

## LOVE: PARENTS LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

### INTRODUCTION:

#### 1. The Apostle Paul Gives the Best Definition of Love:

“I may speak in tongues of men or of angels, but if I am without love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal. I may have the gift of prophesy, and know every hidden truth; I may have faith strong enough to move mountains; but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may dole out all I possess, or even give my body to be burnt, but if I have no love, I am none the better. (NIV)

“Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, nor quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men’s sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance. Love will never come to an end. (NEB - 1 Cor. 13:1-8)

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous, or conceited, or proud, love is not ill-mannered, or selfish, or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up: its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal. (TEV)

“Love ... does not pursue selfish advantage ... It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people ... Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen. (Phillips)

#### 2. The Home and the Church Stand or Fall Together.

We cannot build up strong homes without, at the same time, building up the church. If the home is strong, the church is going to be strong because the church is a product of our homes. This makes parenthood even more important.

### **I. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS A PARENT WILL DO IF HE TRULY LOVES HIS CHILDREN:**

#### A. Firstly: He will provide a decent home life for his children.

1. He will see to it that the family lives in a decent community.

2. He will provide opportunity for formal training to fit his children to make a living.

B. Secondly: He will set the right example before his children.

1. Jack Gray has written of a father's influence:

“A father's influence is a wonderful thing. Yet there is many a father in our land today, who though he loves his children as he loves nothing else on earth, is not giving them that one thing that is more important than anything else in the world. Most fathers love their children enough to work long hours in order that they may have ample food and clothing and other necessities of life. The typical father would be willing to give his right arm, if necessary, to save the life of his child. Yet, he is so busy earning a living, so busy keeping up with the affairs of the world, so busy reading the evening paper and keeping up with the sports page that he never gets around to giving his children religious training. Think of the tragedy of letting those strategic years slip by. We will not always have our children in our homes where we can influence them. They are with us for a little while and then they are gone.”

2. Daddy, Your Son is Surely Watching You.

A careful man I want to be  
A little fellow follows me;  
I do not dare to go astray,  
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;  
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries;  
Like me he says he's going to be -  
This little fellow who follows me.  
I must remember as I go  
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,  
For that little chap who follows me.

C. Thirdly, Parents have the responsibility for the discipline of their children.

1. Prov. 13:24: “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines his promptly.”
2. Prov. 23:13-14: “Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.”

3. Prov. 29:15: “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”
  4. God held Eli Responsible for the Wickedness of his sons.
    - a. 1 Sam. 3:11-13: “Then the Lord said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.”
- D. Fourthly, Parents have the responsibility to install a valid set of values.
1. The Bible must be taught and respected in front of them.
    - a. Deut. 4:5-6,9: “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ... Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.”
    - b. Deut. 6:6-9: “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
    - c. Deut. 11:18-21: “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in

your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.”

- d. Eph. 6:4: “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
- e. Col. 3:21: “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

Note: It is here that Christian families have failed the most.

- f. 2 Tim. 1:5: To Timothy, my beloved son: “when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”
2. Parents must stress the Place of Responsible Citizenship in the lives of their children. (Social Conscience)
  3. The place they are to fill Within the Church Community needs to be pointed out from an early age.
  4. We must hope that the Family Circle will not be broken in heaven.
    - a. We have so little time to mold our children into Christ-Likeness.

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And gently fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still  
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;  
That 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 formed it day by day;  
And moulded with my power and art  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when days were gone;  
It was a man I looked upon.  
He still that early impress wore,  
And I could change it never more.

b. Can you imagine your children:

Coming into the living room at night seeing father buried in the evening paper, and going over to sit on the arm of his father's chair? Can you imagine him putting his arm around his father's neck and saying, "Dad, I want to thank you for everything you have done for me. I want to thank you for my clothes, for my food, for my bicycle, and for everything. But, Dad, what have you ever done to help me get to heaven? What could you say if your son asked you that? What would your answer be to your daughters?

Some men are robbing their children of the most important thing they can give their children and that is the memory of growing up in a home the father and mother were Christians in the finest sense of that word. No one else can give our children this example which they can cherish.
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c. Socrates:

"Fellow citizens, why do ye turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom one day you must relinquish it all?"

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

"If after the child leaves the family circle he is unable to adjust to the realities of life, most likely the parents in the home are at least partly responsible for his failure."

e. Dr. James Baird has well said:

“The infant begins to differentiate between mother and father. A baby boy quickly commences the identification process. He puts on his father’s hat - and feels very proud of doing it. He plays with his father’s fishing tackle. And soon he will actually be going fishing with his dad. As the years go by, father is the model for his growth and development. Indeed, it may be said that whether the child grows up to be a man depends on what he has learned from his father. He certainly won’t learn to be a man from his mother.”

II. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO LOVE OUR CHILDREN EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE FAILED IN LIFE.

- A. The father of the Prodigal Son.
- B. David still loved Absalom. (Describe what Absalom did and how he died.)

When told of Absalom’s death, the Scriptures tell us:

“And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the date, 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!’”

- C. Rudyard Kipling could write of his mother’s love:

“If I were hanged on the highest hill,  
Mother o’ mine, O Mother o’ mine!  
I know whose love would follow me still,  
Mother o’ mine, O Mother o’ mine.

- D. Homes should be that place to go for Shelter and Understanding when the storm comes.

1. Parents, can you/we truthfully say that you love your children?
- a. Is your home life as you know that God would have it?
- b. Do you put the Bible first in your home?

- c. Are you faithful in Bible study attendance and church worship? Do your children understand that you put these things before all other things?
- d. Are all of our children on the way to heaven?
  - (1) If we cannot have true love for each other within our own homes, it is highly unlikely that we can love anyone outside of it.

Parents need to attend worship together. They divide the children.

If we cannot love each other at home - we probably can't love outside.