothers may do much to nurture their child but the father is the giver of life. Just as our heavenly Father guards and guides us and loves us with a love that would rightfully be returned, so the earthly father must be involved in demonstrating his love and involvement with his children. Each of us longs to be held close and cradled in the strong secure embrace of his father as a small child and still, on occasion, as an older youth. Just as we cherish the times when God draws us near and assures us that we are His and He cares what happens to us, so a child longs to hear those words from his natural parent.

God meets the needs of His children. He created this amazing earth and generously furnished it with so many good things before He created the first man and woman. The garden supplied them generously with healthful food, shelter and companionship, and still further He delighted in coming to talk with them in the cool of the evening. He wanted them to realize their higher nature and placed Adam in a position of responsibility over the lower creations to cultivate strength and wisdom as he executed God's plan for the garden. A wise father will do all he can to provide these same things for his sons and daughters. A comfortable home need not be lavish but will meet the physical and emotional needs of the family as they grow and develop. There must be time and room given for play and work. Friends and siblings, with thoughtful parental guidance, give the child experience in relationships and getting along in the world while he learns to appreciate his own strengths as well as those of others around him. As the child matures, he must learn to carry increased responsibilities so that he becomes acquainted with the skills and disciplines he will need to equip him to guide a home of his own or to

Fathers

engage in pursuits in the adult world. As children move into teen years, they must be guided in learning to set goals, earn money for some of their wishes or needs, and learn to willingly carry a portion of the duties of the home. They learn to respect themselves for their own contribution and learn that their place in the home and family requires that they share in the work and responsibility.

Consistent, wise and firm discipline is a critical part of fatherhood. Developing an obedient and cooperative attitude in a child and supporting respect for the mother, begins with the loving relationship but is further shaped and molded by the regular oversight of a father who has his finger on the heartbeat of his developing family. Mothers surely have much responsibility and need to guide the home and cultivate productive attitudes in their children. But consider the words of Christ when He deferred judgment to the Father when He spoke of the day of judgment in which God would meet out judgment according to words He had spoken at the command of the Father. Fathers, your children must know that you have standards, reasonable expectations that they must strive to meet and that you are both willing to demonstrate those behaviors and expect and require that they follow your example. Both sons and daughters will benefit by the team effort shown by both parents working to bring about behaviors that create a home with respect, love, peace and a reasonable degree of organization that will include all members contributing to the whole. Mothers are on the scene most often perhaps, but the role of leadership of the father is critical to patterning God's discipline for us. We are assured that we know we are His children in part because He cares for us enough to take the time to guide us, shape us and improve us by means of His instruction and discipline. In the Bible, we read that Eli, one of God's chosen men, failed to discipline his grown sons and for this his lineage was ended. This disrespect did not begin only when the sons were adults but was surely present when his sons were about his knees. Perhaps Solomon's greatest downfall was a result of David's lack of guidance in an area that had been a weakness for his father as well. These stories and many others are preserved for our benefit, that we

might learn from the mistakes of others and avoid them for our own children.

A recent well-known magazine published an article that stated that fathers are the rule breakers of the home. Though good fathers are willing to experience fun and good times, it would be unwise to think this statement true. Granted, there may be times when the regular routine is varied, when a mistake is overlooked, when a special occasion merits an exception to the normal household order. But just as God is the one who delineated good and evil, who has promised judgment for doers of wrong, so fathers must support the spirit of the law of the home. Right and good must be upheld. The wise father may enjoy pleasurable times with his family without allowing compromise of respect for individuals and goodness to enter into the fun. Strong relationships of respect and love are forged when fathers take time to play and relax with their children. When a father can laugh and enjoy his children's giggles, when he can engage in conversation, a game or give a hug to his teenagers, they feel safe and secure. Children who see their father relax and enjoy time with them from time to time feel that life is good and something to be treasured. Though Christ was not a father, He took time to bless the children and His father's heart went out to the widow who had lost her only son and He paused to raise him back to life. He appreciated the simplicity and beauty in the innocence of the small child and, indeed, said that we may not see heaven unless we become so ourselves.

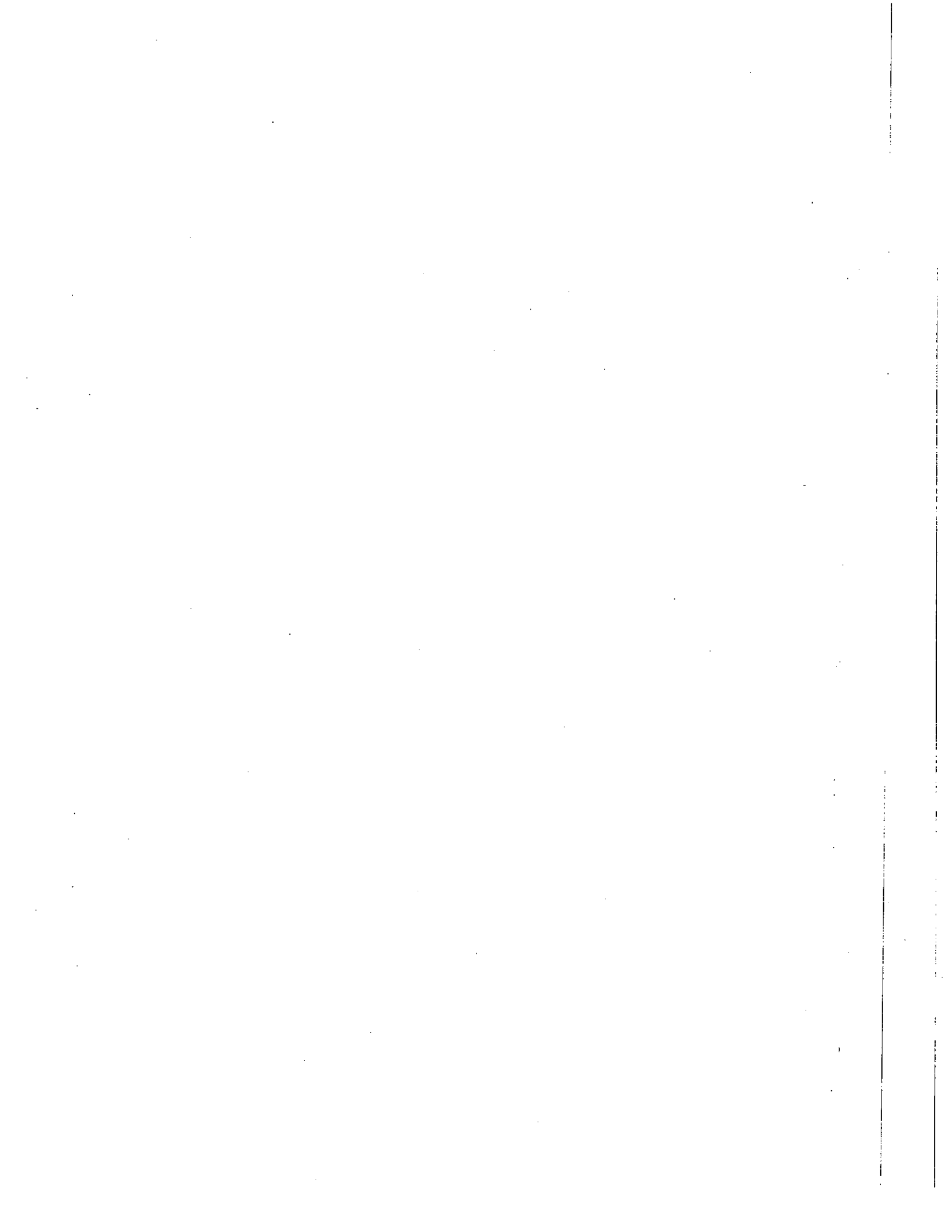
Our loving heavenly Father is no respecter of persons. Similarly, the earthly father strives to avoid partiality. Jacob grew up in a family where partiality and duplicity were present and he came to experience both in his children. God made good come in spite of these weaknesses, but much pain was felt by his sons and by Jacob himself because of this partiality. In all families, the privileges cannot always be totally even on every occasion but are accorded justly according to the need, maturation and responsibility of the child. Sons and daughters are all valued, and young and old are meted out due respect for their needs in an age appropriate equality.

A good father listens to his children. He encourages them to open their hearts to him, and he realizes that it is important for them to learn to trust him to care about the deep things of their hearts. Our heavenly Father longs to have us bring our hopes and dreams to Him and

ask His guidance in these matters. Similarly, a godly father cultivates his children's trust that they may learn to depend on his wise counsel in making choices that will determine the successes or failures they may experience in life. He demonstrates to his children his requests to his Father as he kneels and makes his needs known in prayer. And as he knows that his Father would not give him a stone if he requested bread, so he earns the trust of his sons and daughters that he has their best interests at heart and will provide for their real needs as best as he is able.

A great many more comparisons could be made between our heavenly Father and the role of natural fathers. These few items, though, will convince us that God is keenly interested in how you are carrying out this high position or how you are preparing to do so someday. The children of our nation are suffering today for lack of father love. Many of the fathers themselves, having never had a godly example, have no concept of the joy and responsibility that is possible to experience in parenting. They do know the satisfaction that can be felt to see sons and daughters growing up and raising up strong homes of their own.

God has a special place in His heart for the fatherless. His Word mentions in several places that His people share this tenderness and provide for the needs of those who are in that situation in life. It was a part of His reason for coming to earth that the heart of the fathers should be turned toward their children and that those children would grow up strong, secure and with a foreshadowing of the love of their heavenly Father from their relationship with their natural father. This is a great calling—a very great calling, indeed. Most men will be fathers in the simple physical, but what kind? How will their children face life as a result of their training. Our nation is crippled today for lack of men who have sought out God's guidance in their relationships with their children. God's Word and Spirit will guide those who seek His wisdom in this great calling of life. It is more important than your job, more than anything else you will do other than choosing to serve Him. It is your job to build the future men and women of God's families. Take time out to study His Word and dig out the truths that have been preserved for us as you guide your family. You are responsible to God for your care of these children, His little ones. You are called out for this high purpose. You are made in the image of God, our own heavenly, loving Father.



Mother

You painted no Madonnas
On chapel walls in Rome,
But with a touch diviner
You lived one in your home.

You wrote no lofty poems
That critics counted art,
But with a nobler vision
You lived them in your heart.

You carved no shapeless marble
To some high soul design,
But with a finer sculpture
You shaped this soul of mine.

You built no great cathedrals
That centuries applaud,
But with a grace exquisite
Your life cathedraled God.

Had I the gift of Raphael
Or Michelangelo,
Oh, what a rare Madonna
My mother's life would show.

—Thomas W. Fessenden



Mother

A Message To Mothers

November, 1945

How many mothers of today are reading ~~the~~ Bibles, praying, and living the life of Jesus? ~~The~~ way of Jesus is a strait and narrow one which ~~leads~~ ~~unto~~ life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth ~~and~~ the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by ~~me~~."

Mothers, today we really need Jesus. If we ~~fail~~ to do our duty in rearing our children, we have ~~failed~~ to do the will of God. My soul is stirred for ~~the~~ young people of today. So many are going astray and many mothers are to blame. Mothers, can you face the judgment with your children crying and pointing their fingers at you, saying, "Mother, if you had taught me better I would not be in this burning hell today"? Oh, how awful to hear those words—and many mothers shall hear them.

I am a young mother twenty-four years old and was brought up in a Christian home and taught to fear God. I was never allowed to wear the ungodly things that so many are wearing today. God help us to bring our little ones up in the fear of God. If we keep ourselves unspotted from the world and yet not bring our children up in the order of the Lord, we have failed there to be measured to the Bible standard. Prov. 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." He ~~may~~ go out in sin, but the truth ~~will~~ always stay with him. Parents should teach their children the holy Scriptures and the way which leadeth unto life. Let not your children's blood be

MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 13

required at your hands, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This is hard to do in this day and time, for only a few will do it and it makes it harder for those who do try, because children stumble and look at other saints' children who are not measured up.

Much is said about how we should dress, but ~~little~~ mention is made of some ungodly clothing for ~~children~~ children: namely, sunsuits, shorts, slacks (for girls) ~~and~~ bathing suits. These are for unbelievers, and ~~yet~~ they have crept among the saints' children. ~~See~~ mothers, what is the world thinking about you? ~~Have~~ we Bible for these things? Yes. 1 Tim. 2:9 instructs women to adorn themselves in modest apparel ~~with~~ shamefacedness and sobriety. Can you put ~~these~~ things on your girls and say you are shamefaced and have dressed them in modest apparel? No, you could not. Children are looked upon with evil eyes ~~when~~

"one  under God,"

they are clothed immodestly. Many young unmarried girls are becoming mothers, and immodest dress is largely to blame. Boys and girls are turned loose in ungodly and scant clothing out in the public, and lustful eyes are upon them. Disgrace and shame awaits them.

Oh, how sad to see so many young people going down the broad road and their parents are thinking they have done their duty. Christian mothers, do you want to go to the swimming pools and creeks, ball games, etc. and behold the evils there? No, for we are instructed to abhor that which is evil. Then why do you permit your children to dress and act like the people do whom you would see at such places? "Abstain from all the appearance of evil."

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord thy God." Deut. 22:5.

When mothers let their little children dress in the shameful, vulgar styles of these modern times, they will continue to dress in the same manner as they grow older because they do not know the harm.

If modesty and decency continue on the decline, what will the results be in a few years from now? God pity our little ones who are growing up today!

May God bless the mothers who are trying to bring their children up in the Bible way, and thank God for the few.

—A mother

—oOo—

November, 1995



A Woman's Routine

By Connie Sorrell

Remember the story of the Little Red Hen? Remember how that industrious little hen decided to plant some kernels of wheat? The task looked so big to her that she felt she needed help. She asked a duck, a pig, and a cat to help her with the planting but each one gave an excuse. So she planted the wheat herself. She needed help to hoe the wheat, water the wheat and reap the wheat, but each time she asked her three friends they offered an excuse. After every round of excuses she would say, "Then I will do it myself." And she did.

That little red hen rushed around in circles attending her wheat. Finally, she was successful in producing a nice loaf of crusty bread. Then the quacky duck, lazy pig, and sly cat wanted to help her eat the good-smelling bread. She told them they couldn't have a bite because they had not helped her with any of the work. "I will eat it myself," she said. And she did.

Now when I was a little girl, I thought that little red hen didn't act very Christ-like at the end. After all, my mother taught me to share with others. When I grew older I could see the work ethic that was illustrated.

Anyway, I always felt sorry for that lonesome little hen. She worked so hard, so faithfully. It seemed that she deserved a considerate friend, someone to lighten her load or even a smile of encouragement. But the little red hen didn't have a pity party—she kept busy.

I believe every woman has times in her life when she can relate to that little red hen. The hours flutter by and we fly with them. There is always one more meal to plan, one more load of laundry, one more mess to clean, a list of groceries to buy, children to supervise, more errands to run and another bill to pay. Soon a woman finds herself struggling for breath. Emotionally, she calls for support: "Help! I'm having a stress attack!" If no encouragement comes along, she toughens up inside. "I will make it myself!"

Usually some trials come with the daily routine. The roof has a leak, the dog chases the mailman so that now the mail won't be delivered, the mousetraps aren't catching the mice fast enough, some of the children come down sick and the washer won't spin out anymore. Now a Christian woman thinks to pray. (The little red hen forgot to do that.) "Help, Lord, I have some real needs!"

Sometimes the answer comes via a Mr. Fix-It man. Often these problems take money and a lot of patience. This is when a woman needs another woman. Shared grievances are one-half less heavy to bear.

Just when we think all the problems of our lifetime are solvable, a really ugly trial can raise its head. A loved one becomes terminally ill, a sudden death changes our life, a child goes wayward into sin, financial disasters come our way, a flood or fire destroys our house, misunderstandings and pain may sever friendships. In a normal life span, we are sure to encounter some trouble that will send us to our knees in need of help.

Then a woman wears her SOS look. Her eyes are sad, her step is heavy, and her shoulders sag. She doesn't want to make it herself—she wants to die—something the little red hen didn't even think about. She needs a soft shoulder to cry on, a firm arm to lean on and an encouraging

pat on the back. Even the Holy Spirit maketh intercession for her with groanings that can not be uttered. (Rom. 8:26.)

The Lord is faithful to assure her but often He asks another woman or a group of women to lift her load and encourage her. (Gal. 6:2.) If every woman is so busy with her own daily routine, grievances and burdens that she does not see the need in a sister's life, who will have the soft shoulder and the extended firm arm?

Suppose a friendly neighbor had knocked on the kitchen door right when the little red hen was kneading her bread dough.

"Oh, come in, friend," she might say. "I was just making some bread."

"I wish I could make bread," would sigh the tired neighbor. "My hands stiffen so with arthritis that I cannot work the bread anymore."

Should the little red hen share her bread? Would she be too busy to see that her neighbor also needs encouragement? Let us learn to be sensitive to the needs of other women. A smile, a word of encouragement, or a slice of freshly baked bread can lift up another until she is able to fly again.

We need each other. Friendships and women support groups are very important in these stressful times. To those who feel alone, find a dependable friend to pray and confide in. Not one of us is a superwoman who can do it all "by myself." If you try to be, you will probably burn your bread.



A Prayer For Mothers

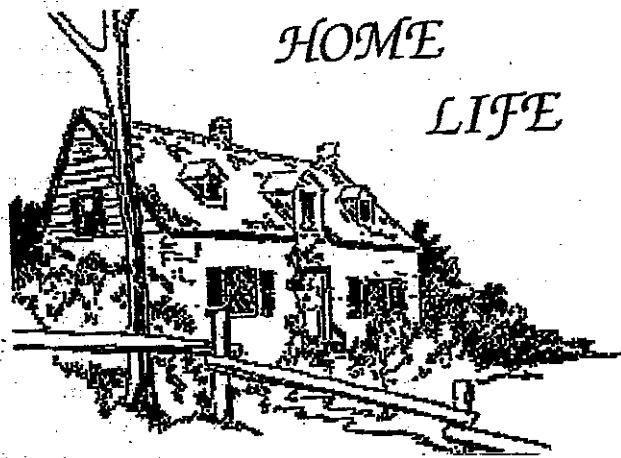
By Helen K. Oswald

We thank Thee Lord, for Godly mothers,
For their prayers, their faith and love;
Patiently they toil for others,
Oh, give them, Lord, a home above.

Grant Lord, a crown of glory,
Filled with stars of loved ones saved;
Long and hard has been their journey;
For us their daily strength they gave.

Oh blessed Lord, bless our dear mothers,
Answer all their earnest prayers;
We search the world; we find no other,
With such forgiving love as theirs.

Oh son and daughter, honor your mother,
Give her your daily love and care;
Sister and brother, you have only one mother;
Breathe for her your daily prayer.



The Heart of a Mother

By Sis. Rosie Gellenbeck May, 2002

God knows the value of a soul, so He has prepared a special plan to bring it into this world. He has placed a portion of Himself in each child and some day it will come back to Him. This child is endowed with a will to choose and a void that will never be satisfied until it is united with Him again. God has planned this life to be shaped by the love of a mother.

He has created the heart of a mother with a great sense of compassion, gentleness, beauty and a great capacity to love. Then He nestled this eternal soul near that heart to grow; to be nurtured by the unconscious and conscious giving of herself. She pays a great price. It is no wonder that a mother's love is said to be the greatest love. Even Christ said the greatest love is that a man lay down his life for others.

Ideally, while the father gives of himself in financial support for the care and rearing of a child, the mother carries the child and need not worry that her needs will be supplied.

It is beautiful to see a young couple work together in preparing their home for the coming of a little one. This home is a little nest to protect the babe from the elements and evils of the world. The room is cleaned and maybe painted. Much care is taken that nothing harmful be present and that the babe be comfortable.

Anticipation builds and final preparations are made for the day of birth. When that day comes there is only one focus—birth! Normal duties stop; all else seems trivial. The mother is in travail. All are anxiously waiting and praying but the birth waits on the strength of the mother.

Mother

The child is born! The call goes out for all to rejoice. A new member has been added to the family. The mother sees the child and it is placed in her arms.

Likewise, God cares greatly for the souls that are born into His kingdom, therefore He places them under the care of the spiritual mother (the Church). (Galatians 4:26.) He has made provision for the needs of the mother. Our Father is omnipotent and He has promised to "...freely give us all things." Romans 8:32. Having provided everything we need, His part is complete. He has gone away, but the Comforter has been left us to supply our needs as a mother. Our sufficiency is of God.

Before God blesses souls with spiritual birth, they must be carried close to the heart of the spiritual mother (the saved body). Love for them must be demonstrated by giving of ourselves. We must go out of our way to be a friend. Our love for souls will increase as we give ourselves for the cause of their salvation. Have faith they will be saved. Plan for their birth! When the burden comes, stop and travail in prayer.

The enemy is not willing to release his hold on any soul. This is why the travail of the mother must take place. When Zion travailed she brought forth children. (Isaiah 66:8.) On the day of Pentecost about 3,000 souls were saved. If we notice, before this the church was assembled together praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit. They had not gone back to their jobs or their homes. Their regular routine of living had stopped. Isn't this what must take place before birth?

The disciples could not cast the devil out of a man. Jesus told them that it takes fasting and prayer. Again, travail must come before birth. We must take time out to travail in prayer as God lays a soul upon our heart. These are the pains of birth. God knows the hour of birth. Let us work together by the prompting of His Spirit to see the birth come forth.

The true spirit of travail comes when we are willing to sacrifice as Christ did for us. Paul said, "For I could wish that myself were

accursed...for my kinsmen." Romans 9:3. He labored much for the souls God had placed in His care. Paul also said, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Galatians 4:19. The birth of a spiritual babe is as much a miracle as a physical birth. A soul is transformed from darkness to light. Oh, what joy!

The angels in heaven likewise rejoice. "I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10. If the angels rejoice, so should we. Even if one repents in the privacy of his home, the news must be shared. The mother wants to hear the cry. Samuel Morris, who had a heart to serve God, was led to a group of missionaries who had been travelling in prayer for the souls of those in the jungles of Africa.

Every soul needs a mother's care.

A baby is totally dependent on its mother. It must be fed and nurtured. A baby can be fed mechanically but without nurturing; it will still die. The bonding process is vital to the emotional well-being of a child. It is so beautiful to see a new mother tenderly comfort her child. There might be many more experienced mothers in the room, but that baby knows

the one who carried and travailed in birth for it.

Oh, to have that kind of relationship with newborn souls! All who have grown in the Lord have had someone who believed in them and nurtured them on their way. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15.

God wants this kind of care in the mother (the Church) so He can give new babes into the family. If there is no love and no one to feed and care for a newborn soul, it falls into great discouragement, hopelessness and doom.

A spiritual home must also be established to protect the new babe. This is where the brethren are in unity and where the Father is worshipped in spirit and in truth. The apostle Paul wrote in Eph. 2:20-22 that the house of



God is "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

The unity of the brethren makes up the building for the spirit of God to dwell in. It does not require many. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

This habitation or home must be ready so the newborn babe can have a safe home in

which to grow and where it is protected from the spirits of the world. When the home is established, we can look forward to bringing children into it.

Let us be responsible for the souls God has placed around us. If they are not saved, let us travail in prayer for them, and accept them into our lives and our families. This is part of God's plan as described in Psalm 68:6, "God setteth the solitary in families:..." As they are saved, don't forget them; make them a part of the spiritual family. God's plan for the Church is to bear children. The Church cannot be holy if she does not do her job as a mother.

Two Mothers

Sept. 1997

Long, long ago, so I have been told,
Two saints once met on the streets paved with gold.
"By the stars in your crown," said the one to the other,
"I see that on earth, you too were a mother;
And by the blue-tinted halo you wear,
You too have known sorrow and deepest despair."
"Ah yes," came the answer, "I once had a son,
A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun."

"But tell of your child—" "Oh, I knew I was blest
From the moment I first held him close to my breast;
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day."
"Ah yes," sighed the other, "I felt the same way."
The former continued, "The first steps he took—
So eager and breathless; the sweet, startled look
Which came over his face—he trusted me so—"
"Yes," sighed the other, "how well do I know!"



"But soon he had grown to a tall handsome boy,
So stalwart and kind, and it gave me such joy
To have him just walk down the street by my side."
"Ah yes," said the other, "I felt the same pride.
How often I shielded and spared him from pain;
And when he, for others, was cruelly slain,
When they crucified him and they spat in his face,
How gladly would I have hung there in His place!"

A moment of silence—"Oh, then you are she,
The mother of Christ?" and she fell on one knee.
But Mary raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the woman, a tear.
"Tell me the name of your son you loved so,
That I may share with you your grief and your woe."
She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other,
"He was Judas Iscariot! I am his mother!"

—Author Unknown

Mother



(These notes were found in my wife's Bible. She intended to teach these things at camp meeting, but the Lord took her home. These teachings are so needed. I hope they will be a blessing to all who are bringing up their children.—Bro. Mart Samons.)

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Prov. 31:10. The virtuous woman cannot be lazy and please the Lord. She must keep the house and make it a home.

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband. (Prov. 12:4). Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the Land. (Prov. 31:23). The woman is the glory of the man. (I Cor. 11:7). She is someone he is proud of, honors and admires. She is someone to help her husband manage his income, to make it go farther. She is not always wanting something, but encourages her husband when he is down.

The virtuous woman is a good mother to her children. It is the mother who is with the children more than the father, consequently much of the responsibility of training them lies with her. Children will do just what you do; so much of the way you train your children is by example. If you want them to keep their room clean, keep yours clean. If they see you don't care how the house looks, they won't care either.

You should not allow your children to go to other people's homes and tear things up. But if you allow them to do it at home they will not know any better away from home. Your children are going to act away from home just like you allow them to act at home. A child left to itself will bring its mother to shame. (Prov. 29:15).

If you want others to love your children, and want them to visit other children, you must train them to behave at home. It is easier on the flesh to just let your children raise themselves, but when they get older, that's when the trouble starts. Then they tramp on your heart. When your children misbehave, people will not look just at the child,

they will look at the mother for not training them.

A lot of children do things just to get attention. Are you giving your children the love and attention they need? When your children are grown and gone from home you will have plenty of time then to do the things you want to do. But right now your children are your duty.

When you have children in school you need to make sure your child is clean and neat. Don't send them to school looking like they just got out of bed. Give your children a good breakfast. If you neglect to properly feed your children they become irritable. You know how you feel when you don't take time to eat right.

Always have prayer with your children, or see that they say their prayers.

—Sis. Verna Samons

HOME LIFE

ABIGAIL *March 1984*

There is a story in the Bible about a wise woman named Abigail. (1 Sam. 25) Let me briefly relate this story.

King Saul was still in pursuit of David, so David and his men were in the wilderness at this time. Nabal, a very wealthy man, was in a nearby town (Carmel) shearing his three thousand sheep. David sent ten young men to go unto Nabal and ask for some of his wool, food, or whatever he wanted to send because David and his men had been good to Nabal. They had never stolen from his flock; instead they had protected the shepherds and their flocks. Being men of war, David and his army could have plundered much from Nabal. Nabal did not feel they had done him such a great favor, and he spoke rude words to the ten young men and sent them away with nothing. This greatly angered David and he gathered 400 men with him to take vengeance on Nabal.

One of Nabal's servants told Nabal's wife, Abigail, about the messengers David sent and what they had said. This servant verified that David and his men had been good to the shepherds, but he was afraid now that David would come against them. Quickly Abigail took two hundred loaves of bread, wine, five sheep already dressed, five measures of parched corn, raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs and put them on donkeys. She and her servants with their load met David and his men at the bottom of a hill. They were on their way to destroy all that Nabal possessed. Abigail quickly fell down at David's feet and begged mercy for her husband, asking David to take the gifts she had brought instead of avenging Nabal. David listened to her and took the gifts. Then they parted in peace. Abigail went back to find her husband very drunk from a feast he had held. Ten days later,

Nabal died, as verse 38 says, "The Lord smote Nabal, that he died."

Let us dwell briefly on the personality of Nabal and Abigail. The Scripture tells us that Nabal was a "churlish" man, or a man without manners. One translation says "He was a doggish man." The name Nabal means "foolish, base or villainous." No doubt many times Abigail suffered from his hands. She was a beautiful woman with good understanding. She filled her place as a wife and did her work well to please him. Probably she was accustomed to Nabal's railings and knew how it felt to be treated evil for good. She was somewhat afraid of him because she took her gift secretly, thinking her husband would stop her before she could go. When she returned from giving the gift to David, she didn't tell her husband until the next morning after he was sober from his drunken feast. Abigail tolerated much as the wife of Nabal. Yet she quietly did her work, mending relations her husband broke, and calming the servants when they were mistreated or upset. Generally speaking, she kept the household running smoother with her pleasant, understanding ways. Later, after Nabal died, David sent for Abigail because he realized her goodness and value as a wife. No doubt her life became easier when she was the wife of the king. We have record that she bore David at least one son, Chileab. (2 Sam. 3:3)

Let us now imagine a liberated, 1984 American "Abigail" in this same situation. The servant has just told her the foolish thing her husband did in sending the men away so rudely.

"Well," she may say, "I am so tired of Nabal making such dumb mistakes! He'll have all of us killed! Get my things together, I'm going to a lawyer. I'm going to leave Nabal right now!"

At the lawyer's office she tells him of her annoyance at Nabal. The lawyer may say: "Ma'am, you do have a case against your husband! He jeopardized your life in this situation! From what you tell me, he is a wealthy man. Now what you should do is sue for a share in his business besides taking a certain part now. As for me, I only take a percentage . . ."

So on the suit would go. Society today thinks divorce is the answer to troubled marriages. Jesus said the bill of divorcement was written because of the hardness of hearts. In the beginning it was not so. (Mk. 10:2-12) God planned for a husband and wife to be a "help meet" one to another (Gen. 2:18). Even though times and customs have changed since the story of Abigail, the Lord's desire [rules and guidelines] for a husband and wife have not.

The story of Abigail is a lovely one indeed. We can see that she was a help meet to her husband, Nabal. Where her husband failed, she met the need he left empty. She was married to an unusually harsh man, but she came forth shining as a beautiful, treasured jewel. Her goodness blessed her husband, her household, and it pleased the Lord. It still pleases the Lord today.

Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 7:12-17: "If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified

by the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk."

In the Church of God, there are women "of good understanding," like Abigail, who are a genuine help meet to their companions. They have taken the counsel of Apostle Paul and walk as the Lord has called them. Christians who have a saved companion are blessed, but those who walk alone on the Christian pathway are truly a treasured jewel, noticed and loved by God. Though a loved companion be against a child of God, there is victory in the ways of God. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. It is blessed to do the will of God and know all is well with one's soul. May the Lord continue to direct each one who is walking as the Lord has called them.

—Connie Sorrell

HOME LIFE

July 1986



Mother

Doing the King's Business

"Honey, would you please type these contracts this afternoon?" Dwane asked as he walked into the living room where I was rocking the baby. I quietly nodded my head "yes" because the baby was nearly asleep. Catching my hint, Dwane patted my shoulder and went out the door to work.

Soon the baby was asleep and I laid him on his bed. Jennifer, our youngest daughter, was already asleep on her bed. She had the habit of going to sleep while I fixed lunch. The room was quiet and full of hushed sleep when BANG! the front door popped open and a very disgruntled five-year-old girl came calling for me. I met her at the bedroom doorway.

"Mama," Susan began, "Alecia had to go somewhere and Jennifer is asleep. I don't have anyone to play with." Susan's warm, troubled face touched my motherly heart.

"Okay, honey," I said, "let's wash you up and read a story. Would you like that?"

Her troubled face broke into sunshine. While

she washed up, I quickly put another load of clothes in the dryer and one more in the washer. I glanced at the dirty lunch dishes in the sink and quickly looked over the two contracts on the kitchen table.

"Mama, I'm ready," Susan called. I joined her on the couch and we shared a delightful twenty minutes together. Then Jennifer woke up and wanted her lunch. While she ate her ham and cheese sandwich I started washing dishes.

"Jennifer," Susan said, "hurry up so we can go outside!"

Jennifer wasted no time eating her sandwich. I washed her face and hands, and re-combed both girls hair before they went giggling out the door.

My mother had been sick for some time so while I did the dishes I called Mother to check on her. She told me about two more sick persons. With wet hands, I jotted down their names. We chatted a few minutes before the dryer buzzed so I told Mother good-bye.

While I was sorting clothes, Lyndall came in from school and put his lunch box down on the cabinet top.

"Hi, Mom, I'm home," he announced.

"Hi, how was school?" I answered. He wasn't listening but with a baseball, bat and glove he was already heading out the door.

I went back into the kitchen to finish the dishes and crunch! my foot stepped on a clod of dirt. That boy had forgotten to check his feet before coming through the house!

I was just putting the last dish away when the girls came in for a drink of water. While they drank their water, I swept the floor.

"Mama, the baby is crying," Jennifer said as she sat her cup on the cabinet top. I sighed. I could hear also that he was very much awake and needing attention.

With Rodney finally contented, I went to see about those contracts. Before I had time to take the typewriter cover off, four sweaty boys appeared at my patio doors.

"Can we have a drink of water?" they wanted to know. I had Lyndall manage the drinks while I gave them each a couple of chocolate chip cookies.

"Thank you, Mrs. Sorrell," full mouths mumbled as the four boys went back to their game of ball.

I shut the patio door behind them as Susan came bursting in the front door. "Mama, come quick! Rodney hurt himself on the swing!" she called. I could hear his painful cry as I rushed out the door after Susan. One of the boys had already picked him up. I cuddled him in my arms and hurried into the house. Three little

girls helped me put the handy cold pack on his nose and wash his face. Soon Rodney was calm enough so I could change his dirty clothes. As I took them to the utility room the dryer buzzed again. I sorted the clothes and put them away as the girls finished nursing Rodney.

"Mama, are we good Smarte-ans?" Susan asked remembering the parable of the good Samaritan.

I had to laugh. "Yes, you are doing like he did, aren't you?" I said. "There are some sick persons I learned about today that we can send a card to. Would you like to help Mama send them a card?"

The girls were ready to help so while I addressed the cards and envelopes, they colored pictures for the two sick ones.

"Now, I'm all done," Jennifer said contentedly.

"Let's go back out to play," Alecia suggested. Four pairs of bare feet went pattering out the door and then I looked at the clock. It was 4:45 and Dwane would soon be home for supper!

As I went by the kitchen table to start frying the chicken, I saw the two hand-written contracts still laying on the table. A wave of guilt swept over me. I had promised to type those this afternoon! Where had my afternoon gone?

"You have just wasted, wasted, WASTED, the whole afternoon," came an accusing voice.

I breathed a prayer, "Oh, dear Lord, what will I tell Dwane?" As I filled a clean skillet with grease, Scriptures came flooding into my soul. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Had I fed someone? Had I given someone a drink or clothed someone? Visited the sick? My thoughts recalled the afternoon. Who could be more "one of the least of these" than the little children I had worked with all afternoon?

"I will tell Dwane I have been doing the King's business," I thought to myself. My heart began to sing.

That night after everyone else was tucked in bed and the house was serenely quiet, I typed Dwane's two contracts. The next morning he was very pleased to see them finished. No problem had arisen from my "wasted" afternoon.

—Sister Connie Sorrell

MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 12

The Wages of Motherhood

We are living in a commercial age. Will it pay? What does it cost? Has it a future? How much capital will it take to start on? What preparation is necessary? What are the assets and the liabilities? Is it a reliable company? How about dividends? Character of employer, kind of work, length of hours in proportion to wages? All these are vital questions and to be considered in any contemplated position.

There is one vocation that is the greatest work of all, and requires the best preparation of all, its wages are steady and ample and its final rewards and future prospects are beyond words to tell. We are talking of the position of motherhood and its rich, permanent and satisfying compensations.

In this work as in no other, woman joins hand with God in a divine partnership. He is the silent partner and the great paymaster. He it is who has ordained and provided in every way for this first and greatest of all institutions—the home.

Who of us can properly estimate the value of a child? We know a little of the cost in dollars and cents. We, who are mothers, could speak of the cost in hours of suffering, sacrifice, endless toil, loss of sleep, possibly life itself, as well as the giving up of personal plans and pleasures.

But in this child-raising, character-building work—the cost in no way determines the value. The potential value is as much above the cost as the heavens are above the earth. To him who has worked and saved and invested wisely, a pile of gold is his pay. The artist's perfect production is his reward. Fame is compensation enough for the discoverer, etc., but our heritage of children, with loving hearts and brains to develop, with possibilities beyond all measurements, with souls destined to live throughout endless ages—who is able to tell of values here?

Someone has tried this way to tell what one little boy is worth. A single pearl at Tiffany's in New York is worth \$17,000. Suppose Tiffany's

would ask to have stored at your house their entire stock of diamonds and pearls? Would you not tell them they would have to send along the chief of police and armed men to guard the house? Even then the responsibility would be too great. And yet, there is a little nine-year-old boy at your house all the time.

With the millions in diamonds and pearls on the one hand and the child on the other you would quickly choose the child, but do you sense the responsibility? Do you tremble over it? Do you realize the value of that soul? It is possible, in our day, that our fine sense of the responsibility of motherhood is being lost and the present neglect of training our children is a result of not realizing their value. Have our children ever heard us say, "If it were not for the baby, I could enjoy this or that, or I could earn money and have things like other women, or I would not need to work so hard?" as if this jewel of priceless worth were a handicap or an incumbrance? Oh, I rather should think the angels in heaven would look down with envy upon us mothers, to whom are intrusted these little ones straight from the hand of God!

The mother of Moses heard the words, "Take this child and nurse him for me and I will give thee thy wages." She did a greater thing than train Moses for Pharaoh's daughter, she trained him for God. And oh, God is a great paymaster. Riches? Treasures? Yes, all that a man hath will he give for his child gladly.

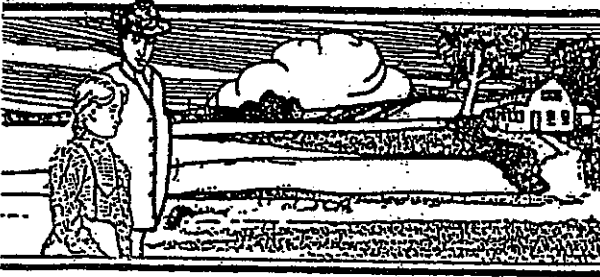
We know these children are of immeasurable worth. We know ours is but a stewardship and we must render up an account at the end of life's day. We know that the rewards for faithful service here are sure and ample. May God help us to keep a clear vision and work and study and pray that we may indeed be worthy of our wages.

What greater joy than that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace. (Ps. 144:12.)

—Evaline Green

Mother

HOME LIFE



One Sunday afternoon in autumn, I was going to visit a Sunday school, but though I was walking very quickly, a little girl came behind who seemed evidently determined to keep up with me. Without slackening my speed, I said—"Well, my girl, how far are you going?"

"I am going home, sir."

Sir! sir! thought I, some one has been at work with you, for every little girl does not say sir.

"How far have you been?" I asked.

"I have been with my father and mother to church, sir. We have had our dinner with our aunt, and Father and Mother are going to church again this afternoon, but they wished me to be at home when my little brother James and sister Elizabeth came from school."

"I suppose you attend the Sunday school?"

"Yes, sir; and as we were coming past a corn-field this morning, Mother looked at it and said she wondered that everybody did not love God for His goodness. The corn-field made me think of one of our hymns we had last Sunday."

"What was the hymn?"

"Why, it begins—

"Sing to the Lord, exalt Him high."

"And one verse says—

"He clothes the smiling fields with corn."

But Mother says she likes the last verse best."

I well knew the verse she referred to, but wishing to hear the child repeat it, said—"Well, and what is the last verse, that your mother likes?"

"But saints are lovely in His sight,
He views His children with delight;
He sees their hope, He knows their fear,
And looks and loves His image there."

That is the verse, sir. You know my mother is a saint."

"Your mother a saint, child! Why, how can you tell?"

"Well, sir, you know, my father works away from home, and only comes to us on the Saturday night. When he is at home, he reads the Bible and prays with us; but when he is away, my mother reads and prays with us. Every

night she goes with us up stairs, where we can be quiet, and we have each our own chair. Mother reads and talks to us out of the Bible that she has on a little table, and tells us what it means. Then we all kneel down, and she prays for Father, and then for me, and then for James and Elizabeth; and I always hearken what she says about me, for I feel so happy when she prays for me. Then she puts us all comfortable to bed, gives us a kiss, and says, 'God bless you, and make you good children.' Now, then, is not my mother a saint?"

"Well, my child, I think you are not far wrong, and I wish all children in the world had such mothers.

Taken from: "Strange Tales From Humble Life."

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Alma Mater

The oldest university

Was not on India's strand,
Nor in the valley of the Nile,
Nor on Arabia's sand;
From Time's beginning it has taught,
And still it teaches free,
Its learning, mild, to every child—
The school of Mother's Knee.

"The oldest school to teach the law
And teach it deeply, too,
Dividing what should not be done
From what each one should do,
Was not in Rome or Ispahan,
Nor by the Euxine Sea;
It held its way ere history's day—
The school of Mother's Knee.

The oldest seminary where
Theology was taught;
When love of God, and reverent prayer,
And the Eternal Ought
Were deep impressed on youthful hearts
In pure sincerity,
Came to the earth with Abel's birth—
The school of Mother's Knee."

The oldest—and the newest, too—
It still maintains its place
And from its classes, ever full,
It graduates the race,
Without its teaching, where would all
The best of living be?
'Twas planned by Heaven, this earth to leaven
The school of Mother's Knee.

—Priscilla Leonard

"If you would reform the world from its
vices, begin by enlisting the mothers."
—Charles Simmons

HOME LIFE



Give Your Child Security

"Mother, where are you?" Soon there was another child looking for Mother. The children had come home from school, and Mother was not in sight as they opened the door. She answered them, and they found her in the bedroom working. As soon as they saw her, they put their books down and out they went to play. Mother was there, and everything in their young lives was all right.

Parents are to give security to their children. They cannot grow normally unless they feel that they are being cared for and loved. It's a comfort and an anchor to them. Rules that are held and not compromised are a stay to children. They might not like those rules, but if they are held firmly by the parents those children have a knowledge of what they can and cannot do. They have to come up to the rules, even though they might not like them. It gives them a secure feeling. They are not set adrift without a resting place to which they can gauge their emotions or adjust their lives. Rules in a home, which are a protection to teen-agers, are often misunderstood in their immaturity, but when they grow older and look back, they are glad for those loving thoughts which caused their parents to make those stiff rules.

I read a survey taken of college students about things they missed in their early teen-age days. I never forgot what one girl said. She said that when it was barely getting dark, one mother would call her child to come in. A father would whistle for his child, and other parents would call, but she said, "No one called for me to come in. I would sit on the curb and wish that my parents loved me enough to call me to come in." How sad! Yet the ones who had to come in and were taken care of might have fussed to stay out.

"The aged women" are to "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Titus 2:3-5. These Scriptures let us know exactly what God wants us to do.

First, we notice that it says to "love their husbands," and then be "obedient to their own husbands." To be a good mother, one needs to love her husband. When the parents love one another this gives a secure feeling to the children. Then if the wife is "obedient" to her husband, that makes for smooth

running in the home. Two bosses trying to run a place never works, unless those bosses talk things over and agree before orders are given. When a man and his wife don't come to an agreement, then it's the wife's place to submit. If a man loves his wife as the Bible teaches, nourishing and cherishing her, loving her as his own body and even willing to lay down his life for her, there will not be much problem of their being in agreement. (Eph. 5:25, 28, 29.)

The Scripture says for mothers to "love their children." It means much to really love one's children. Some say that they love their babies too much to correct them. That is not real love. Yet there is a way to correct them. Be consistent—don't say they can do something one time and then the next time they can't. We want our children to be emotionally stable. Parents should start making their children mind before they are a year old. By the time children are 18 months old they should understand clearly what parents mean when they say "no," and be taught not to talk back. Many parents make the mistake of waiting until the child is too old to start his training.

There is a way to punish a child. Don't hit him on the head or knock him down. This could injure him. Using a heavy board could also injure a child internally. A keen switch, or a doubled thin strap stings, and that should be sufficient. Carefulness needs to be used not to hit so hard as to break the skin. Pray with your children when they are disobedient. You need God's help in rearing them. One good, sound whipping with a switch will be worth more than a hundred slaps. Nagging should never be employed. Always assure your child that you love him and that is the reason you are punishing him.

We notice the Scripture tells the young mothers to be "keepers at home." I appreciated my husband's never wanting me to go out to work. Some men want their wives to work outside the home. Children need their mothers at home, as it's a full time job to train a child and make home a place he will enjoy. Recently, I read that the "Census Bureau estimates at least two million children, ages seven to thirteen, are left alone each day without supervision." There are "millions of youngsters too young to go to school who are shuttled about from baby sitters to group-care homes or relatives or neighbors." In 1978, "according to U. S. Department of Labor, 60 per cent of all women with school age children were working, along with almost 44 per cent of all mothers with children under six years of age." This is alarming to me.

I believe God will work out a way for a mother to be with her children. During World War II, my husband was drafted into the army. I was left with two children, ages three and seven, with only \$100 a month—the amount the government sent from his check. This was not sufficient to live on. I lived in California, away from my relatives who could help me in any way. It was a trying time for me to face. Women were being begged to go to work at the Air Depot and other defense plants, and as men were drafted, many women did go to work at those places. I just couldn't bring myself to leave my precious boys in the care of a baby sitter, nor in a child care center. I prayed earnestly about it. God worked things out for me and made me know what to do. I decided to

Mother

stay at home and take in washings, ironings, and some sewing. Part of the time I took care of two little girls through the day. It was hard work, as I wasn't very well, but God gave me strength and I stayed home and cared for my own children. God blessed me and I had no debts and a home for my husband to come back to when he was discharged. Houses to rent were scarce and many men came back from the service with no home. God's ways are best!

Most of all teach your child, by word and example, to love Jesus and make Him his best Friend and to obey His Word.

—Sis. Marie Miles
(Written in 1979)

Home Life

"Carry Him to His Mother"

April 1995

By Ulysses Phillips



Many are no doubt familiar with the words which I have chosen for the subject of this article. They were spoken by a man of long ago when his son complained to him of pains in his head. He needed someone to comfort and care for him in this hour of pain and misery. There was one to whom he could turn to find such help and comfort as earth could afford; that was his mother. If anyone had a love and care for him, it was she. Her love was enduring; her patience was untiring; and her care was tender. Her heart beat in sympathy for her son.

It was said that when he was brought to his mother, he sat on her knee till noon. No doubt there was a prayer in her heart as she sat with anxious waiting and watching to know how the case would be with the treasure God had entrusted to her care.

There have been many mothers, and there are yet today many who are very desirous to perform their God-enjoined duty toward their children. There was the mother of Moses, a God-fearing woman. I believe she offered up many prayers in behalf of her son, and instructed him in the fear of God while she had the blessed opportunity. When he had come to manhood, he willingly chose the way of the Lord.

We read in Judges, chapter 13, verse 12, "...How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?" This question was asked by the parents of Samson, whose father was a praying man, and he wanted divine guidance concerning his son.

We remember Hannah, how she prayed for a son, and how interested she was in him in desiring that he should be in the service of God all his days; how in his childhood, she made him

a little coat from year to year, and carried it along when she went to the yearly sacrifice.

The mother of Zebedee's children desired that her two sons should be as close to Jesus as possible in His kingdom, although she may not have known for what she was asking. It was the interest she had in them that caused her to make this prayer for her sons.

Many, many others have been rewarded for their faithfulness to their sons.

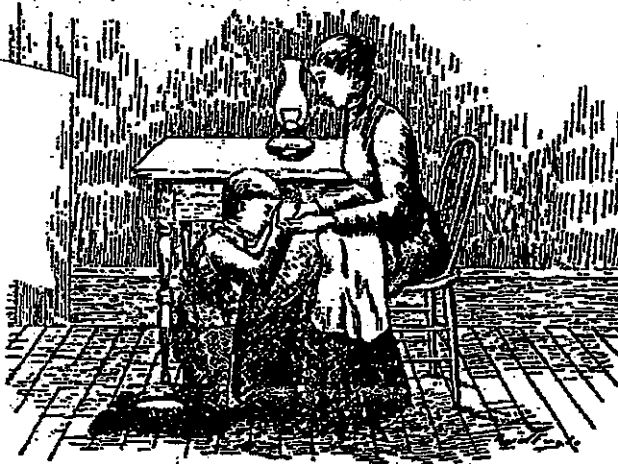
There is another side to the picture. We find in this day and time, so many mothers who seem to have no sense of the responsibility that rests upon them in regard to their children. Eph. 6:4, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." How many are failing along this line and yet claiming to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb, having no time to pray with their children nor to instruct them in the ways of the Lord. Oh yes, they are interested in the precious little jewels. They want them to have a good place in society, or in the business or political world, and want them to be praised by their fellowmen, but have sadly neglected the most important part; that is to teach them the fear of God. What a blessed thing it would be today if there were more sons and daughters in the land that had a mother and grandmother or guardian like Timothy, of whom it was said that from a child he had known the holy scriptures that were able to make him wise unto salvation, because of the faith and interest of his loving watchers. Oh mothers of today, how much effort are you putting forth to bring your children up for God? What kind of an example are you setting before them? How is it in your case: parents obey your children, or children obey your parents? Who is to blame? This life is fleeting; you will some day be taken away. Will you be satisfied to leave the dear children behind with the chart you have mapped out for them? It could be otherwise. Many mothers have looked into the face of their dying child, and what a pain in their heart if there was no evidence that he or she would be with Jesus while the ages roll on. There are many mothers in this age who ought to be with their children, or their children ought to be with their mothers who have left them in the hands of less competent ones while they are out enjoying the gaieties of life. So many children are out in the night, exposed to the vile tempter's snares, who ought to be at home under a mother's care.

April, 1995

The curfew should be sounded. Someone ought to cry out with a mighty and strong voice, "Carry him to his mother," to whom he should be taken without delay.

The lad of our subject sat upon his mother's knees until noon and then died. The mother with confidence hastened to the Lord, to the man of God for comfort. She had gone as far as she could go, but trusting her dead son into His care, her faith was still active in his behalf. She received the desire of her heart because she had done her part. Mothers, if you have done your part and death should call you or your sons away, you can trust it all in God's hands and He will say unto thee at the last, "Well done." Well done because you have taught your sons the fear of God; you have taught them to respect and revere His Word; you have prayed with them and taught them to pray. In the still hours of night when no one else knew, you carried them to God in your supplications; when you went about the duties and toils of the day, you carried them in your heart; you weeded out the words of hate and spite from their conversation. God saw all your efforts, and when the end comes, He will say, "Well done."

Home Life



A Great Woman

by
Vesta-Nadine Severs

She could have been the daughter of a prince or nobleman. She could have been quite rich, this woman of Shunem. But the unknown writer, probably a temple scribe, simply states that she was a great woman. That leaves us to

draw our own conclusions about her greatness.

Shunem was a town in Issachar. Issachar was one of the sons of Jacob and Leah. The tribe's inheritance, once the Hebrews attained the Land of Canaan, was in the northern part. There were sixteen cities with their villages according to Joshua 19:22. The tribe of Issachar was bounded on the east by Gad, on the west and south by Manasseh and the north by Zebulun. The valley of Jezreel was in Issachar.

The first virtue of this great woman that we see is how she constrained Elisha to eat bread at her house. She used a "compelling moral force" (which is the definition of constrain) to get him to stop at their house.

Elisha was on his way to Shunem, and had he come from his home on Mt. Carmel he was going east. This Shunammite's property was before Elisha reached the city limits of Shunem. The royal reception which awaited him in their house was so warm that from that day forward he always stopped at their home for refreshment and a rest before continuing his journey on foot. No doubt, it was a welcome relief for him to find a shady spot, good fresh water, warm food, and a smile. By always welcoming a stranger, the Hebrews knew they might be entertaining angels without their knowing it. It was a matter of high honor that they bestow a warm welcome to the stranger.

And so, in this manner, after a few visits, the woman told her husband, "I perceive this man to be a holy man of God." She was convinced that Elisha lived in such a way that he was deserving of any gift they might give him. So she continued, "Let us build a little chamber on the wall for his comfort. It doesn't need to be very large, just enough space for a bed, a stool and a table. We'll make it a little home away from home for him. He can come in, night or day, without bothering us, and rest and eat." Thus, her second virtue, one which is so necessary today but seems to be lacking, was discernment.

And her third virtue was that she was good at planning, organizing and executing whatever came to her hand and mind. It also showed that she was economical and with what means she had she accomplished what she planned with a minimum of fuss. The next time Elisha came, he found to his surprise, just such a place for him. He made many visits to their home and finally decided he'd like to do something in return for

Mother

their kindness and hospitality to him and his servant.

Elisha was willing to do a number of things for her. He offered to speak to the king, nearly everyone wanted a favor from the king. But she demurred. Or surely the captain of the army could provide them with some needed protection, there were still Canaanites in the country. The good woman also declined any outside help.

Her virtuous answer showed total simplicity and contentment: "I dwell among mine own people." She was not tempted with the glitter of the worldly court. She did not seek power over others through the strong arm of the soldiers. In other words, she had found her niche in life and lived there to the best of her ability. Although it might not have fit anyone else's taste, it suited her and she was comfortable where she was.

Elisha's servant, Gehazi, ferreted out a bit of information which he thought Elisha might be interested in. He learned this young woman was childless and her husband was getting up in age. In their society, it was not uncommon for the husband to be quite a bit older than his wife. Many times the men had to care for aged parents, or they wanted to "make their fortune" before acquiring a wife and family. But to be childless was not a blessing, rather almost a curse, as the parents would not have anyone to look after them when they became old and feeble. Life would become quite miserable for them.

When Elisha promised her "thou shalt embrace a son," she was hesitant to believe it possible. The appointed time came and she did embrace a son. Since he was an only child, both parents had many hopes bound in that little bundle of sunshine. As the child grew, he delighted in being with his father in the fields. During one harvest season, the boy became ill while he was in the field. The father was quite busy, so he told a servant's older child to carry him to his mother.

His mother rocked him until noon, when he died. All this time she probably feared the worst, and when it happened she had a plan of action. The child was a child of promise from the man of God and so the man of God must be told. She carried the child to the prophet's room, shut the door (which must have taken great courage) and

proceeded to tell her husband very calmly that she was going to the prophet's home.

He thought it strange she'd go at this particular time, and evidently thought their son was okay or she wouldn't be leaving. After all these years of marriage, he still did not hinder her in whatever she wanted to do. Their marriage was a good strong one, he didn't need to be overbearing nor belittling. He trusted her judgment. Besides, she assured him that all would be well.

The distance from her home to Mt. Carmel was at the least 35 miles and could have been 100 miles considering the mountains or hills which lay between Shunem and Mt. Carmel. When Elisha finally arrived at the Shunammite's home it was probably early evening, nearing the time for the evening sacrifice,

maybe even later. Here we have the first recorded resurrection. This was the last mentioned virtue of this great woman—her great faith. A faith, it seems, equal to Abraham's. His son didn't die, but it was also through an act of faith that he received him; but her son was dead for six to eight hours before resur-

**"...she had found
her niche in life
and lived there to
the best of her
ability."**

rected by Elisha.

"We act in faith, and miracles occur," one writer stated and we cannot permit miracles to become more important than our faith.

One more time we find this Shunammite woman mentioned, it is in II Kings 8:1-6. No doubt the woman's husband was deceased by this time as he is not mentioned. Elisha knew God planned to send a famine which was to last seven years. Elisha's friendship with this family ran so deep that he felt he wanted to prevent their suffering during the famine. He tells the woman to take her household and "go live wherever you can." She chose to live in the land of the Philistines. At the end of the seven years, she returned and went to court to beg the restoration of her land and property.

The king of Israel, Jehoram, was talking with Gehazi concerning all of the miracles of Elisha. As Gehazi told about the resurrected child, he noticed the woman in the king's court. She was as great as before, still wanting to live among her own people. Everything was restored to her. Her good deeds toward the man of God yielded many rewards throughout her life.

HOME LIFE



May 1985

Bouquets for Mother

The way was long and dusty; the sun shone hot. I was worn with the journey of a forenoon. The large branches of a maple tree nearby seemed to whisper a welcome for me to rest in their shade. As I lay on the cool grass under this kind old tree, a silent graveyard nearby brought a solemn stillness to my mind; and as I silently mused on the life beyond those white slabs, my thoughts were interrupted by the appearance of a sad-looking youth, bearing a basket of beautiful flowers.

I watched him. He was soon kneeling over a mound of freshly turned clay, and covering it with beautiful wreaths. An unbidden tear dropped on one of the flowers and glistened in the sun. When the flowers were well arranged, he planted a kiss on the ones near the head of the mound, and sat down on a stone a few feet away. I continued to watch him for a few minutes as he sat there silently musing. I did not need to be a mind reader to determine whose grave it was.

Soon I let my presence be known to him and inquired, "Your mother's grave; I presume?"

"Yes, sir," he replied, between sobs.

"Pretty flowers," I said.

"Yes, they are," he answered, "but what stings my heart is the fact that she had so few bouquets when she was with us; but I suppose it is better late than never."

He spoke with a tremor in his voice; and a tear was in his eye.

Too often flowers are put on Mother's grave with repentance of neglect to strew her path of life with them. Better appreciate Mother while she is with you; then you will not have that bitter recollection when she has left you. Of all earthly friends, Mother is the tenderest. That word "mother" sets our heartstrings to vibrating, when they have remained cold and unresponsive to all other appeals. In this age of conflict, when men are being applauded for their great achievements in the field of battle; in the field of science and invention; in the field of oratory; do not forget the "hand that rocks the cradle." For the great achievements that we Americans are so proud of we are indebted to American motherhood.

How many great men ascribe their success in life to the fact that they had a good mother! When Andrew Jackson was president he said, "All I am, and all I hope to be I owe to my mother." When Abraham Lincoln stood at the head of this great republic,

suffering the tortures of Civil War, with his Bible in his hand, he said, "I had a Christian mother, and her prayers have followed me until this hour."

Mother remembers when all others have forgotten. Mother listened to our childish plea when all others had grown weary; mother was awake many a night while all others were sleeping. Mother was patient when all others had forsaken us. No one's voice was so sweet to you, when a child, as mother's; no one could make the pillow seem so soft as Mother; no one could bind up a wounded finger so well as she. Let us appreciate her now, when we are grown.

If you have good manly traits now, the chances are Mother planted the good seed there when you were small. No one could tell you the story of Jesus and His great love just like Mother. No one could make it so plain, so simple, so real, to your young heart as she. With pleasure we let our minds run back to our childhood days, and fancy ourselves once more at Mother's knee, learning of Jesus. How beautiful are the words of Whittier!

"A picture memory brings to me;
I look across the years and see
Myself beside my mother's knee."

Let us love, honor, and respect Mother; for in so doing we render a service not to her alone, but to her God as well.

—J. A. Morrison

(Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, August 1917)

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

The clock ticks time on Sunday morning,
Church services will start shortly
For the Mother who does a list of things,
Preparations must start early.
Clean clothes must be layed out to wear,
With wrinkles ironed away;
Each one must have their clothes all there
To hunt will cause delay.
Breakfast is made and eaten with haste,
The dishes are left 'til later,
So that after church the mother is faced
With these and those from dinner.
Time hurries on as well as the mother;
Little faces are washed and ears cleaned.
Though her children may act it's a bother
Her grooming is highly esteemed.
She struggles with socks, then the shoes,
For little feet must wear them.
She combs small heads and tidies clothes
While youngsters fidget and squirm.
Ten minutes to go, no time to wait,
Everyone is ready but mother.
She dashed about so they won't be late
And blame tardiness on mother.
At church she may sit down a while
Until one child is ornery,
Then humbly they go down the aisle
To hide in the baby nursery.
Some may smile at the mother with young,
Some may frown at her;
But when it is all said and done,
She needs a pat on the shoulder.
Thank you, each Mother who does come,
Though you have young to attend.
God blesses what you have done,
And He'll reward you in the end.

—Connie Sorrell

Mother

A Mother's Prayer Answered

Like most boys who become great men, Hudson Taylor, the missionary to China had a good mother. She had prayed for him and asked God to make him a minister of the gospel. But when he was 15, he went to work in a bank, and grew careless about his habits and failed to pray. This brought grief to his mother and to his sister, Amelia. Amelia made up her mind that she, too, would pray for her brother.

One day his mother went away on a visit to a friend some 70 miles distant. Having nothing special to do one afternoon, she went to her room, locked the door and prayed for her boy who continued to drift away from God.

Hudson Taylor was at home and being alone, went to his father's library and began to search for something to read. He found a little tract entitled, "It is Finished." Becoming fascinated he read some of it. Hudson did not know that on that very afternoon his mother was praying for him. She prayed on for hours and then something told her that she had prayed enough and she began to sing. She was sure God had answered her prayers.

Hardly aware how it came about, Hudson found himself upon his knees, "Oh God, I thank Thee for Your great love, for Your plan which has included me. Forgive me, Lord, for my sins, for my blasphemy, for my unbelief."

Two weeks later Mrs. Taylor returned. She could hardly wait to see how her prayer was answered and Hudson could hardly wait to tell her. He had told Amelia, but had pledged her to keep it secret that he himself might tell it to his mother. He was the first to meet her at the door, but before he could say a word, her loving arms were around his neck, and as she kissed him she said, "I know, my dear boy; I have been rejoicing in the glad news you have to tell."

He was disappointed and said in surprise, "Why has Amelia broken her promise that she would tell no one?" Then his mother told him that she had not heard from Amelia or anyone else, but that God had whispered it to her heart when she had prayed for him one afternoon two weeks ago.

From that day, Hudson Taylor began to prepare himself to be a messenger of the gospel. Today, hundreds of missionaries and thousands of Chinese hearts, have been reached because of his ministry and the work he began in China.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

A Mother's Prayer



I do not ask for riches for my children,
Nor even recognition for their skill;
I only ask that Thou wilt give them
A heart completely yielded to Thy will.

I do not ask for wisdom for my children
Beyond discernment of Thy grace;
I only ask that Thou wilt use them
In Thine own appointed place.

I do not ask for favor for my children
To seat them on Thy left hand or Thy right;
But may they join the throng in heaven
That sings before Thy throne so bright.

I do not seek perfection in my children,
For then my own faults I would hide;
I only ask that we might walk together
And serve our Saviour side by side.

—Phyllis Didriksen

A Pioneer Mother

May 1974

The pioneer mothers endured many hardships in rearing their children and helping to develop the new lands in these United States. These trying experiences produced in them the wisdom, courage, determination and strength of character for which they are known.

My mother, Mary Ann Pruitt, was a pioneer woman. Married to my father, Fred Pruitt, in Kansas in the year of 1906, she went as a young bride that same year to the territory of New Mexico (not admitted to the union as a state until 1912) to make a home on 160 acres of virgin land on which my father had previously filed a claim for homestead purposes. They were required to live on and improve it for five years before they could obtain a clear title. The area was a vast plain or prairie with no trees and very little rainfall. The homestead was about forty miles northwest of Portales which was the closest railroad town where they could get supplies. Many hardships lay ahead of them. My father made a "dugout" which was four feet deep, eight feet wide and ten feet long. Over this "dugout" he built a room with the floor two feet above the ground level. In winter they lived in the "dugout" and in summer in the room above. Many times my mother told me of the hardships she underwent as they faced together the many obstacles that go with that kind of life. Later, my father wrote in his book, "God's Gracious Dealings," about those days with these words: "I can hardly keep back the tears . . . when I think of the hardships that accompanied this pioneer life, and how my young wife bravely stayed with me through it all. . . ." They suffered the loss of property, loss of crops from dry years, and had to haul every drop of water by wagon twelve or thirteen miles for themselves and the livestock to drink. Fence posts, and firewood for cooking had to be hauled 35 miles from a canyon. They also buried two infants. Those first six or seven years of their married life were mostly poverty and extreme hardships.

What was the Lord doing all this time as He looked down upon these two who did not serve Him nor know much about Him? He was preparing them in the school of hard knocks for something ahead. They heard the gospel preached, and in the year of 1915 they were both

saved. Soon after, they heard the call of God to be pioneers for God in the gospel work. My father made appointments to preach at various schoolhouses as far as thirty miles from their homestead, traveling to these appointments in a Model T Ford. The Lord called for greater service and sacrifice. In 1917, they had a farm sale, rented out the farm and moved to Clovis, New Mexico, eighteen miles away, where there was a congregation of the Church of God pastored by Brother George Harmon. From Clovis, he made some evangelistic trips to other states. Then in 1918, at the Lord's direction, he and his family moved here to Guthrie, Oklahoma, where the Lord worked it out for my father to learn the printing trade in a small shop which published only gospel literature. Later, my parents sold their homestead and other property in New Mexico, and placed the proceeds in the purchase of the family home at 924 W. Mansur and the erection of printshop buildings—first, at 611 W. Mansur, and later, in 1926, at 920 W. Mansur—for the purpose of publishing gospel literature and making it available to all people. Of course, their personal funds soon ran out, and since that time it has been essentially a work supported by faith in God. In 1923, the first edition of the "Faith and Victory" paper was printed and mailed out free of charge, and continued without a subscription price for seven years.

My mother had a family of six children—three boys and three girls. She took care of the home and helped in the office when she could. She would be writing letters, helping with the office correspondence, many times at night after she had gotten the children to bed. She also had the workers, who helped in the office, living in her home. This was an added burden, as you know, their way would not always be her way of doing things. She had the washing to do for the young brethren, had to manage the buying and do the cooking for the large group. There were many times that money was very scarce and she would try to fix meals without sufficient ingredients to make certain dishes. In those years they could afford to buy only skim milk which was used only for cereal and cooking. If we had unexpected company, Mother would call one of us aside and tell us that when the eggs were passed around for breakfast not to take any, as there wasn't enough to go around. She, of course, would always do without first before she asked us to do so. She gave her company the best she had. Our home was the usual stopping-place of the readers of the literature when they were in Guthrie. Mother would sometimes tell us to dip lightly from a dish of food so our company would have plenty.

Many times I saw tears in Mother's eyes, but, of course, I didn't understand it all. She wanted us to be happy. In later years she told us girls of how it hurt her so much because we didn't have very many nice clothes. She had to buy the cheapest material with which to make our clothes. Those were difficult days for my pioneer mother, but she had been prepared for them, and she knew how to look to the Lord for added strength and grace. Sometimes an issue of the paper would be printed and in the mail sacks, but it remained there until God supplied the money for the postage, and He never failed. My parents served the Lord in their calling to the gospel work, and His work always came first.

My mother received some inheritance money. She used it to buy a new 1927 Chevrolet car and to help build the present office building. It was our first enclosed car. For several winters previously, my father had taken pneumonia from going out in cold weather to meetings and to pray for the sick in the old Model T Ford whose loose side curtains offered little protection. Again,

my mother thought of others. The car was used in gospel work.

"Children, come on now. Let us go into the living room and have worship," mother would say, when we were with her in the kitchen. My father would be waiting for us to come. Worship time was held in our home morning and night. We sang a song or two, and my father would read from the Bible or from the Bible story book. Then we knelt in prayer. All of us took turns and prayed.

Mother took time to listen to our problems. She would advise us on many lines, and taught us solid Christian principles. She also used the leather strap to remind us that we needed to obey her. She truly was a good mother.

Many times mother was called to pray for others who were sick. God honored her prayers and healed them. When we were sick, our mother and father prayed for us, and God healed us. They never thought of calling the doctor or giving medicine, but trusted fully in God. As long as I was at home, I never remember my mother bringing a meal to my bed. They would pray for us, and then we would get up and go to the table if we wanted to eat.

My parents did not leave me one penny of inheritance, but the life for God that they lived is worth more to me than millions of dollars. I thank God for my pioneer mother and father. —Sister A. Marie Miles

(My brother, Lawrence, added some extra lines of information at different places in my article. —Marie)

A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

Thank you, dear Lord, for my dear, precious mother,
I never would want nor have need of another;
No one could ever for me take her place
With encouraging words and a sweet, smiling face.

I know she will soon from this life pass away
To heavenly portals, where angels await.
How fortunate that heaven so often might be
A haven of rest, where saints are set free.

To others her life may seem somewhat drab:
Just cleaning, and cooking, and cheering the sad.
But, oh, how our country is lacking of such,
For an example to follow—a motherly touch.

Our country is heading for chaos and ruin,
Americans must pay for the damage they've done.
The women around us can call themselves mothers
While proudly they walk without proper covers.

The number one problem that we have today
Is the mothers that lead our country astray.
They care not for honor, or future, or others,
How sad to behold all this land's fallen mothers!

These things lie so heavy and sad on my heart
To see as our children are ready to start
On life's long, dark road to the things that we've had:
Too late, oh, too late, for these things are too bad.

Yet gleams there a ray of ebullient light
Now flowing as ever, as on that first night:
The great Church of God, how beautiful it stands
Amidst darkest hours in troublesome lands.

So, as I now finish my brief commentary
To Mother for burdens she daily must carry,
I hope these small words can pay back for the years
She guided and taught us through sunshine and tears.

—T. Melot

Mother



A Tribute To Mother



My mother in the flesh was also a Mother in Israel. She had a large family and brought us up around a family altar where we were taught to give respect and attention to the reading of the Word of God and prayer. Many evenings were spent in singing hymns. She loved the Lord and gave reverence to Him. She carried a burden for her children's never-dying souls. How well I remember when I had been away from home for some time I wondered if Mother still tarried in prayer each morning before coming down for breakfast. I found her faithful at her post of duty.

Obedience was faithfully taught us. Maybe we didn't always understand, but she told us to trust her judgment as she must answer to God for us. I appreciate her teaching me how to work and take on responsibility; to sew, keep a clean house, and prepare meals. She taught us to be saving with food. Jesus told His disciples in John 6:12 to "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Cleanliness was taught. Our bodies and clothes were to be clean as well as dishes washed, floors swept and mopped and windows washed. There was tidiness in the house and yard.

Mother taught us carefulness in how we handled the dishes and school books. We didn't have toys, but did have a few things for our enjoyment. They were handled with care. Over the years these things have proved a blessing to me. We read in Luke 16:11, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"

She was firm but loving. One day I came home from school crying because I was to get a lower grade because we couldn't take part in some school activities. My mother's tender heart

was touched. She couldn't read, but she had enough Scripture in her heart to console us when needed. She told me not to marvel if the world would hate us for obeying and loving the Lord. Many times that has been a memorial to me to bear the yoke in our youth.

Mother would tell us children, "If you claim to be a Christian, be sure you live like Christ. If you don't, don't claim to be a Christian." She also told us, "You can join all the churches in the world, but if you are not saved from sin and living a holy life, you'll never make it to heaven." She advised us to never deny Christ as He is our only hope of heaven. Many more remembrances I could relate. All of her teachings brought me to Christ.

I think about the Church being our Mother and how needful it is for the Church to teach her little babes the way of righteousness. When a newborn was added to our family, we were happy to welcome it and to love, cuddle and nurture it. We in the Church of God are happy for every one who will yield their life to Christ and become a newborn baby. Lord help us to know how to care for them so that they will be good, strong, healthy children of God—a light to the world.

Lovingly in Christ, —Sis. Inez Beisly

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mother's Day

May 13

It has often been said that "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Now let us take a look at this thought found in Proverbs 31:10-12. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

I especially would like to call your attention to verse 30. "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Here we have a perfect description of a good wife and wonderful mother, and surely God knows we need them in this present world!

Now God has ordained that one husband should have one wife, and that the two of them joined together in holy matrimony should then be one! (Matt. 19:5). Then the natural fruit of marriage is God-given, heaven-sent, pure and innocent children. With this comes responsibility, and especially is this true of mothers. They have a great task of teaching baby lips to pray, baby minds to memorize God's Word and

baby hearts to obey—continuing with line upon line and precept upon precept, instilling habits of noble living in junior boys and girls—followed up by ever keeping before our youths and maidens standards of truth, honor and virtue!

Who of us can properly estimate the value of a child? Our heritage of children with loving hearts and minds to develop, with possibilities beyond all measurement with souls destined to live throughout endless ages. Who is able to tell of values here?

Now in comparison with the millions in diamonds and pearls on the one hand and the child on the other, you would quickly choose the child, but do you sense the responsibility? Do you tremble over it? Do you realize the value of that soul? Is it possible, in our day, that our sense of responsibility of motherhood is being lost or exchanged for a few dollars earned on a job while our children are left without due care and teaching?

Now if our work was upon clay or marble, the vessel marred in the making could be discarded and another made. If a boy were just a capacity to be filled or machine to grind out dollars, our course of action would be clear. If a girl were just a beautiful figure upon which to display dainty garments, the path would be easy, but a life is for eternity.

The mother of Moses heard the words: "Take this child and nurse him for me and I will give thee thy wages." She did a greater thing than train Moses for Pharaoh's daughter. She trained him for God.

The mother of John Newton, the hymn writer, prayed for him, and it must have been before he was seven years of age, for he lost her by death at that early period of life. But he himself tells that he never forgot those prayers. He grew up to be a wicked man; a blasphemer and a "man stealer"—a kidnapper of slaves from Africa. In a terrible storm at sea, when every man was required to work the ship, he was missed from deck. A sailor was sent below to find him, and he found him on his knees, and heard him say, "O thou God of my dead mother, have mercy on my soul!" And God did show mercy.

Says Mr. Spurgeon, "I cannot tell how much I owe to the solemn words and prayers of my good mother. It was the custom on Sunday evenings while we were children for her to stay at home with us. We sat around the table and read verse by verse, while she explained the Scripture to us. After that was done then came the time of pleading with God. And some of the words of our mother's prayers we shall never forget, even when our heads are gray. I remem-

ber her once praying thus: 'Now Lord, if my children go on in sin, it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear a swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold of Jesus Christ.'"

Before It Is Too Late

"If you've a gray-haired mother
In the old home far away,
Sit down and write the letter
You've put off day by day,
Don't wait until her tired steps
Reach heaven's pearly gate,
But show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.

"The tender words unspoken,
The letters never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent—
For those some hearts are breaking,
For those some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late."

—Taken from *The Mission Trail Broadcast*,
1965, by Willie Murphey

Family Beatitudes

BLESSED is the family that
honoreth the Lord:
That loves to worship side by side
with hearts of one accord.
BLESSED are the parents who will
ever lead the Way,
And bring their children to His House
upon the Sabbath day.

BLESSED is the family that
taketh great delight,
In making of their home more than
a shelter for the night. . .

BLESSED is the family whose
circle is complete;
That find in one another
a companionship so sweet.

BLESSED is the family that
bears a common load;
Rejoice and prays together as
they travel on life's road.

BLESSED is the family where
peace and joy abound;
And where distrust and greediness
are never found.

BLESSED is the family that
maketh God their choice;
In whatever plans they draw will
listen for His voice;
So that finally, when they God's will
on earth have done;
They, with God and angels,
in Heaven will have a Home.

—Selected

Mother

Somebody's Mother

May 1985

The woman was old, and ragged, and gray,
And bent with the chill of the winter's day;
The street was wet with a recent snow,
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing and waited long
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng
Of human beings—who passed her by,
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of school let out,
Came the boys, like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.
Past the woman so old and gray
Hastened the children on their way,
Nor offered a helping hand to her,
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir
Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last one came of the merry troop,
The gayest laddie of all the group,
He paused beside her, and whispered low,
"I'll help you across, if you wish to go."
Her aged hands on his strong young arm
She placed, and so without hurt or harm
He guided her trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong;
Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she's old and poor and slow;
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,
If ever so poor, and old, and gray,
When her own dear boy is far away."
And "somebody's mother" bowed her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said
Was—"God be kind to the noble boy
Who is somebody's son, and pride, and joy."

-Selected

Evening and Morning

It was late in the evening and I was exhausted. Yet there was work for me as a mother and wife to finish before I joined the rest of the family in sweet slumber land.

"Oh, Lord," I prayed aloud to myself, "I need some physical strength and some soul strength from you. Please give me a promise to help me make it through!"

There were supper dishes to wash, green beans to can and laundry to sort, but I had to take a moment to gain strength from the Lord. With my Bible I sat down at the table to gather composure for the final evening duties. I had to have a promise from God and a promise I got. "O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me." Psalm 30:2.

How true and firm a statement that is! I simply cried unto the Lord, sought for His comfort and He healed my burdened spirit one more time. Thank you, Lord!

Physically, too, my Lord and my God has always taken care of my needs. He heals me in His own patient way, or immediately, and He keeps me well and able to do my work. I can relax my nerves and calm my mind just knowing that He is right within calling distance any time around the clock.

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness." Psalm 30:4. Sing? Yes, I began to feel like singing again! All the many precious things I could remember the Lord doing for us! "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell."

Then in the next verse, I found another promise so fitting. "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Psalm 30:5. Often sorrow, trouble and trials thicken our eyes with tears and turn our life into "night time". Faithful children of God have these times like King David wrote about. He said, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Bro. B. E. Warren wrote a song about the evening and morning (number 369 *Evening Light Songs*). I looked up that song, read it and received another blessing.

"When the evening is coming,
And the dark clouds appear,
I am happy in knowing
My Redeemer is near. . . ."

This holds a secret to enduring strength — to be happy in knowing our Redeemer is near! Right now, in these last days that the world is yet existing in, we can be glad the Redeemer is with us. He is near. The dark times in life will give way to morning. There will be a reward, a pay day for those who are happy they have the Redeemer as their Lord and Saviour.

"When our life's evening endeth
In one bright lasting day,
When our Saviour descendeth
In His royal array,
We'll be caught up to meet Him
In the air, we are told,
To abide with Him ever
In that city of gold."

When we are one of God's children, all our labor here is done unto the Lord. None of our good, faithful labor is in vain. We have an assurance that promises us glorious life everlasting.

I was literally ready to get the "evening" work done so I could meet the "morning" with peace and joy. I agreed with verse six: "And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved." Lord, with your abiding Holy Spirit within, I shall not be moved from your caring hand.

Then it was verses eleven and twelve that really got me up and ready for work. "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever."

The Lord took off my sackcloth of weariness and girded my soul with gladness. To thee, Lord, will I verbally sing a song of praise and all the labor of life will go by quickly.

The Lord successfully brought me through that evening as He has other darker evenings in life. I know that when the last morning has come, we will give thanks unto the Lord for ever.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

HOME LIFE



Nov. '89 That Trying Child

"Corrine is such a trying child," the tired mother was saying. "Her disposition is so unlike my own that often I am at a loss to understand how to deal with her. I am only now beginning to see encouraging results from my long, continued efforts to train her rightly."

As I listened to these comments from the mother of one of our Sunday school pupils, I could not help recalling an incident so strikingly similar which occurred a number of years ago.

Another tired mother whose time was crowded full of household duties and parental responsibility had among her flock an unusually trying child. Restless, high-tempered, seemingly "inclined to do evil as the sparks are to fly

upward," was the reputation of this little "black sheep." How often that mother sighed as she tucked her darlings in their beds, and wondered fearfully what the end would be of her mischief-loving little one! How often she poured out her heart in earnest prayer and tears to God, asking for wisdom to guide that child aright! And were those prayers and tears and daily efforts in vain? Ah, no. Today that child's life is a constant demonstration of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit; those pent-up energies are now finding an outlet in Christian activities.

Mothers, yours is a noble calling; God has entrusted you with the sacred responsibility of molding character for eternity. None other can accomplish this task as effectually as you can. You may not realize now what a bearing your influence has upon the lives of your little ones, but only a few more years will tell. And that trying child—perhaps you have seen such a one, not only in the Sunday school, but around the fireside of your own home—that child needs, along with your faithful and timely corrections, your earnest and constant prayers. Those very dispositions which now annoy you may, by your proper efforts and influence, be directed into channels of usefulness, and that child which causes you the most anxiety now may, if you faithfully do your part, in later years recompense you with the richest blessings.

—Elsie E. Egermeier

Busy Mothers

May 1965

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deut. 33:25

My heart goes out to the busy mother who has her hands, heart and time filled. She longs to have time to be alone with the Lord and pray as she did before she had her children. She will get the babies to bed at night and think, "Now, I will have time to sit down and read my Bible and study a little while." But when she sits down and relaxes she finds herself so tired and weary that she can scarcely keep her eyes open. Her mind seems so dull from an exhausted body because of the many, many duties that had to be done through the day. She finds that isn't the time to try to read the Bible so she resolves she will get up early in the morning and take her Bible to read before the children waken, but it seems they awake with her. She then tries to get them all in bed for a nap in the afternoon so she can have that time to be alone, but when she tries to read or pray, one awakes before the other, or one will be late going to sleep, and so many demands surround her or the phone rings. Perhaps someone will drop in for a visit or there are other interruptions. Then, of course, that basket of ironing never seems to disappear. It is always there to be done. She feels her spiritual life ebbing away and the many interruptions become a great burden to her. She begins to complain and

"one  under God,"

murmur. She longs for a time for herself and God. Many a mother has said, "Oh, what shall I do? I don't seem to have time to do anything for the Lord or even to keep my spiritual life what it ought to be." Then, of course, the devil is right there to bring disappointment and discouragement.

Now my dear, there is a way out for you. First, you must have a right attitude about your position. Remember that your first obligation is to your God, and then your family comes next. First, be willing to follow the words of Jesus when He said that he "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Then in one place He said that the disciple was not above the master. Your place in the body of Christ is to minister. You are doing the service of the Lord

when you are ministering unto your baby, your little children, older ones, and your husband. That is your life's work. You are working for the Lord when you do all those little things that are needful in caring for your home. When your family is grown, or older, you will then have plenty of time to do work outside the home. If you teach those little ones about God as you do your work and pray for them, you have a big job on your hands. It is said that the "hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

In the morning as you dress, have your Bible open, or look on the Christian Scripture calendar and get just one verse to meditate upon throughout the day. Have a Bible in the kitchen where you can get another verse. There is a way to feed your soul as you do your work. I know this to be true by experience. Just now it comes to my mind when I had my little ones and I had much to do. One day I was washing venetian blinds. I asked the Lord to give me a scripture to meditate upon. I remember so clearly that He just spoke to my heart and brought to my mind the verse, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." I remember how my soul was blessed as I meditated upon that verse. Many other times He did the same for me. I remember that at times I found time to pray in some very unusual places or positions as I went about my work. A busy mother with small children won't be able to read and pray at the same time every day alone. Of course, there must be that time when the family will get together and have family worship but we are talking about the times when a person needs to get alone with God. This is so necessary for the growth of every person spiritually.

Let those interruptions be opportunities to do good. Don't feel you are too busy to do for those who call at your home in person or over the phone. You will be surprised how much energy you are using up by worrying and fretting over your work and your worry over not being spiritual or being able to get out and do more for God as the enemy presses these things hard upon you. When you let the Lord change your attitude and do all you do to the glory of God, praying and praising the Lord as you go about your work, you will find that your soul will be overflowing with the love of God. Just verses instead of full chapters in the Bible will grow to be real spiritual food to your soul. You will be abounding in the good things of the Lord. You will be happier and your family will be happier, also.

—Sister Marie Miles

The Influence of a Mother's

Prayers *May 1996*

(Taken from *Touching Incidents*-adult version.)

More than thirty years ago, one lovely Sunday morning, about eight young men, students in a law school, were walking along the banks of a stream that flows into the Potomac River, not far from the city of Washington. They were going to a grove, in a retired place, to spend the hours of that holy day playing cards. Each of them had a flask of wine in his pocket. They were the sons of praying mothers. As they were walking along amusing each other with idle jests, the bell of a church in a little village not two miles off began to ring. It sounded in the ears of those thoughtless young men as plainly as though it were only on the other side of the little stream along which they were walking.

Presently one of their number, whose name was George, stopped, and said to the friend nearest him that he would go no farther, but would return to the village and go to church. His friend called out to their companions, who were a little ahead of them: "Boys! boys! come back here; George is getting religious; we must help him. Come on, and let us baptize him by immersion in the water." In a moment they formed a circle around him. They told him that the only way he could save himself from having a cold bath was by going with them. In a calm, quiet, but earnest way, he said:

"I know very well that you have power enough to put me in the water, and hold me there till I am drowned; and, if you choose, you can do so, and I will make no resistance; but listen to what I have to say, and then do as you think best.

"You all know that I am two hundred miles away from home; but you do not know that my mother is a helpless, bed-ridden invalid. I never remember seeing her out of bed. I am her youngest child. My father could not afford to pay for my schooling; but our teacher is a warm friend of my father, and offered to take me without any charge. He was very anxious for me to come; but mother would not consent. The struggle almost cost her what little life was left to her. At length, after many prayers on the subject, she yielded and said I might go. The preparations for my leaving home were soon made. My mother never said a word to me on the subject till the morning when I was about to leave. After I had eaten my breakfast she sent for me, and asked me if everything was ready. I told

her all was ready, and I was only waiting for the stage. At her request I knelt beside her bed. With her loving hand upon my head she prayed for her youngest child. Many and many a night I have dreamed the whole scene over. It is the happiest recollection of my life. I believe, that until the day of my death, I shall be able to repeat every word of her prayer. Then she spoke to me thus:

"My precious boy, you do not know, you never can know, the agony of a mother's heart when parting for the last time, from her youngest child. When you leave home, you will have looked, for the last time, this side of the grave, on the face of her who loves you as no other mortal does or can. Your father cannot afford the expense of your making us visits during the two years that your studies will occupy. I cannot possibly live as long as that. The sand in the hourglass of my life has nearly run out. In the far off strange place to which you are going, there will be no loving mother to give counsel in time of trouble. Seek counsel and help from God. Every Sunday morning, from ten to eleven o'clock, I will spend the hour in prayer for you. Wherever you may be during this sacred hour, when you hear the church bells ringing, let your thoughts come back to this chamber, where your dying mother will be agonizing in prayer for you. But I hear the stage coming. Kiss me—farewell!"

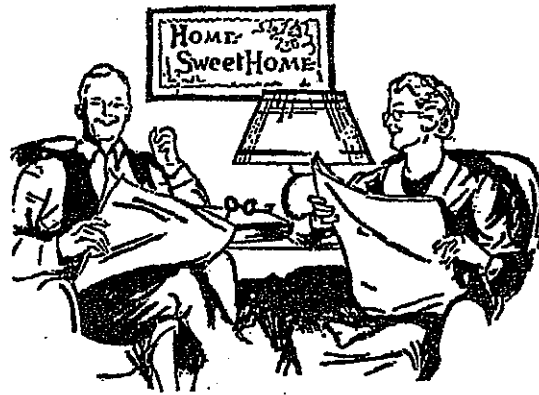
"Boys, I never expect to see my mother again on earth. But by God's help, I mean to meet her in heaven."

As George stopped speaking the tears were streaming down his cheeks. He looked at his companions. Their eyes were filled with tears.

In a moment the ring which they formed about him was opened. He passed out and went to church. He had stood up for the right against great odds.

They admired him for doing what they had not the courage to do. They all followed him to church. On their way each of them quietly threw away his cards and his wineflask. Never again did these young men play cards on Sunday.

From that day they all became changed men. Six of them died as Christians, and are now in heaven. George is a Christian as well as his friend, who wrote this account. Here were eight men converted by the prayers of that Christian woman. If we only knew all the results of their examples and their labors, we should have a good illustration of a mother's prayers.



HOME LIFE

The Uncrowned Queen

When God would save a world from sin,
He chose with mothers to begin;
And, through a virgin-mother birth
To bring good will to men on earth.

When Christ the way of life would tell,
A woman listened by a well;
When He was tired and needed rest,
Two women honored Him as guest;
He caused a maid to walk again
And raised a widow's son at Nain.

When Christ was hanging on a cross,
A mother's heart most felt the loss;
Two women were the first to see
At dawn, the empty sepulchre;
The resurrected Christ was seen
At first by Mary Magdalene.


A mother's love will stand by you
When other friends have proved untrue;
She'll round your bed her vigil keep
While other eyes are closed in sleep.
She'll cleave to you till life shall end
And be your faithful, loving friend.

Our mothers steer the ship of state;
'Tis they who make the nation great.
Our nation will be bad or good,
According to its motherhood.
And back of great men is seen
The image of an uncrowned queen.

—Author unknown

Mother

A man never sees all that his mother has been to him until it is too late to let her know that he sees it.
—W. D. Howells

"one  under God,"



April 1985

An Ideal Home

A home where pure love reigns, is the dearest spot on earth. Sometime ago a brother wrote a letter concerning his home life, and though he did not mention his part relative to its existence directly, yet I felt that he also must have acted so as to make the conditions possible. He wrote, in part, as follows:

"My wife loves me. She rushes quickly to defend any accusation against my character or motive, which makes me believe her affections are as true as the compass needle and as firm as a thousand-fathomed rock. She reads my writings, and is as anxious to hear me preach, it seems, as those outside my home, which convinces me that I have her perfect confidence. When, occasionally, she speaks sharply to me, she immediately asks forgiveness and asks me to pray that she may be more of an overcomer, which reveals to me her true Christian worth. My wife truly

was a gift from God. To me she is a strong tower, an anchor, a fortress."

I thought: "That must be an ideal home. His wife is not a weak person with no individuality, she has a strong personality and positive temperament, which adds greatly to the strength of his letter."

His letter taught me that he did not look upon his wife as an intelligent slave nor an inferior helpmeet, but as an equal. Her love for her husband, I could see, was founded upon something more permanent than youth or a person that in time must decay; it was founded upon true worth, upon character, and the immortal man.

Who is worthy of such affection and love? It raised my confidence in that brother to the highest power. Indirectly that letter taught me that the elements of a happy ideal home were: moderation, temperance, self-control, tenderness, pity, helpfulness, kindness, respect for the other's feelings, self-sacrifice, and positive sincerity. Genuine affection is conscientious and works voluntarily and automatically. To marry, for any other reason than that which is true, pure, and sanctioned by God and nature, is an open invitation to sorrow and remorse almost beyond description. It may be a mistake as long as time, and possibly as long as eternity.

—J. G. A.

(Selected from *Gospel Trumpet*, 1917.)

Choosing a Marriage Companion—A Soul Issue

March 2008

By Michael W. Smith

Choosing a marriage companion is the most important decision one will ever make, second only to the decision to serve the Lord. While many consider marriage a "heart" issue, it is more importantly a "soul" issue. Many a person's eternal destiny has been set due to the choice of the one with whom they decide to spend their life. Marriage is the closest of all human relationships, and it behooves all to approach this decision with prayer and much consideration.

The desire for marriage and companionship is God-given. "...It is not good that the man should be alone...Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:18, 24. Marriage is a wonderful institution, ordained of God. Life is richer and fuller with someone to share the joys and sorrows of life. The grass is a little greener and the storm a little less intense with a companion by your side.

Contrary to the practice and teaching of the world, marriage is a lifetime commitment. Once the vows are said, the couple is sealed as husband and wife before God until the union is dissolved by death alone. "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her

husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress:..." Romans 7:2-3. (Reference I Corinthians 7:39.) Hence, it is imperative that the decision of whom to marry is approached with caution and wisdom.

Some things in the Scripture are spelled out and are just a matter of obedience on our part. There are other things in which God gives mankind some direction but also leeway due to personal preference and desire. Marriage is one such issue. While God has a plan for each of our lives, God will never force someone to marry or not marry. He has given us some freedom of choice in this area.

Choosing the right person to marry can be confusing and a time of uncertainty often ensues. There is no exact science or formula to follow to find that perfect soul mate. But there are biblical guidelines, sound principles, and some basic prerequisites that must be followed for a marriage to be in the order of the Lord and to set the foundation for a successful, godly home.

Before an individual even considers marriage, he or she should be saved, with a good solid experience with the Lord. If there is

Marriage

spiritual instability, so will there be instability in the choice of whom to marry. Most likely, a wrong decision will be made and the result may not only be a life but an eternity of trouble. It is paramount that an individual focus first on his or her own spirituality and be living very close to the Lord.

It is important that marriage is entered into for the right reasons—God's will, desire for companionship and love. The wrong reasons include the following: everyone else is getting married; there may not be another chance; to escape dad and mom; on the rebound—trying to fill an emotional vacuum; financial security; lust; or marrying due to pressure from parents and peers.

Marriage should be approached with feelings, opinions and desires being fully submitted to the will of God. The Holy Spirit will lead and direct in choosing the one with whom to spend life. If God is left out of the decision, the choice will be wrong. Sometimes it would seem easier if the Lord would speak out of the sky saying, "This is the one for you." This is not usually the case. We are led by the Word and by the Spirit. There should be a real sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. If there is a sense that the Lord is not pleased with the potential union, it should be stopped until the Lord gives clarity in the decision. Too many times people make up their minds and allow their affections to go out to someone, then ask God to bless the union. By that time, it is hard to really know God's will because the feelings and emotions are so strong. It is best to seek God first. When there is clearness before God, then is the time to move forward with the potential husband or wife.

The most important relationship is our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If He is the most important aspect of our life, then every decision should center around Him. Marriage is as much a spiritual union as it is a physical or civil union. A spouse generally has the largest influence and impact on their husband or wife. It is for this reason the Scripture teaches that marriage should be within the faith. This is an absolute. If someone is not saved, they should not even be considered or thought twice about in the context of dating or marriage. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:..." II Corinthians 6:14. While this scripture deals explicitly with idolaters, it would also apply to

that closest of all human relationships. How can someone profess ultimate love for God and yet enter into a union with an unbeliever whose values and beliefs are different? The Old Testament also was very clear in instructing the children of Israel not to marry men or women of other nations. Solomon, a man of much wisdom, violated this commandment, and in his old age his heart was turned away from God because of his wives. It is a trick of the enemy to think that one can keep his or her integrity with God and marry outside of the faith.

Similarly, just because someone is saved does not make him or her suitable marriage material. It is so important that the fundamental doctrines and faith in Christ are the same. Many people have married "saved" men or women of other groups, movements and faiths. There is then a pull to worship at times with the group of the spouse. There may be doctrinal differences and standards of holiness that are not observed. This can create friction and division in the home. There must be a union of spirit and faith in a marriage not only for the married couple, but also for the successful raising of the children. When these are absent, the long-term tendency, unintentional though it may be, is for a couple to veer toward the more liberal, compromising lifestyle. This applies as well to people fellowshipping in the same congregation or group. Just because an individual attends the same church is no guarantee that he or she is spiritually stable. A common faith and spiritual stability is essential to the unity of the home and well being of the soul.

It is important, before pursuing a relationship, that the other party has a good track record of spiritual growth and integrity. Someone who has recently been saved is not a good person to begin courting. A lengthy period of stability is important for many who start out for God fall by the way side.

Even after the spiritual criterion has been met, there are also many other things to consider. One should never marry with the assumption that the spouse will change or be different after marriage. There will be growth, change and maturity as well as areas in which to improve in every marriage. But there is no assurance that the change will always be in the direction one wants or desires. So, if the potential companion can't be accepted as he or she is

currently, he or she probably isn't the appropriate companion. What irritates before marriage will most likely be compounded after marriage in daily living. Hence, it is not fair to marry an individual expecting him or her to change who he or she is as a person. It is also important to practically understand that nobody is perfect and without faults. There is no Bro. or Sis. Perfect out there, in the sense of being without weakness or shortcomings.

Some people are more compatible than others. Compatibility has to do with the ease of companionship, communication, interests, lifestyle, ambitions and goals. Some people are drawn together because of differences and some because of similarities. There is no right or wrong here. But there needs to be a strong sense of compatibility that goes beyond the surface.

Before marriage, there must be a strong element of trust and faith in each other. If there are questions and issues of trust, the union will be weak from the onset. There should be a high level of respect, acceptance and admiration for the potential spouse. If not, it is either not the right person or the right time for marriage.

When a man considers marrying a woman, he must ask himself if he is willing and able to love her as Christ loves the church and if he will put her welfare and interest above his own. A woman must also be willing and ready to submit to her husband in everything. If there is not a willingness to observe these biblical principles, that individual is not ready for marriage. If the intended spouse does not believe in the biblical family structure as stated above, it would not be in the order of the Lord to marry that individual. A woman needs to consider the ability and willingness of the man to provide for her. The man needs to consider his intended's willingness and ability to be a keeper at home as the Scripture teaches.

There is wisdom in seeking advice and counsel from others. A good place to start is with one's own parents and spiritual leaders. It is wise, before entering into any commitment, to talk to those who know the one in whom you are interested. They may be able to give sound advice and some perspective to the situation. It is good to go to the person's pastor and talk to him. There may be issues that would be revealed that might make a difference on whether the relationship is pursued.

Godly counsel should not be taken lightly or discounted. This is another reason it is important to give consideration to all of these things before allowing one's affections to go out. Very few people take contrary advice once their heart is set. It is much wiser to evaluate first, giving the soul and mind preference over the heart. Once the heart is given, the soul and mind usually get outvoted. It is best for the heart, soul and mind to be in one accord. No individual has the ability to matchmake and bring about successful, godly marriages. People need to be very careful about trying to bring two individuals together. No one should be married because of the pressure to do so. No one can know better than oneself, in honesty before God, the one who is best to marry.

A relationship based on physical attraction alone is doomed for failure. A pretty or handsome face can lose its glamour real quickly when there is not grace in time of stress. Marriage should not be based on the physical nor should it be in spite of the physical. While outward beauty is vain and fades, there should still be an attraction. Part of a healthy marriage relationship is the intimacy that belongs to marriage alone. If there is not an attraction and draw, there will be problems in that marriage.

While a godly marriage in the will of God is most importantly a "soul" issue, it is also an issue of the heart. For the soul in marriage cannot be satisfied without the strong love of the heart. True love is a requirement for a good, strong marriage. Love is that which brings kindness, gentleness, happiness and joy. It is love that enables one to sacrifice and give when it hurts. It is love that draws and binds together in the hard times as well as the good. Love comes from the heart and words can't always explain the whys or wherefores.

Choosing a marriage companion is not always easy, but it should be committed to God, knowing that God has a plan for all of us. Single people, young and old alike, should be careful not to rush into a relationship, but rather, wait on the Lord. Marriage has the possibility of security, fulfillment and love, but it also has potential to wound and destroy.

Marriage is a wonderful institution that God created for the betterment of humankind. It proves to be a wonderful blessing and union when it is in the will of God. Marriage should be entered into with much prayer and consideration—for it is an issue of the soul.

To Young Married Folks *April 1959*

One young married couple wants to know how they can get along well together. They do not tell much of their trouble, but they say enough to give us to understand that their troubles are sometimes real serious. A few times the young wife has gone home to her parents.

The first thing needed by the young husband and wife is Christ in their hearts. It is almost useless to go any further in our telling you how to get along well together until you get Jesus in your lives. Very few ever get along well together except they be saved. There will be angry feelings and moods, short, harsh speeches, hurt feelings, tears, etc., in the lives of most all young married folks who are not real Christians. So, the first thing to do is to get the grace of God in the heart. Will this make an end of all trials and troubles? Not very likely, at least not an end of all the trials. You can, however, soon get to a place, by God's help, where troubles have no place in your lives, and trials will be much fewer and weaker. There is something for you to do, both of you. You must have a strong strength of the trial. You must set right resistance. Not a strong resistance against each other, but a strong resistance against the devil, the trial and your own feelings. Yes, we say, against your own feelings. Trials bring unpleasant feelings, and the unpleasant feelings are in proportion to the strength of the trial. You must sit right down on your feelings. Instead of giving place to them and acting like you feel, resist them and act contrary to your feelings. You may say you cannot do it. Yes you can, and you must. Your happiness in life and through eternity depends upon it. God will help you if you earnestly ask Him and try hard to help yourself.

Some folks are unwilling to resist their feelings. They weaken down and let their feelings express themselves in words and action. Shame! That is weakness. You cannot afford to give place to ugly, unpleasant feelings—feelings of irritation and impatience. Do not trifle with them; give them no place in your life for a moment. If allowed to linger they will rob the soul of that gentleness, kindness, tenderness, and sympathy which you should grow up into through the years. You must want to be a kind, gentle, tender, cheerful, happy, sunny saint when you get old. Now is the time to begin to lay the foundation for such a happy and beautiful old age. Nothing is more beautiful and helpful on earth than a happy, kind, patient, tender-hearted old saint. You will never see as much of heaven anywhere until you get to heaven. It takes years to form a real, deep saintly character. If you give place to your ruffled feelings and say and do something that you should not do or say, you are playing a losing game. If you resist your feelings and smile when you do not feel like it; if you will tell the one that has tried you that you love them greatly when you do not feel like you loved them at all, you are winning in the fight. It is not speaking falsely. Down in your heart of hearts you do love them, but the trial has ruffled the surface of your feelings until you do not feel like you loved them. Do not speak and act according to the prompting of your disturbed feelings, but think a moment, calm yourself and speak and act according to the desires of the deep of your heart. Oh, how this will help you to tenderness of soul, and sunniness of

life! This resistance of the agitation on the surface and bringing up from the deep the calm and peace and letting them rule in your life will bring you happiness in your home, and through the years will ripen into a character that will make you such a brilliant reflection of heaven that will linger long after you are sleeping neath the sod. —C. E. Orr.



Through Thick or Thin

We have record of a man who lost everything that he had: 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, servants, three daughters and seven sons. Besides, this man was afflicted with boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Yes, we are talking about Job. In Job 2:9, we read what Job's wife said to him: "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God and die." Job told her that she spoke foolishly. At any rate, Job's wife was angry about the disasters which came their way and we have no more record of her in the Bible or in any reference books. She may have left him or died.

Suppose Job and his wife were living in our day and time. Would they be one among the hundreds in the divorce statistics we see in the newspapers? Much less financial stress has happened to some couples who end their marriage with divorce. It is only in fairy tales where a rich, handsome prince marries a wealthy, beautiful lady, but sincere, God-ordained marriages can last "happily ever after." The price of such a marriage is more than rubies or precious jewels, pure gold or tried silver.

My husband and I have not been married as long as some, but really a couple doesn't have to be married very long before they start feeling the pinch of meeting bills. Therefore, I would like to share with you a story and a saying we have in our household that reminds us of our first year of marriage.

My husband carried his new bride away to a beautiful 200-acre farm in the heart of the rolling Ozark Hills. On the farm, there were a couple of tall, stately barns, several big shade trees and under one hung a tire swing. There were other buildings and plenty of woven and barbed wire fencing. In the hollow of three hills

"one  under God,"

was a blue pond and to the east of it ran a clear stream over a smooth rocky bed. The two-story house was constructed of white and yellow hewn stone and in pictures it looked like a mini castle. This was the picture and description I gave my friends.

However, there were many untold flaws in this perfect setting. We were married in October and before Thanksgiving the well water was too low for the pump and the propane tank went empty. We didn't have any water nor any heat nor did we have the money that it would take to lengthen the well pipes and to refill the propane tank. That meant that we pumped all water from a small hand pump in the yard and we kept warm before the open fireplace in the living room.

Twice a day we pumped water for 100 odd head of hogs and feeder pigs. By staying up nights with mother sows and attending newborn baby pigs, we were able to keep a high pig average and eventually met our debts. The hogs did take their greedy share of income for feed and we were often looking at the empty bottom of the barrel.

One particular week we were really struggling. I hadn't gone to the grocery store because I wasn't feeling too well and because we really didn't have the money to spend. After Dwane went to do the chores, I went to look in the freezer and all the meat we had left was an opossum that Dwane and the boys had caught with their coon dogs. I set it out to thaw. I had never fixed 'possum before, but I was going to try. First, I boiled the meat, draining off the grease as much as possible. Then I took the meat off the bones and baked it in barbeque sauce. It took me all day to fix that 'possum so that by supper time I was sick of the smell and looks of it.

When Dwane came in for supper, I served him barbequed 'possum on bread. He ate two helpings and since I was still looking at it, I gave him mine also. I didn't bother to tell him what it was—he was enjoying it so much.

The next morning, Mother called to see how we were. I mentioned to her that I had fixed 'possum for supper the night before. Dwane heard me say that and he zipped right out to the freezer to check on the 'possum. Sure enough, he saw that it was gone! He had thought he was eating barbequed beef!

A few years later and five children down the line, we still find ourselves sometimes "looking at the empty bottom of the barrel." Then one of us will say to the other, "It's time for 'possum!"

We live in town now, but bills come to a town address as well as to a rural route number.

Debts and obligations are a monotonous humdrum and then there are financial blows that really shake us up. If a couple treasures financial gain more than married happiness, then financial blows may be fatal to that marriage. It doesn't have to be.

When any problems arise, together kneel at the feet of Jesus and together pour out the burdens to Him. He may say to wait, or He may say to move forward, but one thing is certain, He cares and all His promises are true. Our Lord can work where no one else can and He can still perform financial miracles. Also, there is a sweetness in contentment (Philippians 4:11, 12).

On our wedding day when the bells were ringing, we made a precious vow to each other before God and witnesses. We promised to stay together "... for richer, for poorer ... for better, for worse ... in sickness, in health ... until death do us part." Our marriage is a jewel too costly to lose—whether it is time for steak or 'possum.

—Connie Sorrell

A Life Long Honeymoon

The Bible commands, "Husbands, love your wives" (Ephesians 5:25), and of the woman it declares, "Teach the young women to love their husbands." (Titus 2:4). Whenever the Lord commands, He delegates strength to perform, and I am a firm believer that the warm, tender love young people have for each other can be maintained and thoroughly enjoyed all through life. If the same method employed before marriage to gain respect, confidence and love were employed afterwards, the divorce mills would soon cease to grind.

When first married the young man perhaps thinks that he has married an angel, but by the time the honeymoon trip is over, he has discovered he has married a woman with flesh and blood, with likes and dislikes; and he comes to the conclusion that what is needed now, besides love, is its auxiliaries—food, clothes, and a shouldering of responsibilities scarcely dreamed of before. Now begins what we might call a time of adjustments, which includes learning each other's ways, temperaments, and in fact the real testing of our powers of forbearance, patience, and true manhood or womanhood.

Elevation Of The Married Relation

Preparedness is a great word today in political circles, and it also has its place in the marriage relation. Until we understand and recognize the sanctity of the marriage vow, rocks will

still be ahead of the home, and also ahead of the ship of state. The reformers were justified, no doubt, in dropping marriage from the category of sacraments as preached by the Roman Church, but we should cease not to believe in the sacred character of marriage, for we cannot have too high an ideal of this relationship. The permanency of the nation does not rest altogether upon preparedness of great battleships, and standing armies, but in preparedness in keeping the home pure, for upon it the nation stands or falls.

A high ideal of marriage is a mighty incentive to purity of heart. In anticipation of a pure marriage, every step toward it should be in the path of pure mindedness. In entering into the holy covenant, the affections should be thoroughly tested. Something is needed more than a passing fancy, more than merely admiration of a beautiful person; a deep regard for true character and heart purity is essential.

Such thought as: "I may not have another chance"; "I am growing old and had better accept this one; it may be now or never," etc., should not be entertained. Most people desire marriage, and although such thoughts as these may seem to be heaven-born and beckoning to a happy life, yet they are more liable to be misguided desires for companionship. Home where love reigns is the vestibule to heaven; without it, the vestibule to hell. The relation between parent and child is holy and sacred, all will admit. Then the change warranted by marriage should be no less holy and sacred. Paul said, "Marriage is honorable," and it must be held sacred.

CONDITIONS OF TRUE LOVE

One of the conditions of a pure marriage and holy love is a lofty ideal in character. That is one of the qualities a woman is entitled to find in the man to whom she gives herself to be a life companion, because it is the pivot on which all things humanly desirable are balanced. Marriage is a failure when manhood is a failure. A home that is builded on the concrete foundation of a Christlike character will never collapse so long as it remains on that foundation. A woman joyfully anticipates being her beloved companion's helpmeet, but she recoils at the thought of a life of slavery.

The husband is entitled to find in the one whom he offers to protect and defend through life a virtuous character. He is right in looking to her for sympathy and affection. About the worst thing that can be said about a wife is that her affections are unsteady and that she has little sympathy. A man is exhorted to love his wife "as Christ loved the church," and surely there was a holy sacred love and sympathy

between Christ and his bride. Love towards the wife and reverence towards the husband is the basis of sacred sympathy and confidence. When the husband looks upon his wife as his property, and takes no interest in the things that interest her, she will fade and grow cold. When the wife locks herself in her room, does not interest herself in what interests her husband, he will, or may, carry himself and his interests elsewhere, and go to the place where she least desires to have him go.

If single persons would go slow and study carefully their own thoughts, if they would ask themselves the questions, "Why am I getting married? What have I uppermost in my mind? Am I ready to govern myself and to enter into that relation like a man?" there would be less trouble. If the penalties of God are graded, then I pity the viper who, impelled by lust and honey-combed disease, with the pretense of virtue seduces a pure girl to become his harlot and slave by a man-made marriage law. If vengeance is also graded, woe to be the one who with glittering eye and deceptive pretext, crawls into the home and fascinates a cherished wife or husband to the ruin of pure affection. The lightning of God's wrath will flash through his or her heart forever, for the reproach will not be wholly wiped away. And still more wretched will be the condition of the man who leaves a loving, confiding wife, betrays her trust and love, proves false to his marriage vow, and revels in the things that destroy character, love and home.

—J. Grant Anderson

Christian Instruction in Home Life

By George Hammond

(Continued from last issue)

The Duties of the Husband

The husband is to be the head of the home in the honor and fear of God. "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment . . ." Gen. 18:19. He is not to live with a woman and raise children by her and then leave her and expect the welfare to take care of his children while he goes to consort with another woman. This is an abomination in the sight of God which both the man and woman will answer for when they stand before the Judge of this world. "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 1 Tim. 5:8. Titus 2:6, says, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded" or discreet; wise; prudent; cautious; not rash. Sober mindedness in young men is a rare qualification, but will keep him from excess of and immature decisions when he is establishing a home.

"one  under God,"

The husband is to regard his wife in honor and respect, care, and protect her as the weaker vessel. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Peter 3:7.

Husbands are to love their wives. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh: but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." Eph. 5:28, 29. "... husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." Eph. 5:25.

What does it mean to love the wife or the husband? The English word "love" does not express the real meaning of the Greek word for love, "agape," which is used throughout the New Testament. This is a new creation of the Christian faith. It is a concern or giving of love with the characteristics of 1 Cor. 13, which says, "... seeketh not her own." It is the perfect love God showed to us when He gave His Son for our redemption. It is a new dimension or degree of love that husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. If a husband or wife does not feel love for their partner any more, they are talking about affection that is lost because they have not been concerned for them by this love that comes only from God, and they are displeasing God and not obeying His Word.

The Duties of the Wife

The wife's attitude and attention to the home life is certainly of greatest importance in establishing a good home. A woman can never expect to build a godly home without the God-ordained sanctity of marriage. The great need of a man or woman is to have someone to care for them or love them, and God has provided the only true way that this can be fulfilled. A woman who allows a man to take advantage of this need in her life is only allowing herself to be a power of Satan and thus will damn her soul. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's."

The wife's attitude and attention in the home probably has much more influence upon the children than the husband, as she spends much more time with them. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [behavior] of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation [behavior] coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Pet. 3:1-4.

Probably one of the greatest pitfalls in the family today is when the wife or mother of the home goes

out to work and has to leave the children with a baby sitter. This is a sad situation, especially when young children are involved and need the love and care of a mother. Many women are left today with small children and there is no father to help care or supply their needs. This brings a strong temptation to break their vows with God and one another, and enter into a double marriage. This is adultery in the sight of God (Matt. 19:9). It is better to please God and suffer loneliness than go to a devil's hell.

Wives should love their husbands (Titus 2:4). They should reverence them even as a Christian reverences God (Eph. 5:33). Submitting to one another in the family brings harmony as it does in the family of God. "Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Eph. 5:21-24.

HOME LIFE

Wives and Husbands

(Taken from the Gospel Trumpet, 1906)

Author Unknown July 1992

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel; and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Peter 3:1-7.

The above scripture, without any comment, is a good lesson to any wife or husband. I will call your attention to the seventh verse which is directly addressed to husbands. "Likewise, ye

Marriage

husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." "Dwell with them according to knowledge." Husbands need knowledge. In looking over the world today we would conclude that but few husbands were in possession of knowledge sufficient to dwell with a wife "according to knowledge." Some really seem to be ignorant, and perhaps they love to have it so, but certainly there must be some exceptions, hence a few that desire teaching. For these who are willingly ignorant of the knowledge they ought to possess, there is no help; trouble alone awaits them. If there were more good examples in the married state, there would be less occasion for ignorance, as an example goes a long way toward the enlightenment of others.

The key of knowledge and the underlying principles of success are in the inner or secret life, and hid from view. It takes searching as for hidden treasure to get in possession of the knowledge and wisdom of God pertaining to wedded life. The bent of man toward sin and selfishness takes away the "key of knowledge" and keeps him from proving the things that are "excellent." For the spiritually minded, the Scriptures afford the best instruction to husbands and wives; but that part of the Scriptures is not so carefully and diligently searched as it ought to be for the good of those that profess to be Christians.

No one ought to enter into the married state without first acquainting themselves thoroughly on the subject of marriage in all its phases. There is never an effect without a cause. If we know the causes that lead to success and follow them diligently, success will be ours. If we meet with failure, it is because we have pursued the way and participated in the causes which produce failure. The comprehensive mind will do well to study the examples of success and failure that come under their observation and their corresponding causes. Mismatching is not the cause of all the domestic troubles. Mismatching is usually due to ignorance and lack of knowledge on the subject. Saved people have a better chance of getting those best suited to them, as God will direct in this matter if He is faithfully counselled in due time. Death alone dissolves the marriage bond; (Rom. 7:2, 3) hence those that are scripturally married "are no more twain, but one flesh" and will have to make the best of it by the help and grace of God, who is able to solve all problems. Husband, it is your privilege and duty to dwell with your wife according to knowledge from now on.

Even if you entered into this state somewhat ignorantly, you must not remain ignorant. "Be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." You can begin at once to acquire knowledge and live up to all you know as fast as you can learn what is expedient and wise.

The all-wise Creator knew better than to create them male and female and turn them loose like He did the beasts of earth. Man is capable of something better than beasts, and God planned that which was best for man. "He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: And they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put assunder." God instituted marriage for the perpetuation of the race, the constitution of homes, and to afford domestic happiness. God did not intend life to be a burden while filling the purpose and object of creation. While life is filled with duties, cares, and responsibilities, it is also crowned with blessings, joys and triumphs, cheered by hope and fond expectation. Why not live for and obtain the best results possible? It may be yours if you only count it so, and live to glorify God.

"THEY TWO SHALL BE ONE FLESH"

"You are no more twain but one flesh." You are two in one: selfishness is ended if you live as you should. There is a law of assimilation, a law which governs the blending of husband and wife into a oneness of cooperation in life and purpose. It is important that this be understood. General opinion is wrong on the subject, as expressed by a newly wedded man who addressed his wife as follows, "We are one, and I am that one." Assimilation is not all on the part of the wife: this would take away individuality. She will need her individuality if she becomes a real helpmate for her husband. The individual of each will need to be modified or changed from independence to that of maturity.

Both will need to sacrifice their own likes and dislikes to please one another until differences are disposed of. This is a short route in assimilation, and "the only way." The husband "careth for the things of the world how he may please his wife," likewise the wife "careth for the things of the world how she may please her husband." You will both have to comply with this if you ever make a success. The husband cannot run the thing to suit himself: he is to please his wife. The wife is not to usurp the authority "which belongs to her husband, and try to run things her

way; she is to please her husband." Whence comes these little jars, discords, disagreements, misunderstandings, etc.? From a lack of complying with the law of assimilation and mutuality. Since you are two in one, why not live that way? "He that loveth his wife loveth himself," she is part of him—commonly called "the better half." Let each esteem the other better than himself (or herself). If you let your love sour and quit trying to please one another, unity, home, and happiness are all spoiled. The more you become wrapped up in loving, cherishing, esteeming, and serving each other to the glory of God, the more pleasant will be your journey through life, and the better example will you be to others. As a man "nourisheth and cherisheth his own flesh" so is he to treat his wife, for she is "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh."

The husband ought to consider the physical, mental and social interests of his wife as much as, even more than, he does his own. If he dwell with her according to knowledge, he will. The woman is more tender, delicate, sensitive, and refined than the man. She needs to be; and if he assimilates correspondingly, he will be a better man, more refined, considerate, affectionate, tender, etc.

GIVING HONOR UNTO THE WIFE

Selfish people cannot understand this: but giving her "honor" is more than to simply speak in her praise. Some men do not even do that. Husbands, have you been looking at the good qualities of your wives, or have you been finding fault with them? Do you still admire your wife as much as you did before you were married? You used to tell her how you loved her; you saw her good qualities then. She is the same woman now, or you have caused a change to come over her, and the quicker you see this, the better for you both. You ought to love her more now than when you were first married, and you ought to tell her so. You ought not be so bashful, as you were the first time you ventured to say, "I love you dear." If you have honored her as God wanted you to, she will appreciate to have you speak as affectionately to her as you ever did. Do you not remember when love first began—how tender you were towards her, and how you wanted to be so polite and wait on her and help her at every turn? Why did you quit? Just because you were married?

Does marriage destroy love, kindness, courtesy, gentility, politeness, etc.? If not, why then do most married people soon depart from these good qualities? If these belong only to courtship, it is a pity that courtship should ever end. If you give the honor to your wife that is due her, you will not be

inclined to give more honor to any other woman—no not nearly so much. Some men try to honor their wives in company, where others are showing courtesy, etc., but a true husband will honor his wife when they are alone just as well.

It is the duty of the husband to provide for his wife and family. She is to be a "helpmeet" to be sure; but to simply provide a home and finances is not sufficient under all circumstances. It is not beneath the dignity of a gentleman to help his wife do any work that she is compelled to do. In fact it is commendable in any man to be capable of doing any kind of work common to the fair sex, and to assist his wife when she needs assistance. A man does not know how to honor his wife until he is thoughtful enough to see when she needs help, and cheerful and willing enough to share with her in any duty, burden, or care of life.

Husband, if you honor your wife as you should, you will be found carrying the heavy end of the load, you will not go along holding the short end of the stick while your wife holds up the long end with the greater portion of the burden. The wife is "the weaker vessel." And to "give honor unto her as unto the weaker vessel" means not to overburden, overwork, misuse or abuse her in any way. She is a joint-heir with you of the grace of life; she is just as worthy of its good things as you are.

A failure on the part of husbands to obey the scriptural instruction of I Pet. 3:7 is the chief cause of a great portion of misery and unhappiness in the domestic circle. Therefore too much stress cannot be laid on husbands' having proper knowledge and wisdom to dwell with their wives according to knowledge in all these things so vitally important.



HOME



LIFE

Marriage

"one  under God,"



On Keeping the Home undefiled

Today it became necessary for me to call at a music house to pick up a box in which to crate and ship an organ to my daughter in Florida. While waiting for help to remove an organ from the box that I was to have, I met and became slightly acquainted with a young sales lady of the establishment who, when learning that I was in my eighties, showed some surprise and remarked that she hoped that she could reach such a ripe old age and appear as alert and spry as I. I suggested that I thought that was possible if she would but follow a few simple rules: first, I said to leave smoking alone. She confessed that she didn't smoke. Second, leave liquor alone. This, she confessed, she had no part in either. I then suggested that she leave the boys alone. At this, she dropped her head in mirth and when she lifted it, she remarked, "I think I fell down there a little for I am married with a husband and have four children and I love each one of them very dearly."

This last remark struck a chord of appreciation within me for I, too, have had six children and know what it means to love and labor for one's family. This young mother inspired me because she was fulfilling an order enjoined upon young women in the Scriptures, and in the discharge of which there is no greater honor. Says the great apostle, "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands. . . ." (Titus 2:3, 4, 5.)

Sadly enough, and unhappily, the above Christian advice and moral precepts are not the rule in our corrupt society today. Human nature is so perverted in this age that by many, child-bearing is not only undesired, but thwarted in every way possible. We wonder, just how abnormal can the human race become and still survive? There is a fundamental law in nature that dictates that created life seek its perpetuation, and the principle of reproduction has stamped itself upon every living thing. When a brute mother destroys her young, we immediately know that she is suffering an abnormal condition and we try to remedy that condition to safeguard her progeny from extinction. But how do we account for a sane human mother destroying her innocent babe?

This age seems to recognize but one god—the monster LUST. His ways are devious and ruinous to the last degree. In his wake are heart-broken mothers

and fathers, wives and husbands, confused and neglected children. Relatives and associates on both sides are disappointed, unhappy, and heartsick as they watch the break-up and destruction of what once was a normal home. Only one bears a smile upon his countenance and that is the devil himself. He is the only winner in every immoral situation. Young married couples should, to govern the sanctity of their homes and to maintain their own personal sanity,

1. *God has you here to serve one another. Love acted out is serving.*
2. *Women need respect and nurturing. Love your wife so she knows you'd lay your life down for her. Continue to date her and admire her. Share a hobby—find something you can do to have fun together.*
3. *Laugh often.*
4. *Be patient. Love crumbles quickly under the weight of unmet expectations.*
5. *Spend more time trying to fix yourself than your spouse.*
6. *Keep short accounts. The Bible says, "Do not let the sun go down while you are angry." Make it a habit to forgive.*
7. *Determine up front that divorce is not an option.*
8. *Learn about love languages. Not all people show love or receive it the same way. You want a back rub and your spouse wants a clean kitchen. The love languages are fairly simple: acts of service, time, physical touch, gifts, and work of affirmation. Learn them. Love is better received when it's in the language that person speaks.*
9. *Words of affirmation are a love language for all men.*
10. *Men are born to be leaders. He cannot lead unless she gives him the confidence to do so. If you love your husband build him up. Confident men do not seek love outside the home.*

avoid, as one would a very dangerous plague, any intrusion of familiarity from the opposite sex—even to the point of shunning every unnecessary or intimate conversation or approach. Just as great oaks from little acorns grow, big trouble often accrues from seemingly insignificant beginnings. It is so very important that married couples bear in mind (religiously and constantly), that in every questionable act of immoral compromise, the devil is the only winner. Should you observe these simple rules of conduct, you may add years of happiness to your life.

And, one other word of advice: "Pray without ceasing."
—Earl Langley

Consider Your Marriage

March, 1992



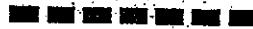
Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honourable in all. . . ." The thing that makes marriage honorable is for partners to live up to their wedding vows. Read the commitment a husband makes: "I do now take this woman whose hand I hold, choosing her alone from all others, to be my lawfully wedded wife. I will trust her as my best earthly friend, I will promise to love her, cherish, and protect her, to be considerate of her happiness in all my plans of life, to cultivate for her sake all manly virtues, and in all things to seek her welfare and her happiness as I seek my own. I pledge myself honorably to be her husband in good faith, in sickness and health, poverty and riches, for better or for worse, until death do us part." Our modern world has made it too easy for husbands to fail to live up to those vows, but God expects men to be men, and to

stand by their word "if it takes the hide," thus providing a safe and happy haven where he can cherish a wife and bring children into the world.

Our modern world seems to view marital vows a lot like former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger did treaties between nations, when he said they should be considered as having force only as long as they serve the best interests of all parties to them. But what does the Bible say? Deuteronomy 23:21 says, "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee." Marriage is based on the most solemn vows two people can make, and the Bible is very clear that God meant for marriage to last just as long as its promise says, "Until death do us part."

Read the commitment a woman makes: "I do now take this man, whose hand I hold, choosing him alone from all others, to be my lawfully wedded husband. I choose him from all others as he has chosen me, I pledge to trust him as my best earthly friend, I promise to love, to comfort, and to honor him, to cultivate for his sake all womanly graces, to guard his reputation, and to assist him in his life's work, and in all things to esteem his happiness as my own. I give myself thus trustfully to him to be his wife in good faith, through sickness and health, poverty or riches, for better or for worse, until death do us part." Our modern world has made it too easy for wives to fail to live up to those vows, but God expects women to love truly and be faithful to the pledges even if it hurts, thus providing a safe and happy haven for a husband and children.

Many people are undergoing great suffering because they relied on someone to live to what they promised, and that promise was not kept. But God wants some voices yet today raised against the tide to say that breaking marriage vows is wrong, and that He doesn't want His creation to do it. Friend, treasure your marriage, and work to make it strong. —Selected



Marriage

"one  under God,"

Assault On Marriage

By Bro. Stanley Dickson

The two most precious gifts given to mankind by a wise and gracious heavenly Father are the gift of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and the giving of a wife (Eve) to Adam.

By the first gift, man was afforded the opportunity to have fellowship and be made one with God. In salvation a relationship of love, devotion, purity and unity of purpose between God and man is established. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is given by God to this union, and mankind is benefited and blessed beyond their greatest expectations.

In describing the relationship that is to exist between God and man, God, in various places, uses the institution of marriage as an example of how salvation is to bless and affect us. Marriage is designed by God and His blessings and care are extended to it. In marriage, couples find the sweetest experience known to man. The fullness and richness of heart, soul, mind, body and emotions that exist within the confines of marriage by far outweighs and exceeds anything ever invented or imagined. Nowhere else can people find such fulfillment, comfort, strength and purpose as is found in marriage. Marriage is unique and without an equal in human relationships. In it we find a strength and support that will come from no other. The sharing and giving (never taking) of husbands and wives to each other form a bond that will weather the storms of life, and give stability and hope to those they touch. Regardless of how many friends we have, or how much of this world's goods and fame we may acquire, we will never find in them the support and help that comes from the love and care of a spouse.

From within the confines of a happy and devoted marriage comes the very material that the foundation of society is built upon, the family. Without question, when marriages suffer and fail, the fallout of that is a family that, to some degree, is dysfunctional and begins to forfeit the true blessings of life.

God told Ezekiel, when He made him a watchman on the wall,

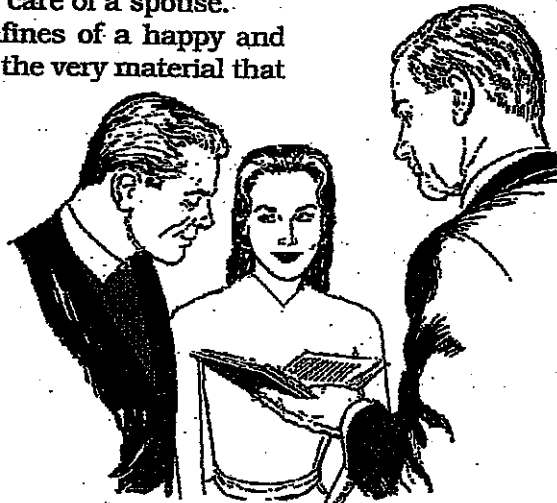
"...Hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." Ezekiel 3:17. So I would like to point out what I see as an all out assault on the institution of marriage by Satan and the mustered forces of this ungodly world. Remember, you cannot expect any help from the world and the changing rules of society. Regrettably, society is ruled by the god of this world, and his influence is in all aspects of society, even religion. Our help comes from the Lord and from allowing Him to be the center and heart of our life and marriage. Without Him we can do nothing. To the sorrow of mankind, many are trying to establish marriage on a foundation other than the truth of Jesus Christ and His life.

I hope you have a most wonderful marriage, and if so I praise God with you. However, do not take your happiness for granted. By all means be on your guard, and keep your heart and mind clear of the number one enemy, selfishness. With anguish of heart we all know of good marriages that have turned bad. It did not just happen, but some of the things we will discuss found their way into the life of the marriage.

To borrow from the Hebrew writer concerning bitterness, "...thereby many be defiled." Hebrews 12:15. When a marriage goes sour and selfishness begins to reign, not only is the couple defiled, but alas, many are defiled. How many spoiled marriages have you seen that only affected the couple? I will tell you how many—none. There is always fallout and injury to the innocent and to society every time. Never be so bold as to say it should be of no concern to anyone else and that it is your business alone.

When a marriage fails we all lose. Satan knows this very well and rejoices at a couple's calamity and the ensuing effect.

We may want to think that marital trouble is a condition that exists only in the world, and that somehow we, the Church, are exempt. May we never be so naive. The Church is a prime target and Satan has his demonic sights of death set on your marriage. He is just waiting



for you to make a slip and not be on guard. Oh, please, believe this. It is true. I have seen Satan's work too many times and in too many places to believe that it is just an isolated incident now and then.

Remember back to the courtship and the engagement. Remember all the hope, love and anticipated joy you looked forward to? Remember all the dreams and plans, and how you could not for a minute imagine anything so beautiful coming under assault and being exposed to a death blow from Satan? Bitter heartaches never entered your thoughts. Sleepless nights and pillows wet with tears were never considered. How could such a beautiful picture turn so ugly?

How? Because marriage has an "...adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8.) To devour means to swallow up. The pain and terror of being attacked by a lion is unthinkable. But it is nothing compared to the terror of a marriage being ingested by Satan. We have all seen the blows and the attacks couples can make upon one another. Maybe you are there

marriage. Please do not expose it to Satan. Hold marriage dear.

Here are some of the devices that Satan can use to get a toe hold in a marriage. What I would like for you to do is read this list very slowly. Meditate on each one. Explore the meaning of each word. Then I would ask you to read this together as a couple and be very honest with yourself and each other. Discuss the thoughts. Pray over your thoughts and discussion. A word of caution. It is inherent in people to want to take a list such as this one and put it on the other person. It is easier than being honest with yourself. But that is not what I am asking you to do. Read the list and apply it to yourself. God is not asking you to change the ways of others. Spiritual lukewarmness; Cares of this life; Different directions; Insensitivity; Lack of communication; Jobs/Careers; Jealousy; Stinginess/Greed; Concupiscence; Worldly entertainment; In-Laws (Remember, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave [firmly attach] unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."); Indifference; Belittling; Criticism; Lying; A religious spirit (the Bible is never to be

How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of marriage.

now and are fielding or wielding the debilitating blows of Satan's influence. There is no way for there to be pleasure and fulfillment in such a relationship; and to think of such pain coming from what started out as visions of love, joy, beauty and happiness. Why, oh why, would one want to harm and disfigure something so beautiful?

Satan is "seeking." I thought of it this way in trying to explain the seriousness of Satan's desire for people. Imagine that a hired assassin was stalking you. Everywhere you go, he follows, and has the cross hairs of a scope on a high powered rifle trained on you at all times. Imagine how serious you would be in your actions and steps if you knew that he was just waiting for you to give him a clear shot so he could take out your life. Would you be careful? Would you notify the authorities? Would you hold life dear? Yes, of course you would.

May God help each one to see that the devil has his sights set on their marriage. He is just waiting for them to allow their selfishness to give him an opening for a clear shot. How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of

used as an instrument for getting your way); Abuse (sexual, physical, emotional); Drugs/Alcohol; Love of money.

Make no excuse for any of the above. They are poison. You must be willing to allow God to purge you from all of the avenues Satan is using to infiltrate your marriage. Because of Satan's devices, and the looseness of the world, we must be on guard at all times. Resist any intrusion into the sanctity of your marriage.

Redeeming the time is a theme of Christ. I encourage you to make full use of the time you have. This is your time for your marriage; a time to shine out as a beacon of the beauty of Christ and His Church. This is your opportunity to build magnificent memories. A time to be rich in love and the joy of sharing life with someone you love; a time for flowers to bloom; a time to guard against regrets; a time to point and direct children to a healthy perception of marriage and to give them an example to pattern their marriage after. May I interject a challenge here? Do you want your children to have the kind of marriage you have? Be honest. If not, then you must

(Continued on page 163)

Marriage

Assault on Marriage

(Continued from page

realize you are setting the pattern for their ideas of marriage, and be willing to humble yourself and change (Oh, what a terrifying word that is to the flesh).

This is the time to reject all influences that would harm your marriage. Soon the twilight will be here. So live in your marriage, and with your spouse, that the latter years will not be spent in remorse of wasted years and bitter regrets of how it could have been. Focus on this thought when you want to excuse yourself and blame the other person, "So then every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God." Romans 14:12.

Remember God's warning. Your marriage is under assault. Heed the warning and take the necessary precautions. Walk circumspectly, (considerate of all circumstances and the consequences) and not as fools. (Ephesians 5:15.)

Adultery Is Sin

Sept. 1951

Adultery in any form is sin in the sight of God, and indulgence in it will bar souls out of heaven.

We do know that God is a merciful God, but we also know that He does not look upon sin with any degree of pleasure. While He is merciful, he is also severe on the transgressors and rebellious and those who become indifferent to his sacred word. Read Romans 11:22.

The Pharisees approached Jesus, asking him if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause (Matt. 19). Jesus answered them thus: "Have ye not read that he which made them in the beginning made them male and female," In other words, God only made one woman for one man, and that was his supreme law for man on the subject. By the following words, He gave them to understand that a man was to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the twain would be one flesh: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." This is a positive statement. Jesus told them that because of the hardness of their hearts, (carnal nature) Moses suffered the people to put away their wives, but positively stated that "from the beginning it was not so."

Under the law of Moses they had no way of getting rid of or freed from that carnal nature which brought hardness to their hearts in transgressing God's laws, therefore they were in great darkness and ignorance as to the purity of God. It is recorded in the New Testament that the times of this "ignorance God winked at" (Acts 17:30). In other words, He bore with it, but now since the day of Christ has come and men can get rid of the carnal nature by faith in his blood, he commandeth all men everywhere to repent, clean up, and live clean and holy in his sight or have the penalty of eternal death hanging over their heads. The law said that if one was caught in adultery, he should be stoned to death; but we find

that God did allow a man to have a plurality of wives and approved of them. David had many wives and concubines, and it is written of him in the New Testament that he was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). But when David took another man's wife and put the man in the front of the battle to be killed, God's anger was kindled against him and David had to suffer for this thing. I believe the reason he was a man after God's own heart was because of his great faith in God; and when he came to the knowledge that he had sinned against God, he humbled down in godly sorrow and repentance. Solomon had many wives and concubines, but according to the record, he lost his soul; not because he had many wives, but because his wives led him into idol worship and he worshiped their gods. By this we understand that God bore with them having many wives while the carnal nature and hardness of heart was upon them; but now in this day of grace, since Christ has come and through faith in him the carnal nature is destroyed and we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are brought back to that Eden state of purity, and Jesus said, in the beginning it was not so for man to have more than one woman. God just made one woman for Adam, and thereby set an example of purity and holiness before us as a pattern; and, under grace, forbids us to have more than one companion. Yea, he does not recognize the second one as a wife at all, but positively states in the first few verses of the 7th chapter of Romans, "So then if, while her husband liveth, she is married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress." God calls her an adulteress woman, and does not recognize her as a wife, even though the law of our land may and does do so. We who are saved and sanctified are under the law of God and are back in the Eden state and we should consider things as God sees them lest we have the Scriptures contradicting themselves. Under grace, the first woman whom you marry is your lawful wife in God's sight; and God forbids any man to put you asunder from her. If you do put her away, and by the laws of the land marry another, God does not recognize that marriage, but looks upon you as living in adultery.

Some try to find a loop-hole to marry again by the verse of Scripture which reads thus: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her that is put away committeth adultery." The word "except" does mean that you can put her away if she be a fornicator or an adulterer; but because of other Scriptures, such as Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:19, 11; and Romans 7:2, 3, we affirm that you have no right under God's true holiness laws to tie up with another woman; for if you do, God will not recognize that marriage, but will look upon you as living in adultery so long as your lawful companion lives.

Of that which we have written, this is the sum total: When a man stands before the minister or judge and vows that he "takes this woman to be his lawful wedded wife," and chooses her in preference to all others to be his wife until death parts them,

this vow is before God, and he holds you to it so long as that companion lives. When we are sanctified wholly and brought back to the Eden state, we are to walk in true holiness before God, having only one companion, for God made the man only one woman in the beginning, and we are taught in the Word that we are bound to that one woman so long as she liveth. Men may, and do, put asunder the lawfully wedded; but God does not sanction it; and if you are married to another beside the lawfully wedded one, you are an adulterer in the sight of God and will have to give an account to God in that day as such.

Brethren, God has a clean church, a holy bride, and he says in Eph. 5:27 of his sanctified church or family, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Dearly beloved brethren, let us not compromise with the devil in any form or manner and become like the many so-called churches of God around us who allow and indulge in questionable things. Let us show to the world the clean holy bride of the Lamb, which has come down from God out of heaven and is now functioning in the world, but is not of the world. For true holiness becometh His house forever.

—Fred Pruitt

—o—

Divorce and Remarriage

March 1974

The usual discussion about divorce and remarriage does not go back far enough. Possibly the greatest sin about the whole problem is the putting away in the first place. It is the putting away that breaks the union between two hearts and lives which had been made one according to God's plan.

Many times small children are cut off from parental love and care, and thus are starved and incomplete socially. Here is the root cause of much juvenile delinquency. Married couples should not break up in the first place. It is a tragic, fatal step in the wrong direction. God calls "Halt" right there. If there were no putting away, there would be no problem about remarriage. It appears that the Lord is as displeased about the putting away as He is about the remarriage. He "hates" it. What harder thing can He say? (See Malachi 2:14-16a.)

Marriage is a divinely ordained institution. It was created and established by God Himself. Its direct, primary objective, of course, is the happiness, purity, and perpetuity of mankind. Vague as it is, however, another great purpose of setting up and maintaining marriage and the home is the illustration and demonstration it affords of the relation of God to His children. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." Psalm 103:13. "If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 49:15. Like

as a father—and how much more! A mother may forget, but not God. The desecration and violation of the happy human home spoils the picture of the heavenly home and the relationship of our Heavenly Father to His earthly children. This is more serious to God than we think. It strikes at Him personally!

How hurt God must be today with the constant "dealing treacherously with the wife of thy youth" when His Son is so faithful to His bride. How He must hate the incessant putting away, so common in American life today, when He loves with an everlasting love.

Jesus said, "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:6-8. This is the eternal edict. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" is one of the great commandments. Indeed, Moses, for the hardness of the Israelites' hearts, permitted them to write a bill of divorce. But from the beginning it was not so.

Five times in the New Testament the Lord emblazoned His law on the sacred pages:

1. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Mark 10:11, 12.

2. "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." Luke 16:18.

3. "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is not an adulteress, though she be married to another man." Rom. 7:2, 3.

4. "Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11.

5. "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 7:39. Here, repeated five times over, is God's Word declared in the most unequivocal and categorical manner. "What . . . God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." —Sel.

Marriage

"one  under God,"

165

Marriage/Divorce/Adultery

By Jim Broker

Jan. 1993

"But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife." Genesis 20:3.

Now the world today largely depreciates the thought presented here; that adultery is a very serious offense indeed, both against God and against the spouse of the offender.

I have had married people try to explain it away by logic or justify it by the thought that no one was really hurt by their act. They could see that robbery or murder was wrong, but profess that no one was actually injured by their unfaithfulness to the marriage vows.

But let's go back and consider the first sin, the one that plunged the world into this nightmare of sin and suffering! What was logically wrong with Eve eating some fruit from a certain tree? Of course the answer is that it wasn't logically wrong, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT GOD FORBADE IT! Let's not forget that God is God, and as such His word is law.

In our text, God himself appeared to Abimelech, in a dream, and told him he "was a dead man," because he had taken another man's wife.

You see God has given a commandment, the 7th to be exact, (Exodus 20:14) stating, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." And further, he has also levied the death penalty against this sin, because it is so wrong in His eyes.

"And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death." Leviticus 20:10.

Now you're probably wanting to ask, "But what about the woman taken in adultery?" (John 8). The Pharisees wanted to use this law against her, and put her to death, but Jesus didn't allow it, because He believes in love!

Yes, that's true-but you're missing an awful important point right here! Jesus did and does teach love as the primary commandment, however we are unbalanced in our viewpoint if we can't see that he laid equal importance on obedience to God; both by teaching and by example.

Remember His prayer in the garden-"not my will, but thine be done." Our Lord was very consistent in both teaching and practicing obedience to the laws of God.

To reconcile this to His treatment of the woman taken in adultery, one has to remember that Christ brought in a period of grace. That means that, in this age, judgment will not be executed speedily against an offense.

The offender (sinner) will be granted a space of time (grace) to consider and repent of his/her sin.

Listen to the words of our Lord through His prophet Jeremiah. "And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The Lord make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire; Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives." Jer. 29:22-23.

Is it any wonder then that Jesus listed this commandment first when the rich, young ruler came running and asked Him, "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Notice that Jesus gave this commandment against adultery even before those against murder and robbery!

I want you to notice another important point in our text. This man Abimelech DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE WOMAN WAS MARRIED, but THE DEATH PENALTY WAS BEING ENFORCED ANYWAY!

It had already been set into motion. (Gen. 20:17-18) Even though Abimelech had been deceived into thinking Sarah was still single it was no defense!

However, God, being just, did take into consideration the fact that Abimelech had been deceived. That is why He appeared unto him in a dream and warned him of approaching death and destruction, that he might have a chance to avoid it!

Notice in verse 7 of our text, that God also commanded him to return the woman to her rightful husband, and warned him, in no uncertain terms, of what would follow if he failed to do so immediately! "...and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine."

Oh how people today need to take warning from this story and turn from their adulterous thoughts and ways, before the judgments of God fall upon them.

This story of Abimelech reminds me of another king whom God also warned, through his prophet John the Baptist. However King Herod did not repent, as did Abimelech, and the Scriptures record that he "added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison." Luke 3:20.

Now let's look at this story a bit. It is found in Matthew 14:3-4. "For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her."

Herod and Herodias had fallen for each other; she had divorced his brother Philip, and she and Herod had been legally married. (Mark 6:17) That is legal, and socially acceptable, in

much of today's world, but in the eyes of God it is still sin!

Consider this: You can get married by a minister of the Gospel, through the Word of God, but you can't get divorced that way! Preachers have the power to marry you, but not to divorce you! Why is that? There must be a conflict here between the law of God and the law of men.

Let us go back to our story about the rich young ruler found in Mark 10. Perhaps one reason Jesus listed adultery first on His list of commandments was because He had just been teaching about it. Listen to the words of the Master:

"And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Mark 10:11-12.

In Matt. 19:7-9 Jesus' disciples were shocked that God bound the marriage vows so tightly and remarked, "If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."

You are probably wanting to ask, as did the Pharisees in this same chapter, if divorce and remarriage is wrong, why was it allowed in the Old Testament?

Jesus had a good answer for that, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." It was allowed them because the people had become so sin-hardened and strayed so far away from God, but God never did like it.

Now listen to the words of Paul: "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the LORD, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.... Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.... The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." 1 Cor. 7:10,11,27,39.

This is the Word of God, and as Jesus was fond of saying, "Let him that hath an ear hear!"



QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Reprint

July 2004

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 19:9, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

ANSWER: The basic law for interpreting Scriptures—any Scripture and all Scriptures—is known as "Unanimity of Faith." This means there must be a complete accord and agreement of all Scriptures on any particular subject. To isolate one Scripture on any subject and put a private interpretation on it which is contradictory to the general plain teaching of the Scriptures on that subject is to do violence to the Scripture which will destroy the validity of that doctrine or teaching. Charles E. Brown said, "Now we ought not to found a doctrine upon a text of Scripture of doubtful meaning. We ought to found all doctrine upon Scriptural texts of plain meaning and then interpret the difficult texts by the plain texts." I certainly agree with this statement, and failure to follow this rule in interpreting the above text has led to a general breakdown of standard on this very important doctrine.

Then what is the plain teaching of the Scriptures on the subject of marriage and putting away and remarrying etc.? Without question, it is that marriage is for life and there is only one cause for "putting away" (unfaithfulness to the marriage vow), and that if one marries another while the former spouse is still living, he is guilty of the sin of adultery before God. This is the teaching of all the plain texts in the Bible on this subject, as follows: Matthew 5:32, Luke 16:18, Mark 10:11-12, Romans 7:2-3, I Corinthians 7:10-11, 39, Malachi 2:14-16. All of these texts are plain and unmistakable in their teaching and definitely establish God's doctrine on this subject. Matthew 19:9 must be interpreted by them.

My understanding of this text is that it contains two parts. The Pharisees had asked Jesus if it were lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause—verse 3. This was the full extent of their question. They never asked anything about marrying another spouse after this one was put away. That was no question with them since that was common practice among them and divorce and remarriage was allowable under the law. They even had more than one wife and lived with them at the same time (polygamy).

In the first part of this verse, Jesus answered their question after discussing at some length God's original purpose and arrangement for marriage by saying that the only cause for which a man could put away his wife was for fornication. This relates to Matthew 5:32 where the same thing is stated and confirms the fact that a person has the right to put away a spouse for this cause because it is backed up by two witnesses and, according to God's Word, every word is established by two witnesses. (Matthew 18:16 and John 8:17.) "Putting away" is all that is under consideration up to this point. Then after He had answered their question He went ahead and introduced His own New Testament doctrine that if one marries another after that one is put away, he commits adultery. This, no doubt, shocked the Pharisees and it is certain it shocked Jesus' disciples by their response to that statement: "If the case of a man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry." Matthew 19:10. It is evident these chosen men understood from what He said that marriage was a binding thing, and if it were that binding and that difficult to get out of, it would just be better to not enter into it.

Therefore, I conclude that according to Matthew 19:9, a man is permitted to put away his wife for the cause of fornication and for no other cause, and that to marry another while that woman is still living is forbidden and to do so is adultery. In Matthew 5:32 Jesus comes out very strongly on this point and says if a man puts away his wife for any cause except fornication, he **causes** her to commit adultery. In other words he is a contributor to her delinquency for putting her away from himself when she is a loyal and chaste wife. God would hold him responsible right along with her for having done this thing and exposed her to this condition.

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 15, No. 9.

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

January, 1945

O, New Year Nineteen Forty-Five

O, New Year nineteen forty-five,
Your greeting to us is new;
And what you hold in store for us
Is hidden from our view.

We cannot read your pages clear
Our vision is too dim;
But God above doth know, New Year,
What thou doth hold within.

He knows the many secret things,
That later you'll unfold—
The joy and gladness you will bring,
And blessings yet untold.

He sees the pains and sorrows, too,
That will be ours to share—
O New Year, will you bring us more
Than we can ably bear?

Our strength indeed is very weak,
And we alone would fall;
But God will guide our faltering steps,
Through Him we'll conquer all.

O, New Year nineteen forty-five,
Your greeting to us is new;
But soon we'll know the secret things
Now hidden from our view.

—Olive A. Phillips.

A Startling Vision Of Judgment

The following vision was given to the daughter of Mrs. A. C. Vailles, San Francisco, California, on Oct. twelfth, nineteen twenty-three. This girl was attending Glad Tidings Bible School at that place.

I entered the judgment hall, which seemed just like one of our court rooms. On the bench was Jesus, whose face was stern—not a smile, nor a frown, but like our regular judges here on earth. On his right hand side was a flight of stairs of the very whitest marble, and at the foot of the stairway was a white angel. On his left was a very narrow and dark stairway that led to the earth below and a black angel with white wings stood there.

I stood and looked and all the girls of the Bible school filed in, one by one. When Jesus saw us, there was not a smile nor a move on His face. He motioned us to His right hand and we stood there in a semi-circle and waited.

After a short while, through the middle aisle came twenty-one girls, all powdered and painted, with bobbed hair, very short skirts, and transparent silk stockings. They all stood around the Judge's seat. Jesus looked and said, "With your powder and paint and exposure of your flesh, you have dragged men to hell! Go to meet them." He motioned to the black angel to take care of them.

One by one they went down the narrow stairway. Jesus told me to go and see what awaited them. I followed the black angel as he walked behind the last girl. As they went down the black stairs, the stones burned as live coals. Oh, how the girls screamed and yelled, but they could not escape, for a black wall was on each side. Down, down they went. It seemed we were going to the very center of the earth. I did not feel the heat in any manner whatsoever. I was right behind the angel, and when he and I stepped on the stairs, they were black as before and did not burn.

Finally we came to an opening in the wall where was a large, high fireplace and an angel standing on each side. As the girls filed in, they stood in a semi-circle around the fireplace and both angels started to see to the girls. They took burning cinders and put on their faces for powder and live coals on their cheeks for paint. Oh! how the girls shrieked, but they were absolutely helpless and could make no resistance. One by one they had to undergo the process.

After they were through there and on their way out, they stepped on a kind of stool, while through another process their legs were frozen.

We started again on that winding stairway that seemed to lead us to the very center of the earth. On and on we went until we came to the lake of fire, where we stood. Something like a narrow water pipe or iron bar went right across the lake of fire. The black angel told the girls to walk on the pipe. With the least movement or turn they would fall into the fire, but not one of them fell down.

The twenty-one girls stood there while underneath could be seen the heads of men floating on the

Tidbits

liquid fires. The angel looked at the girls and said, "You have craved the admiration of those men; you shall have it for eternity;" then turning to me, said, "Let us go back." We came to the judgment hall. There were Jesus and the school girls just as we had left them. Jesus said to me, "Now, daughter, will you continue to use your powder and cream?" I answered, "No, Lord; never, never!" Then turning to the girls, He said, "Learn the lesson."

The girls went out and I was left alone in the judgment hall with Jesus, and both angels. Very soon, through the middle aisle, came twenty-one preachers, all with their Bibles in their hands and looking in every direction, with great boldness, as if they came to claim a reward. I looked and the first was Brother C—, who was the only one who did not carry a Bible, but his head was bowed and he was praying every moment as he approached the Judge. When Jesus saw him, His face turned into the most tender smile, as He said, "Welcome home, ye weary pilgrim." He motioned the white angel at His right, and from the stairs came two shining angels, one with a crown, and the other with a white robe. However, I was not allowed to see what followed.

The twenty other preachers stood around and awaited their sentence. Jesus looked at every one of them, and said, "Go where your congregations are awaiting you." He motioned the black angel at His left and the preachers went down the narrow stairway, dark and winding. The same thing happened as when the girls passed; the black stones turned to live coals. Down, down we went. It seemed we were going to the very center of the earth.

Finally doors were opened on the right side, and each minister entered to his church or congregation. The angel took me in with the first minister. It was just like a little church, only the walls were as of red-hot iron. The people were there in the pews. When the preacher came in, all in one voice said, "We have been awaiting you; what are you going to preach now?" The minister gave one loud yell, and said, "Hell is real!" He called the congregation to order and said, "Let us sing a song." They opened their books and started to sing, but instead of their voices, sharp tongues of fire came out of their mouths. I was horrified and hid behind the angel, crying, "Take me away; I can't stand this any longer!" He took me back to Jesus and I begged Him to let me go; that I could not endure any more of these scenes, but He told me to wait, that there was something I had to see.

We waited a short while in the judgment hall. Soon came, in great confusion, all talking at once and each one trying to get ahead of the other, twenty-one mothers. Some were expensively dressed and nearly all wore jewels. "Where are our daughters?" "Where is my daughter?" "What have you done with my child?" All were very much excited and their eyes wide opened. Jesus looked at them with His stern, unmovable face, and motioning the black angel, told the women, "Go to where you have sent your daughters."

The black angel motioned them to go down the

same narrow, black stairway, which they did, one by one, but this time the black stones did not turn to live coals as before. I followed just behind the angel, while down, down we went again. At last a door opened and we came into a large, square hall. It was a beautifully lighted ballroom and there were sixty to eighty girls, ranging from seven to twelve years of age, all performing the up-to-date dances. When I could see clearly what was going on, I was horrified and shook from head to foot.

The little girls were all naked and a huge snake was coiled around their bodies. I begged the angel to take me out. Just then he pointed to the front of the room, where all the girls were facing. There, on a kind of platform stood a dragon or a monster snake the tail of which spread several feet on the floor. The rest of the body was coiled up like a figure eight. Right in the middle of this figure eight was its immense head.

It was more than I could stand and I cried, begging the angel to take me out, which he did. We returned to the judgment hall and I asked Jesus to let me come back; that I couldn't stand any more of these scenes. He said, "Go and tell my people about it."

—oO—

Television, A New Approach to Sin

To every age Satan presents a "magnificent obsession," a new approach to sin, which becomes the darling idol, the sacred god of the masses. One apostle writes, "The sin which doth so easily beset us." In other words, the sin which is so much discussed, excused, and defended. The lusts which the flesh enjoys are the ones that are defended. A cigarette smoker will defend the cigarette, even when he knows it is killing him. The drunk will defend his drinks, even when he knows it is his ruin. The adulterer will defend adultery, even when he knows the Bible said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and no adulterer shall see the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." John 8:44. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11, 12.

I never saw a person yet who calls himself a Christian, who is more spiritual because of his television set. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Psa. 101:3. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the EYES, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. "Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it, but thou shalt utterly detest

(Continued on

TELEVISION. A NEW APPROACH TO SIN

it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing." Deut. 7:26. This is God's Word, and to disobey God will damn even a preacher. The television is presenting to your children SIN in all its deceitful beauty. Some may try to sort the good from the bad, but it is like sorting through a garbage can for food—pretty mixed up. Missing the pleasures of television is a wonderful miss—like missing cancer. There is nothing on TV to help one to heaven, and just a very little of educational value. The main purpose of TV is entertainment—a home being entertained by the lowest colony of people, presenting deceitfulness in all of its fury with obscene things that were never permitted in the movies, influencing wives to think that adultery is modish. How can a person watch sex scenes, murders, lying, stealing, and breaking of all the other commandments, finding pleasure in them and those that commit such things, ever expect to get to heaven? They are drinking of the cesspools of hell. If sins were taken from the movies and TV show scripts, there wouldn't be enough left to run for a week out of a year, and no one would watch them. Hoover, of the FBI, has said that TV is doing multiplied more damage than the theater ever did.

People say that TV is here to stay. So is liquor, adultery, murder. These things will get worse and worse, just like a canker. TV stills the lips of preachers and Christians about sins they once loudly condemned. They can't say much about sin if they are doing the same, or they might hear, "Physician, heal thyself." "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22. "For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill; thou art become a transgressor of the law." James 2:11. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." 1 Pet. 2:11. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

—Earl B. Bliss

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know that my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
When milk spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved, respected, and not alone.
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
To find the strength to carry the Cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey Home in loving ways.

—Esther Mary Walker

IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS

I read in the Bible many times of the importance of the little things that God requires, which many overlook. The lack of obedience to the little things seems to be the most stupendous issues—such as eating a little fruit in the Garden of Eden. It didn't just affect those that ate of it, but brought the curse on all mankind until this day. The widow was told to bake a cake first and bring it to the prophet to eat, when she scarcely had enough for her and her son, then was preparing to die. Then Naaman, who heard of "the man of God," through the Jewish maiden, decided to go and see him, as he believed what the child told him. But when he came to the prophet's house, the prophet told his servant to tell him to go dip in the River Jordan seven times. At this Naaman was very wrath, as he was a great man in his own country, and supposed the prophet would come out and do some great miracle before his eyes. But the prophet didn't as much as go out to see him, but sent his servant. After leaving and starting back to his own country, one of Naaman's servants said, now why don't you try dipping in the Jordan like the prophet said? So Naaman was influenced by his servant, and after coming up out of the water the seventh time, he was made whole of his leprosy. —Earl Bliss

Immodest Dress

(1 Peter 3:3)

Our papers are filled with mystery murders. Women and girls are being forced into automobiles and later found in a field or ditch, raped, beaten, and murdered. Immediately the cry goes out, "Get the sex killer!" "Give him the chair!" Let us stop a minute and consider. Who is to blame? Who is guilty of arousing the beast nature in the murderer? Why did he do it? The majority of womanhood has by their semi-nude appearance in public aroused this beast nature and invited this lust demon to demand its passion satisfied.

Womanhood is inviting this thing upon themselves by their indecent and immoral dress. No woman or girl can parade about exposing their bodies to the opposite sex without inviting an insult. When a man is brought before a court in this day for insulting a woman it would be well to investigate as to just how decently dressed the woman was at the time of the crime; and if she were dressed in these so-called sun-suits, or some other immoral garb, let her be charged by the court for solicitation as a prostitute, or for indecent exposure, and sent to jail with the man, for she is as guilty, if not more so, for dressing to invite such a crime.

If a woman is not selling her body on the altar of lust, let her take it off the display counter. People who have something to sell usually show it and advertise it to the public.

If women do not want the insults and attacks of lust-filled libertines, let them cover up. If mothers do not want their daughters attacked, let them see to it that they dress modestly.

Read Eph. 6:6; Col. 3:23.

—Sel.

"The man who kneels to God can stand up to anything."

The saying about forgiveness stands out in my mind. It truly changed my future. True forgiveness is the only way to receive God's complete blessings. God gave me a vision of His Son hanging on the cross, shedding His blood for me, then said, "Shame on you for not forgiving." Since then I have had a complete future of happiness.

God never put a "but" on His forgiveness. One person said, "I forgave him, but..." True forgiveness is just like it never happened. I thank God for it. I can say like Job, "God has made my heart soft."
—Naomi Jennings

I respond to the sayings on page 15 of the November *Faith and Victory* paper. I like the one that states, and I quote, "There is much unfairness everywhere, but our relationship to God should be the key to how we react to those who mistreat us." I have encountered many obstacles in organizing an outreach ministry. Your paper, and tracts have encouraged me very much. They are as precious as gold. To me it is like the Spirit comes to say, "I know what you are going through, and here are the answers to all of your problems." The *Faith and Victory* paper teaches in many of the areas where I am battling or need instruction.
—Doris Rice

Benevolence *Feb. 1994*

In laboring, economizing, and managing so as to be financially successful, we should have an object that reaches farther than just to provide the comforts of life for ourselves and our homes. Right here is where many people fail to enjoy a happy life; and because they fail they generally settle down on the old saying, "Happier in pursuit than in possession."

Many rich people do not find the enjoyment in life and home that the common people do. The former realize that, though they have wealth, they can consume but one living, can live in but one house, wear but one suit of clothes, eat for only one person, and occupy but one grave after death. They may go to excess and provide for themselves and their families luxuries that others cannot have; they may lay aside all labor and toil in order to enjoy life more; but in doing so, they only make themselves more miserable than the poorest, for excess and idleness cannot but make one unhappy. Others may continue to labor and to worry, trying to increase their riches and wealth; but in doing so they only add more care and trouble. Thus, it seems as though it were impossible for man to make riches add to his pleasure and happiness and that it often works ruin to himself and family.

There is a way, however, whereby wealth can be turned into pleasure and happiness. There is something besides our own needs which is worth laboring, managing, and saving for. If this were taken into consideration and heeded by all who are able to accumulate more than a living for themselves and dear ones, much sorrow and misery would be banished from many homes both among the rich and

Giving

*See the rivers flowing downward to the sea,
Pouring all their treasures bountiful and free;
Yet, to help their giving, hidden streams arise,
Or, if need be, showers feed them from the skies.
Watch the princely flowers their rich fragrance
spread;*

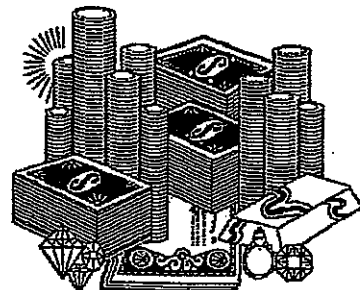
*Load the air with perfume from their beauty shed.
Still their lavish spending leaves them not in
dearth,*

*With fresh life replenished from their mother
earth.*

*So the more thou spendest from thy little store,
With a double bounty, God will give thee more.*

—Selected

among the poor, and happiness would enter instead. Comparatively few people, it seems, realize that in making their families happy they make themselves happy. Fewer still realize that by reaching farther than this they will increase their own happiness, or that the more people they can make happy, the more they themselves will enjoy life. Very few people act as though they had ever heard or read the words, "It is more blessed to give



than to receive." And yet no other lesson needs so much to be learned and practiced by those who have the good qualities of industry and economy; for unless they do learn this lesson and put it into practice, their life will prove a failure notwithstanding their apparent success.

To illustrate this point we will relate a little incident we once read about a certain rich man who failed to enjoy his wealth. It was, in substance, as follows:

He had so much sorrow and trouble that he finally decided to commit suicide. Accordingly, he started to the river, intending to leap from a high bridge into a watery grave. On the way, however, he thought of the money he carried on his person and decided that, before he committed suicide, he would do one good act—would give this money to the poor. He had no difficulty in finding a house, or shed, that looked as though its inmates were poor enough to need the money. He knocked, gained admittance,

benevolence. A family will get no more additional happiness out of an additional farm when the one they already possess will more than provide for them, than the millionaire gets out of his increasing millions.

The truth is, we should always be charitable to our fellow beings. Even those who are comparatively poor, or need all they have, can sometimes find others who are more needy than they are. In such cases they surely ought to show their benevolence rather than plead their poverty. Not only is this a human duty that all persons owe to one another, but it makes ourselves and others enjoy life much more than would otherwise be possible.

The best way is to unite all the good qualities that are possible for man to possess and start to practicing them all together. Benevolence should be started along with industry and economy. The following rule, which is attributed to John Wesley, is good for all to follow and will produce

"To make it short, if people would labor and save to make their fellow men enjoy life, they would find it the joy of their life to do so. In no other way can riches be made a blessing to their possessors or to anyone else."

and made known his errand. He was surprised to see the poverty and misery of these human beings, but more surprised when he saw their unbounded joy and happiness caused by his act of benevolence. It warmed up his cold heart and nature and filled his soul with an hitherto unknown joy. At once he thought of how many such homes he could make happy by his wealth and decided that, with such a grand object in view, life was worth living. He gave up the thought of committing suicide and went away rejoicing over his new discovery.

If you desire to enjoy life, "go and do thou likewise." To make it short, if people would labor and save to make their fellow men enjoy life, they would find it the joy of their life to do so. In no other way can riches be made a blessing to their possessors or to anyone else.

We should not put off being benevolent to the poor, the sick, and the needy until we have become wealthy; for not only will this procrastination not increase our own happiness, but also many may die of sorrow and of want while we are gathering a fortune for them. Besides this, it is not very often the case that people who do nothing for humanity until they acquire great wealth ever manifest the good quality of

more pleasure and better people than can all the accumulated wealth of all the rich: "Make all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." It may seem rather hard to take a part of our savings for benevolent purposes before we even have a home of our own, and yet it is about the only way of developing the human kindness that is within our breast. Using all our income for ourselves and family will almost surely make us selfish and unkind to others; and no selfish man or woman can ever be happy in the true sense of the word. A miser is a miserable man—a man who loves no one and is beloved by no one. Therefore all should be benevolent from the moment they start for themselves.

Especially should Christian people be "rich in good works." The New Testament makes it very plain, not only that it is a human and a Christian duty, but also that it is more pleasing to God, if done through love, than almost any other Christian duty. It should be considered a part of our service to God, for such it truly is. We cannot render any personal service to God, for He does not personally need our help; but we can serve Him through the needy, the sick, the suffering, etc.

It may be well to notice a few quotations from

the New Testament in order to see how the Author of the Bible looks upon the using of some of our possessions to relieve the sufferings and sorrows of others.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10.

"Charge them that are rich...that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." 1 Tim. 6:17-18.

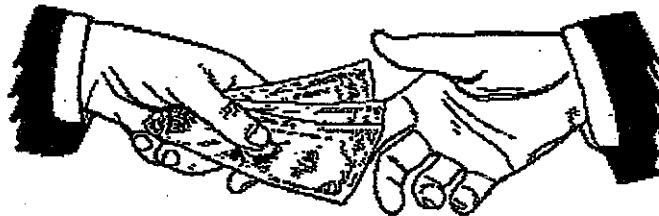
"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb. 13:16.

"...An odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God." Phil. 4:18.

Not only is it held as our duty, the performance of which is well pleasing to God, but also special reward and blessing is promised to those who are truly benevolent to the poor and needy. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.... Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." II Cor. 9:7-8, 11.

Let Christian people fully believe and practice these scriptures, thereby proving themselves Christians, not in name only; for without true benevolence no one can be a true Christian. As we read, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I John 3:17-18.

Even the final reward in the resurrection day will be decided by how we have treated our fellow men, as will be seen in the following passage: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:34-36, 40.



Those who believe the Bible will surely see that it pays to be benevolent, and it is to be hoped that they will show their faith by their works.

Christian people are exhorted not only to communicate to the poor and needy, but also to use a part of their earthly possessions for the spread of the Gospel. This is even more benevolent than pecuniary aid; for it is the Bible that brings civilization and elevates humanity. This can readily be seen by comparing the nations which have the Bible and in which Christianity is the prevailing religion with those who are largely without the Bible and its Christ.

To live for a worthy object gives determination, makes character, and brings success. Moreover, it keeps life from being dull and brings true and lasting pleasure and happiness. No better object can be found than to live for the good of our fellow men; and every man and woman should have enough compassion and ambition to make them willing and able to be rich in such good works.

—Taken from, "Home, Health and Success," by Thomas Nelson.

A VISION GIVEN TO A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

from an old Faith's Victory book
This is a vision which God gave to me, Rebecca Baskicker a servant, near 47 years ago. I had been a servant of Satan for many years when God for the sake of His Son Jesus, and in pity and love convicted me of sin till I sought and found Him. Then I lived as sweet and happy life as could be desired, then Satan cast on my sweet life such a dark shadow I could not see my way. I fell on my face before my God and cried out to Him,

"Oh, Father, after three years of such a perfect life of joy and peace with you after the sweet fellowship of the Son of God, can it be the way is so hard I will have to give up?"

Then God gave me this vision. There was a very straight and narrow road which reached to the gates of heaven. It was steep and covered with crushed rock, sharp and rough, and I was in the road and barefoot, so it was a hard way for me to face, but on either side was a wall that reached to my shoulders. Then the Lord said to me: "You are in the way. These walls are my love. You cannot fall out of the way. If you get out, you will have to climb over the wall." Then I looked and saw that the road spanned a dark pit, so deep and dark I could not see the bottom. Then He said, "If you can not run the race, you can walk; if you cannot walk, you can go

on your knees; if you fall down, get up and go on, but if you fall let your face be toward heaven. If you get out of the way you will have to climb over the wall." Then I cried out, "I will stay in the way at any cost."

After many years of going, sometimes running, often walking, and oh, so often on my knees, He brought this vision to me again. About three years ago I was quitting, so I know it was no dream, for I was singing praise to my Lord, when again the vision came before me so plainly. Only this time God showed me that the wall on my right was Jesus' love, and the wall on the left was God's love. Now the walls were wide, and there on top of the walls were a lot of people. Some were dancing, some were playing games, some were jesting and laughing, and some were sound asleep. The Lord let me know that the devil used the pleasures of this world as a dope to put them to sleep. Then I saw hands all along the wall where those who had fallen over in their sleep had caught ahold of the wall. That was all I could see. They were hanging over the wall ready to drop into the pit below. There was no rest for their feet, and at each move their poor tired hands slipped. Oh, I cried out to God, "Who will help me pull them back safe in the way?" When they had climbed on top of the wall, saying, "God is too good to destroy us for having a little fun in life. God is love and He does not want us to be so serious that no one will want to serve Him," they were on top of the wall of God's love and lost the protection of both walls. Oh, you who have been redeemed, be sure you keep in the center of His will and enjoy the sure protection of both walls. He is reasonable and does not ask more than we can give. May this vision fasten its hold upon all that are growing cold and indifferent and are presuming upon God's love until Satan will put them to sleep. May God's blessing go with this to the saving of some poor soul, and the glory of God. Amen. —Rebecca Basicker

o-o-o-o-o

Oct. 1952 The Latch-Key

"Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out."

Many of the teachings of Christ are very simple, yet many fail to grasp the full meaning of them. Sometimes a simple story given as an illustration will help one to realize the simplicity of them.

One of the best illustrations of the above text, that I have found, is that of a boy who was seen one dark night at the midnight hour, creeping slowly up the steps of a handsome residence, now utterly dark and quiet. He took from his pocket a little key, and with it unlocked the door and entered. He warmed himself at the register, then started up the stairs, oh, so carefully. Feeling his way to the door of a certain room, he turned the knob. It was unlocked, and the boy quietly stepped in.

The street light shone upon a dainty bed all ready for an occupant. A dressing gown lay on a chair near the bed, also a pair of slippers before it. The rest of the room was in darkness. With a great cry, the boy fell on his knees by the bedside.

He was not a burglar, no, no, only a homesick boy, stealing home under cover of night to die.

Two years before, he had knelt by that bed when his angel mother had died. At that time he thought his father was stern and cold, so he ran away to live as he liked. While wandering from place to place, a

much forwarded letter reached him one day. It contained nothing but a tiny latch-key of the home door. He had carried that key in his pocket for months, and at last it had drawn him back to his home so far away.

The following morning the father opened his son's door, as he had ever since he had sent the latch-key. He really expected nothing, it had become a habit with him, so this morning he opened the door as usual. Thinking his eyes had deceived him, he started back when he saw the loved form of his son in the bed asleep. How thin and worn was the face.

When the father fell on his knees, the boy opened his eyes. "Father, I have come home to die. I have been so wicked, can you forgive me," he sobbed.

Quickly the father replied, "Forgive you, my boy? Indeed I can. And God—have you asked His forgiveness?"

"Yes, father, that is what I wanted to tell you before I die."

"Die?" And as the father gathered him in his arms he said, "Die, when I have just found you? No indeed."

"But, father, the doctor of the hospital said that I could not live long."

When the family physician had looked the boy over, he said health could be restored if he would obey him strictly and told him he would yet be the stay of his father's old age.

A short time after this, the boy turned to his father and said, "Father, I would never have come home by daylight, and if you had not sent that latch-key, I would not be here today. When I was out in the cold stormy night, I could not resist the comfort at the end of that key."

Dear reader, have you been like this boy at any time in your life? Wanted to have your own way and see something of life? You left home (or possibly you did not leave home), but you had Christian parents who taught you right. But when you grew older you gave it all up and went a different way entirely. You got away from their influence and your teacher's counsel, and learned the ways of sin and folly.

Or it may be you had no Christian home, your parents were ungodly, and you were left to do as you please in choosing your associates. Then you got out into the byways of sin, you became anything else but a pure boy, or a pure girl. Now, after living in sin, it may be for years, you find it has not paid. The pleasures you anticipated have not been lasting, and it has not been a happy life. Tonight you are like this boy, dissatisfied and heart sick. This boy grew tired of his life and longed to return home, but how could he? Would his father welcome him? But one day the tiny latch-key of the home door reached him. It reminded him he still had a home, and could return whenever he so desired. He knew now he would be welcome. It reminded him too of his mother's Savior, whom he in his distress had promised to love and trust. Still he was afraid. But at last the latch-key drew him home to rest, peace, and forgiveness.

Oh, wandering ones, have you not felt you should give up your ways of sin and folly, and begin life anew? In your quiet hours you have embraced some good things you learned in your childhood. You remembered that Jesus said He was going away to prepare a home, but it is a prepared place for a prepared people. You know you have not prepared yourself, you are not saved, not fit for such a place as Heaven.

Friends, I want to give you a tiny latch-key that will enable you to gain an entrance into a place where you too will find rest for your souls, and comfort, and forgiveness, and love. It is not formed of metal as was that key, but of the words of Christ Himself. We find it in John 6:37, "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out." This boy did not see his father, did not receive a word from him—just an envelope containing a tiny key. But he knew what his father meant. He knew there was a home awaiting him. So by these words spoken by Christ, you know there is a welcome awaiting you in His heart of love whenever you will go to Him. But you say, "How can I go to Him?" Kneel down any where, just as you are and say, "Lord, Thou hast said, if I will come to Thee, Thou wilt receive me into Thy heart of love, so here I am, take me as I am." And He will do it, for that is just what He did for me. And He will forgive you too—He did me.

That boy went home as he was, confessed to his father and received an abundant entrance into his father's home and love. Just so Christ longs to have you come to Him. Will you come now? Don't resist the pleadings of the Spirit, for comfort, joy, and happiness are awaiting you; awaiting you at the end of this little key from God's Word.

I am praying for every one who shall read this (a tract).
Lillie M. Hambleton.

—o0o—

Giving April 1990

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38.

This Scripture has been ringing in my ears. It seems like we are living in such a selfish world. The blessedness of giving has been so diminished that even we as saints have to force ourselves to give sometimes. We focus so much on our own desires, feelings and impulses that we may have little time, money or energy left for God's work.

There are so many ways we can give our time. Much encouragement and visiting needs to be done. If you are bound to the home for some reason, this can be done through letter writing or phone calls. The phone and pen are too often used as a means of hurt, rather than for what the Lord intended. Those of us who have families should be giving much time in guiding and instructing our children. We should never be too busy to do our duty to our children. When other duties crowd, we should reevaluate. Families need to be brought together by spending time

together. Many mothers and fathers are too busy with their own interests. Children and young people must have quality time from you. At the same time, it is necessary to teach our children the importance of giving and sacrificing. They learn from our example how to write, to serve and to give. Provide ways for them to do this. It will bless you both.

Our Christian schools, Sunday schools, Young People's meetings, etc. are wonderful ways to give. If there is a need in these areas, and there often is, we should all be willing to fill the job. The Bible says to do it "heartily as unto the Lord." The Lord always blesses us for being willing to give, even if we feel incapable. There are so many Scriptures to assure us of His wisdom and strength for these circumstances.

Are we so scheduled that we cannot take time to visit our neighbors or speak to visitors at church services? We need to open our eyes to the needs of others and give of ourselves. There is much to be done. When there are sick ones, do we call, drop a line or sit with them? Time would not allow us to list all of the things we can do with our time that will help us keep victory and make it into heaven. We as saints must learn how to feel the Spirit's leadings in these areas. We cannot expect one or two in the congregation to do it all.

Our homes, cars and personal belongings sometimes become a shrine to us. We don't want them used. Our furniture, carpets, interiors, etc., are too expensive or precious to be used. May the Lord help us to open our hearts and homes to anyone or anything the Lord would have us to do. We may have to be a "meeting place" or a "school bus," but we need to be there if we are needed. Let your home be a place of love where young people or burdened people can feel welcome.

We need to be teaching our young people to give their talents to the Lord. We should help them be mission-minded and find a place to give their time to help others. Marriage, careers, and families can all come in time. They are good, but we have so many areas that we could encourage our young people in that would help build them spiritually while they mature. It would draw them closer to the Lord and make them more capable of decision-making later. Sacrificing and giving have a way of strengthening us.

May the Lord challenge each of us to give all of ourselves to Him. What a Church it would be if we would all do this! It is true that works will not get us to heaven, but if we want to be filled spiritually we must give.

—Sis. Jeanie Samons

Tommy Nelson on Focus on the Family

To Reduce Stress:

1. Guard evenings.
2. Protect nights - Get enough sleep.
3. Make sure everyday to withdraw into Word of God.
4. Do something every day that's intellectually stimulating and fun. (a hobby).
5. Cultivate friends.
6. Sundays - read Bible, rest, etc.
7. Enjoy family.
8. Ecclesiastes tells us seven times to enjoy life, our mate, and the work of our hands.
9. We have a success driven culture. It's almost a religion.
10. Keep life simple.
11. Don't make your living your life.

Dr. Dobson on Focus on the Family

We have a hurry culture.

We have a delusion: This hurry and busy-ness is only temporary. Tomorrow will be better.

EVERYDAY Family CAMPAIGN

Helping kids have
a faith that soars.

Every Christian parent is concerned about how to help their child stay strong in the faith, especially through the often stormy transition to young adulthood.

Research shows that 3 key factors have the greatest impact on the continuity of your child's faith:

1. **You:** The biggest factor is *your* personal faith. If it's strong, authentic and practiced openly, your child has a much greater chance of walking with Jesus for a lifetime.
2. **Personal devotion:** It's important that you encourage your child to develop a habit of regular prayer and Bible reading. Children who do this are much more likely to remain faithful into adulthood.
3. **Christian worldview:** Children who have wrestled with and resolved important moral issues, especially sexual purity, stand a better chance of following Christ long-term. What's more, children who have personally known God's work in their lives through answered prayer and spiritual experiences are even more likely to stand strong.



More than anything, though, faithful kids are the result of parents who are honest in living out their commitment, even if it has been less than perfect at every point!

Focus on the Family Minute

Dr. Richard Swinson

"What was ministry for Jesus? It was the person standing in front of Him. The person standing in front of me is an obstacle...."

John Fuller

"Does your schedule take precedence over people? The next time you're confronted with a diversion to your plans, view it not as an obstacle, but as an invitation to show God's love."