

# finding TRUTH & Hope

22

Serving God's True Children Everywhere - God's Church

## 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



# 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 no man 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



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



"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."



## 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-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



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.

(To Be Continued)

## HOME



## LIFE

### Christian Instruction in Home Life

By George Hammond

#### 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.

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 hus-

band 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.

"one  under God,"

# 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

"one  under God,"

## "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."



## 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

"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 21 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



Nelson Doolittle 51367 Narretto Rd, Loranger, LA 70446

on your TOP searchbar enter:

"ftruthh.wixsite.com/findingtruthhope"

for many newsletters on-line & God's 5 Minutes radio devotionals.

www.churchofgodpreaching.com
www.africamission.com
www.churchofgodeveninglight.com
www.churchofgodlibrary.com
www.churchofgodtoday.com
Featuring: Bible Lessons On Line

Acknowledgement

Over 90 years ago, God burdened and led Bro. Fred Pruitt to consecrate the rest of his life to publish the gospel. He--and through the years--his descendants and a host of Godly volunteers have depended on the mighty God that they worshiped, loved, and obeyed to provide the courage and financial means to send forth gospel literature. One of the items published was the "Faith & Victory" paper.

The articles you find collected here first appeared in the "Faith & Victory" paper. God's children from near and far wrote them. God woke them in the night or interrupted their demanding daily tasks and burdened them to share His personal dealings with others.

Compiled by Nelson and Genece Doolittle

http://www.churchofgodlibrary.com/ {CLICK ON ONE FAMILY}
"How to Rediscover Solid Family Virtues":
A collection of articles & poems by multiple authors pertaining to parenting, fathers, mothers, & marriage

This is My Father's World

by Maltbie D. Babcock 1901

- 1| This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.
2| This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

PSALM 24:1 PSALM 50:12