

CHRISTIAN PARENTING

By Pastor Mark Fox

The big question for parents is: "What are your children seeing in you?"

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The focus of training our children is to help them develop a character like Jesus and thus be ready for Heaven. This is the highest calling in this life. Christian parenting is a tall privilege and solemn responsibility. When upon earth Jesus revealed His special regard and love for children. Jesus said, "Let the children come unto Me and do not forbid them." That is the goal of true parenting according to the Bible; to bring them to the loving arms of Jesus. Parent's Focus: To prepare our children for heaven by helping them to develop a close happy relationship with Jesus as their personal Savior.

Positive teaching, Positive attitude.

Train our children to joyfully obey their parents. Let us be very positive, upbeat, light-hearted, happy in our teaching to our children. Let them observe that we as parents are positive, happy Christians. Create a positive atmosphere in the home circle. Let the children see that we as parents are sunny Christians. Let them see that we are full of thanksgiving to God. Let them see that we are full of gratitude to God for all things that are good in this life.

Teaching, training, admonishing, instructing, correcting is 24/7. Listen to these inspiring words from the book of Deuteronomy about helping your children to understand God's will and commands, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." Deuteronomy 6:7. Every day we are to teach our children to follow God, but we must do this with enthusiasm and with a positive attitude.

Pleasant Looks

Do not allow your countenance to look sad, anxious, worried, troubled all the time. Let the sunshine of God's love be expressed in your face. Let your children see in your face that following Jesus is a joy. "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance." Proverbs 15:13. Let your children to that you are at peace. Let them see clearly that you are easy to be around. Let them see that you are restful, peaceful, relaxed, calm. Develop a pleasant disposition that they can imitate. Always ask the question: "Am I setting an example for them to follow?"

If you want your children to grow up happy, smile. If you are not smiling most of the time, neither will your children. Happy children are the result of happy parents. Smile.

Pleasant Words.

Every word we speak as parents should be for building up not tearing down. If we cannot say something worthwhile let us not speak. Good words always bring back good. Never let any unkind word be spoken. Never be rude or negative in any word. Control the words. Jesus said every word we will have to give an account for. "But I say to you that for every idel word men may speak, the y will give account of it in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36.

Let the words be for healing. Let your every word be something that your guardian angel will be glad to make a record of. Fill the day with pleasant words for everyone of them is a seed sown into your children for eternity. Let your children know that you expect them to speak only pleasant words. Do not give them the impression that it is alright to speak any way they want. Teach them to speak kindly and lovingly. Teach them by precept and example.

Pleasant Tones

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:6. We may give a command or admonition to our children which is correct, but if the tone is not pleasant they may resist it all. Pleasant tones endear our children to us. The peaceful and calm tone creates an atmosphere around us that is attractive and appealing to our children.

Even when you feel tired or burdened speak calmly. This will have a telling influence upon the impressionable minds of your children. They need to see that we discipline ourselves in terms of how we speak. "A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1. Never, never yell at your children. Let the tones reveal our love and not just our words.

Praying together

Taking hold of the hands of our child a few times each day and quietly praying with them and for them will help them feel the presence of God and will help them understand how you really do care about their little heart. When they are troubled, pray with them. When they are disobedient, pray with them. When they do not understand what you are saying to them, pray together with them.



Let them see that praying is a way of life. It is not something we just do at Family Worship but all through the day. Let them see that you have an awareness of the presence of Jesus always. Let them see that they can call upon Jesus also all through the day. Let them see that every temptation or problem is a call to prayer. Let them see that your prayers are powerful. Then they will want to have a prayer life just like you. **"Pray for one another." James 5:16.**

Family Worship

Family worship should be short, daily, consistent, interesting and positive. Let the children also be in charge of Family Worship at times. Let the children share what they are thankful for. Sing together songs they will understand. Let everyone kneel and then offer short prayers that all will understand. Read portions from the Bible that are interesting and easy to understand. Read the Bible Stories and show the practical application. Let them read the Bible Stories. Have them go over their Memory Verse. Smile. Smile. At the close of the Family Worship time, hug each other with a smile.

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praise to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night." Psalms 92:1,2. If possible have Family worship in the morning and then again in the evening. Be consistent. Let the children see that this is a very important time with Jesus. Smile.

Hugging A lot

God made us to be hugged. Jesus would set the children on his lap and would hug them and hold them. In the parable of the prodigal son, when the son returned home the father "fell on his neck and kissed him" Luke 15:20. Jesus made us to be touched affectionately, lovingly. Babies that are cuddled are blessed and more secure. God expects parents to do their very best in putting forth efforts to hug their children every day, every day if possible.

When your child is being disobedient and you correct him or her then hug them. Never let them feel that you are mad at them. You may not like their behavior but never let them feel that you are angry with them. Never let an emotional barrier to develop between you and your children.

Encourage expression of thoughts and feelings

Encourage your children to feel absolutely free and comfortable in opening their little hearts to you about anything and everything. Let them feel that it is safe to share their thoughts and feelings with you. Tell them to always tell you the truth. Try to take some time each day with each child in asking them what is on their mind lately. Ask them questions like: "What's on your mind today?" "Is anything bothering you?" "Do you know that we love you?" "Do you love your mommy and daddy?" Ask them how they are feeling. However tell them to not go by feelings alone but by principle. If you are bonded with your children they will feel comfortable in sharing their thoughts and feelings with you.



Daily and Weekly Chores

Make a list of their chores that you expect them to perform. First show them how to do the work. For example: show them how to vacuum, how to mop, how to clean the bathrooms, how to make the bed, how to put the clothes away. Then follow up by inspecting their work and kindly giving them suggestions for improvement, but always affirm where you can. They need lots of affirmation.

Tell your children that work is a joy. Tell them that Jesus was a hard working carpenter as He was a child. No child will be happy that does not have responsibilities around the house and car. Have your children help with cooking, cleaning the car, taking the clean clothes out of the dryer and getting the mail from the mailbox. Let the children see that they are not allowed to waste time.

Teach your children the value of work. Let them see that idleness does not bring happiness. If they think the work is all done, tell them to go around the house and pick up everything that needs to be put in its proper place. Teach them to look for work instead of always having to be told what work needs to be done. Remember though to give them a list of chores.

Self-Control

Do not allow your children to throw a temper tantrum. Do not allow your children to speak angry words. Do not allow your children to throw things around because they are upset. The best way to teach your children self control is by your example of patience. It requires self control to guard our words, feelings, attitudes, and atmosphere that is around us. Let your children observe how subdued and calm you are. **Each parent is to have "rule over his own spirit." Proverbs 25:28.**

Guarding the avenues to the soul

Keep your children preoccupied with good Christian television programs or nature, educational programs. Good Christian or classical music. Do not let them watch ungodly programs or listen to worldly music. You are the parent and you set the guidelines. Take their i-pods away if they do not obey your rules of good music.

Throw the tv away if you cannot control it. Do not let them get on the computer unless you have approved their activity. "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,...But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night." Psalms 1:1,2

Do not let your children be around children that are enticing them to watch, read and listen to things you do not approve. Do everything you can to have your children attend a Christian school. If you have to sacrifice financially do it for their eternal welfare.

Discipline

Teaching them discipline in every area of life. Instead of indulging our children we need to restrict their wants and direct their desires in the right way. What are some ways parents can discipline their children? You can give them time out. Have them go to their room until they are ready to come out and be obedient and happy. Take away computer privileges. Take away their cell phone. Take away their television privileges. With much younger children under 10 you can spank with a belt on the legs. Not pleasant but the Bible teaches this as an important way to teach children obedience.

Discipline their wants by saying no at times with their requests for some toy at the store. Learn the art of saying no and staying with that decision. Do not allow the child to rule the nest. Let them see that you as Parents are in charge totally, but lovingly.

Remember that the parent is to bend not break the will of the child. Do not cause them to feel that you are overbearing or dictatorial. Do not talk down at your children. Do not allow them to feel crushed. Do not bring out combativeness in them. Discipline should endear them to you.



Healthy Lifestyle & Happy Recreation

Your children need to be taught how to take care of their body that God has created. Set an example for them of how to eat good healthy food. Constantly help them to drink enough water. Let them go outdoors and run and run and play and work. Have them rake the leaves. Have them play some soccer. Let them play tag or kick ball. Have them pull the weeds with you. Tell them to look up at the sunshine and the blue sky. Help them to appreciate nature. Have them smell the flowers. Doing enjoyable things together, i.e. recreation, walking in the woods, picnic, soccer, gardening is all part of a healthy lifestyle.

Do not let them eat tons of candy and drink soda all day. Restrict their consumption of sugar. Have them eat their fresh fruits and vegetables. Have them eat nuts and seeds. Have them eat whole wheat bread instead of white bread. Do not eat sugary cereals in the morning. Do not skip breakfast it is the most important meal of the day.

Learn how to teach your children all about health. Do not allow them to eat junk food all the time. Cheese burgers, fries and sweet soda is not the diet that will help teach your children discipline. Do not expect your children to behave right if you feed them wrong. Sometimes children are misbehaving because their brain is starving for proper nutrition. When your children are feeling good it is easier for them to obey their parents.

Also just as important as a good diet is adequate sleep. Children need lots of sleep in order to have a happy disposition. Get the children to bed early. Let them read some good Christian book or the Bible as they are in their beds and then pray with them. "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." 3 John 2

Loving Obedience

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'" Ephesians 6:1-3. Morning, noon and night teach your children to obey your every command. Teach them to want to make you as a parent happy. Teach them that the only way for them to be happy is to obey you lovingly, cheerfully and always. As they learn to obey you, the y are learning how to obey God.

Jesus "was subject (obedient) to" His parents (see Luke 2:51,52). Let your children learn that Jesus was an obedient child. Let them understand that Jesus wants them to obey their parents always. Help your children understand that Jesus will help them to obey. Let them know that you understand it is not always easy to obey and that they need the help of Jesus. Teach them to give their hearts to Jesus every morning when they arise.

Happy Marriage

As children see that mommy and daddy love each other they will be secure and happy. Your children need to see their parents showing affection toward each other. They need to see that you have a happy marriage. Then they will grow up to desire and have the same thing. Finally, remember that you can only expect them to rise as high as you are. So arise in Christ Jesus and let them see as Parents that you live in the sunshine of God's love and presence.

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48 Let your children see that you love them with all of your heart. Let them see that you deny yourself to help them be happy in Jesus. Jesus says, "Love one another, as I have loved you." John 13:34.

A good Christian parenting motto:

Today we will live in the sunshine of God's love.



Suggested reading: Child Guidance & Adventist Home by Ellen G. White

Read prayerfully these two practical chapters from the powerful book Ministry of Healing.

Ministry of the Home

The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are "the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.

The importance and the opportunities of the home life are illustrated in the life of Jesus. He who came from heaven to be our example and teacher spent thirty years as a member of the household at Nazareth. Concerning these years the Bible record is very brief. No mighty miracles attracted the attention of the multitude. No eager throngs followed His steps or listened to His words. Yet during all these years He was fulfilling His divine mission. He lived as one of us, sharing the home life, submitting to its discipline, performing its duties, bearing its burdens. In the sheltering care of a humble home, participating in the experiences of our common lot, He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52.

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During all these secluded years His life flowed out in currents of sympathy and helpfulness. His unselfishness and patient endurance, His courage and faithfulness, His resistance of temptation, His unfailing peace and quiet joyfulness, were a constant inspiration. He brought a pure, sweet atmosphere into the home, and His life was as leaven working amidst the elements of society. None said that He had wrought a miracle; yet virtue--the healing, life-giving power of love--went out from Him to the tempted, the sick, and the disheartened. In an unobtrusive way, from His very childhood, He ministered to others, and because of this, when He began His public ministry, many heard Him gladly.

The Saviour's early years are more than an example to the

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youth. They are a lesson, and should be an encouragement, to every parent. The circle of family and neighborhood duties is the very first field of effort for those who would work for the uplifting of their fellow men. There is no more important field of effort than that committed to the founders and guardians of the home. No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers.

It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!

Great efforts are put forth, time and money and labor almost without limit are expended, in enterprises and institutions for reforming the victims of evil habits. And even these efforts are inadequate to meet the great necessity. Yet how small is the result! How few are permanently reclaimed!

Multitudes long for a better life, but they lack courage and resolution to break away from the power of habit. They shrink from the effort and struggle and sacrifice demanded, and their lives are wrecked and ruined. Thus even men of the brightest minds, men of high aspirations and noble powers, otherwise fitted by nature and education to fill positions of trust and responsibility, are degraded and lost for this life and for the life to come.

For those who do reform, how bitter the struggle to regain their manhood! And all their life long, in a shattered constitution, a wavering will, impaired intellect, and weakened soul

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power, many reap the harvest of their evil sowing. How much more might be accomplished if the evil were dealt with at the beginning!

This work rests, in a great degree, with parents. In the efforts put forth to stay the progress of intemperance and of other evils that are eating like a cancer in the social body, if more attention were given to teaching parents how to form the habits and character of their children, a hundredfold more good would result. Habit, which is so terrible a force for evil, it is in their power to make a force for good. They have to do with the stream at its source, and it rests with them to direct it rightly.

Parents may lay for their children the foundation for a healthy, happy life. They may send them forth from their homes with moral stamina to resist temptation, and courage and strength to wrestle successfully with life's problems. They may inspire in them the purpose and develop the power to make their lives an honor to God and a blessing to the world. They may make straight paths for their feet, through sunshine and shadow, to the glorious heights above.

The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. As the youth go out from such a home, the lessons they have learned are imparted. Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community.

There are many others to whom we might make our homes a blessing. Our social entertainments should not be governed by the dictates of worldly custom, but by the Spirit of Christ

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and the teaching of His word. The Israelites, in all their festivities, included the poor, the stranger, and the Levite, who was both the assistant of the priest in the sanctuary, and a religious teacher and missionary. These were regarded as the guests of the people, to share their hospitality on all occasions of social and religious rejoicing, and to be tenderly cared for in sickness or in need. It is such as these whom we should make welcome to our homes. How much such a welcome might do to cheer and encourage the missionary nurse or the teacher, the care-

burdened, hard-working mother, or the feeble and aged, so often without a home, and struggling with poverty and many discouragements.

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper," Christ says, "call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call

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the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14.

These are guests whom it will lay on you no great burden to receive. You will not need to provide for them to elaborate or expensive entertainment. You will need to make no effort at display. The warmth of a genial welcome, a place at your fireside, a seat at your home table, the privilege of sharing the blessing of the hour prayer, would to many of these be like a glimpse of heaven.

Our sympathies are to overflow the boundaries of self and the enclosure of family walls. There are precious opportunities for those who will make their homes a blessing to others. Social influence is a wonderful power. We can use it if we will as a means of helping those about us.

Our homes should be a place of refuge for the tempted youth. Many there are who stand at the parting of the ways. Every influence, every impression, is determining the choice that shapes their destiny both here and hereafter. Evil invites them. Its resorts are made bright and attractive. They have a welcome for every comer. All about us are youth who have no home, and many whose homes have no helpful, uplifting power, and the youth drift into evil. They are going down to ruin within the very shadow of our own doors.

These youth need a hand stretched out to them in sympathy. Kind words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation which gather over the soul. The true expression of heaven-born sympathy has power to open the door of hearts that need the fragrance of Christlike words, and the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ's love. If we would show an interest in the youth, invite them to our homes, and surround them with

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cheering, helpful influences, there are many who would gladly turn their steps into the upward path.

Life's Opportunities

Our time here is short. We can pass through this world but once; as we pass along, let us make the most of life. The work to which we are called does not require wealth or social position or great ability. It requires a kindly, self-sacrificing spirit and a steadfast purpose. A lamp, however small, if kept steadily burning, may be the means of lighting many other lamps. Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes. If we will open our hearts and homes to the divine principles of life we shall become channels

for currents of life-giving power. From our homes will flow streams of healing, bringing life and beauty and fruitfulness where now are barrenness and dearth.



Home Influences

The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother's presence should be its greatest attraction. Children have sensitive, loving natures. They are easily pleased and easily made unhappy. By gentle discipline, in loving words and acts, mothers may bind their children to their hearts.

Young children love companionship and can seldom enjoy themselves alone. They yearn for sympathy and tenderness. That which they enjoy they think will please mother also, and it is natural for them to go to her with their little joys and sorrows. The mother should not wound their sensitive hearts by treating with indifference matters that, though trifling to her, are of great importance to them. Her sympathy and approval are precious. An approving glance, a word of encouragement or commendation, will be like sunshine in their hearts, often making the whole day happy.

Instead of sending her children from her, that she may not be annoyed by their noise or troubled by their little wants, let the mother plan amusement or light work to employ the active hands and minds.

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By entering into their feelings and directing their amusements and employments, the mother will gain the confidence of her children, and she can the more effectually correct wrong habits, or check the manifestations of selfishness or passion. A word of caution or reproof spoken at the right time will be of great value. By patient, watchful love, she can turn the minds of the children in the right direction, cultivating in them beautiful and attractive traits of character.

Mothers should guard against training their children to be dependent and self-absorbed. Never lead them to think that they are the center, and that everything must revolve around them. Some parents give much time and attention to amusing their children, but children should be trained to amuse themselves, to exercise their own ingenuity and skill. Thus they will learn to be content with very simple pleasures. They should be taught to bear bravely their little disappointments and trials. Instead of calling attention to every trifling pain or hurt, divert their minds, teach them to pass lightly over little annoyances or discomforts. Study to suggest ways by which the children may learn to be thoughtful for others.

But let not the children be neglected. Burdened with many cares, mothers sometimes feel that they cannot take time patiently to instruct their little ones and give them love and sympathy. But they should remember that if the children do not find in their parents and in their home that which will satisfy their desire for sympathy and companionship, they will look to other sources, where both mind and character may be endangered.

For lack of time and thought, many a mother refuses her children some innocent pleasure, while busy fingers and weary eyes are diligently engaged on work designed only for adornment, something that, at best, will serve only to encourage

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vanity and extravagance in their young hearts. As the children approach manhood and womanhood, these lessons bear fruit in pride and moral worthlessness. The mother grieves over her children's faults, but does not realize that the harvest she is reaping is from seed which she herself planted.

Some mothers are not uniform in the treatment of their children. At times they indulge them to their injury, and again they refuse some innocent gratification that would make the childish heart very happy. In this they do not imitate Christ; He loved the children; He comprehended their feelings and sympathized with them in their pleasures and their trials.

The Father's Responsibility

The husband and father is the head of the household. The wife looks to him for love and sympathy, and for aid in the training of the children; and this is right. The children are his as well as hers, and he is equally interested in their welfare. The children look to their father for support and guidance; he needs to have a right conception of life and of the influences and associations that should surround his family; above all, he should be controlled by the love and fear of God and by the teaching of His word, that he may guide the feet of his children in the right way.

The father is the lawmaker of the household; and, like Abraham, he should make the law of God the rule of his home. God said of Abraham, "I know him, that he will command

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his children and his household." Genesis 18:19. There would be no sinful neglect to restrain evil, no weak, unwise, indulgent favoritism; no yielding of his conviction of duty to the claims of mistaken affection. Abraham would not only give right instruction, but he would maintain the authority of just and righteous laws. God has given rules for our guidance. Children should not be left to wander away from the safe path marked out in God's word, into ways leading to danger, which are open on every side. Kindly, but firmly, with persevering, prayerful effort, their wrong desires should be restrained, their inclinations denied.

The father should enforce in his family the sterner virtues--energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. And what he requires of his children he himself should practice, illustrating these virtues in his own manly bearing.

But, fathers, do not discourage your children. Combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them; associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate

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friendship with them, especially with your sons. In this way you will be a strong influence for good.

The father should do his part toward making home happy. Whatever his cares and business perplexities, they should not be permitted to overshadow his family; he should enter his home with smiles and pleasant words.

In a sense the father is the priest of the household, laying upon the family altar the morning and evening sacrifice. But the wife and children should unite in prayer and join in the song of praise. In the morning before he leaves home for his daily labor, let the father gather his children about him and, bowing before God, commit them to the care of the Father in heaven. When the cares of the day are past, let the family unite in offering grateful prayer and raising the song of

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praise, in acknowledgment of divine care during the day.

Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations. Daily annoyances beset the path of young and old. Those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives must pray. Only by receiving constant help from God can we gain the victory over self.

Home should be a place where cheerfulness, courtesy, and love abide; and where these graces dwell, there will abide happiness and peace. Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart, though the day may be ever so cloudy. In such homes angels of God abide.

Let the husband and wife study each other's happiness, never failing in the small courtesies and little kindly acts that cheer and brighten the life. Perfect confidence should exist between husband and wife. Together they should consider their responsibilities. Together they should work for the highest good of their children. Never should they in the

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presence of the children criticize each other's plans or question each other's judgment. Let the wife be careful not to make the husband's work for the children more difficult. Let the husband hold up the hands of his wife, giving her wise counsel and loving encouragement.

No barrier of coldness and reserve should be allowed to arise between parents and children. Let parents become acquainted with their children, seeking to understand their tastes and dispositions, entering into their feelings, and drawing out what is in their hearts.

Parents, let your children see that you love them and will do all in your power to make them happy. If you do so, your necessary restrictions will have far greater weight in their young minds. Rule your children with tenderness and compassion, remembering that "their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven." Matthew 18:10. If you desire the angels to do for your children the work given them of God, co-operate with them by doing your part.

Brought up under the wise and loving guidance of a true home, children will have no desire to wander away in search of pleasure and companionship. Evil will not attract them. The spirit that prevails in the home will mold their characters; they will form habits and principles that will be a strong defense against temptation when they shall leave the home shelter and take their place in the world.

Children as well as parents have important duties in the home. They should be taught that they are a part of the home firm. They are fed and clothed and loved and cared for, and they should respond to these many mercies by bearing their share of the home burdens and bringing all the happiness possible into the family of which they are members.

Children are sometimes tempted to chafe under restraint; but in afterlife they will bless their parents for the faithful care and strict watchfulness that guarded and guided them in their years of inexperience.

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MARK FOX has been proclaiming Jesus Christ to thousands across North America for the past 30 years. Mark, son of a pastor, shares how God miraculously delivered him from drugs and

alcohol. Mark traveled to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Rome to better understand the mysteries of Bible Prophecy. Formerly an Associate Evangelist with Mark Finley of IT IS WRITTEN telecast, Mark is now the Director and Speaker of Forever Free Ministries. Mark and his wife Loyda

Hope, and their two children Caleb and Jordan live in Texas.

What Other Pastor's and Conference Leaders are Saying...

MARK FINLEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF EVANGELISM FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE:

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DIRECTOR OF THE OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE:
"I can say he is one of the best Evangelists in North America. The
churches are always happy with his Christ centered preaching...! highly recommend his services, you will not be disappointed."

RAMON CANALS, VP FOR MINISTERIAL & EVANGELISM FOR THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE:

"Mark Fox is a dynamic evangelist who has a compelling personal testimony. His message is solid, Biblically based, fresh and Christ-centered."

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