

Forming the Traits of the Child

Fathers and mothers need to understand their responsibility. The world is full of snares for the feet of the young. Multitudes are attracted by a life of selfish and sensual pleasure. They cannot discern the hidden dangers or the fearful ending of the path that seems to them the way of happiness. Through the indulgence of appetite and passion, their energies are wasted, and millions are ruined for this world and for the world to come. **Parents should remember that their children must encounter these temptations. EVEN BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD, THE PREPARATION SHOULD BEGIN THAT WILL ENABLE IT TO FIGHT SUCCESSFULLY THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL.** {CG 21.2}

John was the son of their old age, he was a child of miracle, **and the parents might have reasoned that he had a special work to do for the Lord and the Lord would take care of him. But the parents did not thus reason; they moved to a retired place in the country, where their son would not be exposed to the temptations of city life, or induced to depart from the counsel and instruction which they as parents would give him. They acted their part in developing a character in the child that would in every way meet the purpose for which God had designed his life. . . . They sacredly fulfilled their obligation.** {CG 23.1}

Upon fathers as well as mothers rests a responsibility for the child's earlier as well as its later training, and for both parents the demand for careful and thorough preparation is most urgent. Before **taking upon themselves the possibilities of fatherhood and motherhood, men and women should become acquainted with the laws of physical development--with physiology and hygiene, with the bearing of prenatal influences, with the laws of heredity, sanitation, dress, exercise, and the treatment of disease; they should also understand the laws of mental development and moral training.** . . . {CG 63.3}

Parents should study the laws of nature. They should become acquainted with the organism of the human body. They need to understand the functions of the various organs, and their relation and dependence. They should study the relation of the mental to the physical powers, and the conditions required for the healthy action of each. **To assume the responsibilities of parenthood without such preparation is a sin.** {CG 64.2}

The work of all parents is to train their children in the way of the Lord. **This is not a matter that can be trifled with, or set aside, without incurring the displeasure of God. We are not called upon to decide what course others shall pursue, or how we may get on the most easily, but, What saith the Lord? Neither parents nor children can have peace or happiness or rest of spirit in any false path.** But when the fear of God reigns in the heart, combined with love for Jesus, peace and joy will be felt. {CG 67.2}

To parents who have begun their training wrong, I would say, Do not despair. You need to be soundly converted to God. You need the true spirit of obedience to the Word of God. You must make decided reforms in your own customs and practices, conforming your life to the saving principles of the law of God. When you do this, you will have the righteousness of Christ which pervades that law, because you love God and recognize His law as a transcript of His character. True faith in the merits of Christ is not fancy. It is of the highest importance that you bring the attributes of Christ into your own life and character, and **educate and train your children with persevering effort to be obedient to the commandments of God. A "Thus saith the Lord" should guide you in all your plans of education.** . . . {CG 69.2}

Obedience to parental authority should be inculcated in babyhood and cultivated in youth. {CG 82.1}

Some parents think that they can let **their little ones** have their own way in their **babyhood**, and then **when they get older, they will reason with them**; but this is a mistake. Begin in the baby life to teach obedience. . . . Require obedience in your home school. {CG 82.2}

Few parents begin early enough to teach their children obedience. The child is usually allowed to get **two or three years** the start of its parents, who forbear to discipline it, thinking it is too young to learn to obey. But all this time self is growing strong in the little being, and every day makes it a harder task for the parent to gain control of the child. {CG 82.6}

At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and, by kind and judicious management, can be taught to obey. . . . The mother should not allow her child to gain an advantage over her in a single instance; and, in order to maintain this authority, it is not necessary to resort to harsh measures; a firm, steady hand and a kindness which convinces the child of your love will accomplish the purpose. But let selfishness, anger, and self-will have their course for the **first three years** of a child's life, and it will be hard to bring it to submit to wholesome discipline. Its disposition has become soured; it delights in having its own way; **parental control is distasteful**. These evil tendencies grow with its growth, until, in manhood, **supreme selfishness** and a lack of self-control place him at the mercy of the evils that run riot in our land. {CG 82.7}

Never should they [the children] be allowed to show their parents disrespect. Self-will should never be permitted to go unrebuked. **The future well-being of the child requires kindly, loving, but firm discipline.** {CG 83.1}

When parents fail to require prompt and perfect obedience in their children, they fail to lay the right foundation of character in their little ones. They **prepare** their children to dishonor them when they are old, and bring sorrow to their hearts when they are nearing the grave. {CG 86.1}

Many Christian parents fail to command their children after them, and then wonder that their children are perverse, disobedient, unthankful, and unholy. **Such parents are under the rebuke of God**. They have neglected to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They have failed to teach them the first lesson of Christianity: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." "Foolishness," says the wise man, "is bound in the heart of a child." The love of folly, the desire to do evil, the hatred of holy things, are some of the difficulties that parents must meet in the home mission field. . . . {CG 87.2}

Teach your children to honor you, because the law of God lays this duty upon children. If you allow your children to lightly esteem your wishes and pay no regard to the laws of the household, **you are winking at sin**; you are permitting the **devil to work as he will**; and the same insubordination, want of reverence, and love of self **will be carried** with them even into the religious life and into the church. And **the beginning of all this evil is charged in the books of heaven to the neglect of the parents.** {CG 87.5}

The little ones, before they are a year old, hear and understand what is spoken in reference to themselves, and know to what extent they are to be indulged. Mothers, you should train your children to yield to your wishes. This point must be gained if you would hold the control over your children, and preserve your dignity as a mother. **Your children quickly learn just what you expect of them, they know when their will conquers yours, and will make the most of their victory.** {CG 91.2}

One precious lesson which the mother will need to repeat again and again is that the child is not to rule; he is not the master, but her will and her wishes are to be supreme. Thus she is teaching them self-control. **Give them nothing for which they cry, even if your tender heart desires ever so much to do this; for if they gain the victory once by crying they will expect to do it again. The second time the battle will be more vehement.** {CG 92.1}

I have often seen the little one throw itself and scream if its will was crossed in any way. **This is the time to rebuke the evil spirit.** The enemy will try to control the minds of our children, but shall we allow him to mold them according to his will? **These little ones cannot discern what spirit is influencing them,** and it is the duty of parents to exercise judgment and discretion for them. Their habits must be carefully watched. **Evil tendencies** are to be restrained, and the mind stimulated in favor of the right. The child should be encouraged in every effort to govern itself. {CG 93.1}

Mothers should educate their babies in their arms after correct principles and habits. **They should not allow them to pound their heads on the floor..... Let the mothers educate them in their infancy.** Commence with the songs of Bethlehem. These soft tunes will have a quieting influence. Sing them these subdued tunes in regard to Christ and His love. {CG 93.2}

Never be like a chestnut bur. In the home do not allow yourself to use harsh, rasping words. You should invite the heavenly Guest to come into your home, at the same time making it possible for Him and the heavenly angels to abide with you. You should receive the righteousness of Christ, the sanctification of the Spirit of God, the beauty of holiness, that you may reveal to those around you the Light of life. {CG 95.2}

With firmness they are to refuse to allow everything in the home to be handled **freely and thrown about on the floor or in the dirt.** Those who allow a child to pursue such a course are **doing him a great wrong. He may not be a bad child,** but his education is making him very troublesome and destructive. {CG 101.2}

Some parents allow their children to be destructive, to use as playthings things which they have no right to touch. Children should be taught that they must not handle the property of other people. For the comfort and happiness of the family, they must learn to observe the rules of propriety. Children are no happier when they are allowed to handle everything they see. **If they are not educated to be caretaking, they will grow up with unlovely, destructive traits of character.** {CG 101.3}

Where is the trouble? It is with the parents who let their children come up without bearing any burdens in the family. When these children go out to school, they say, "Ma says she doesn't want me to work." **Such mothers are foolish.** They spoil their children and then send them to the school to spoil it. . . . Work is the very best discipline they can have. It is no harder for them than for their mothers. Blend the physical labor with the mental, and the powers of the mind will develop far better. {CG 126.1}

Children are to be educated **to deny themselves.** At one time, when I was speaking in Nashville, **the Lord gave me light on this matter.** It flashed upon me with great force that in every home there should be a self-denial box, and that into this box the children should be taught to put their pennies they would otherwise spend for candy and other unnecessary things. . . . {CG 132.1}

Children of two to four years of age should not be encouraged to think that they must have everything that they ask for. Parents should teach them lessons of self-denial and

never treat them in such a way as to make them think they are the center, and that everything revolves about them. {CG 132.3}

Many children have inherited selfishness from their parents, but parents should seek to uproot every fiber of this evil tendency from their natures. Christ gave many reproofs to those who were covetous and selfish. Parents should seek, on the first exhibition of selfish traits of character, whether in their presence, or when in association with other children, to restrain and uproot these traits from the character of their children. {CG 132.4}

How carefully should parents manage their children in order to counteract every inclination to selfishness! They should continually suggest ways by which their children may become thoughtful for others and learn to do things for their fathers and mothers, who are doing everything for them. {CG 133.3}

Practice economy in your homes. By many idols are cherished and worshiped. Put away your idols. Give up your selfish pleasure. Do not, I beg of you, absorb means in embellishing your houses; for it is God's money, and it will be required of you again. **Parents, for Christ's sake do not use the Lord's money to please the fancies of your children. Do not teach them to seek after style and ostentation in order to obtain an influence in the world.** . . . {CG 134.3}

Do not educate your children to think that your love for them must be expressed by indulging their pride, their extravagance, their love of display. There is no time now to invent ways of using money. Your inventive faculties are to be put to the stretch, to see how you can economize. {CG 135.1}

You have brought children into the world who have had **no voice in regard to their existence.** You have made yourselves responsible in a great measure for their future happiness, their eternal well-being. **The burden is upon you, whether you are sensible of it or not, to train these children for God--to watch with jealous care the first approach of the wily foe, and be prepared to raise a standard against him.** Build a fortification of prayer and faith about your children, and exercise diligent watching thereunto. You are not secure a moment against the attacks of Satan. You have no time to rest from watchful, earnest labor. You should not sleep a moment at your post. This is a most important warfare. Eternal consequences are involved. It is life or death with you and your family. {CG 185.1}

It is not mercy or kindness to permit a child to have its own way, to submit to its rule, and to neglect to correct it on the ground that you love it too well to punish it. What kind of love is it that permits your child to develop traits of character that will make him and everyone else miserable? **Away with such love!** True love will look out for the present and eternal good of the soul. {CG 186.2}

It is during the first years of a child's life that his mind is most susceptible to impressions either good or evil. During these years decided progress is made in either a right direction or a wrong one. On one hand, much worthless information may be gained; on the other, much solid, valuable knowledge. The strength of intellect, the substantial knowledge, are possessions which the gold of Ophir could not buy. Their price is above gold or silver. {CG 193.4}

The impressions made on the heart early in life are seen in after years. They may be buried, but they will seldom be obliterated. {CG 194.1}

Mothers, be sure that you properly discipline your children during the **first three years of their lives**. Do not allow them to form their wishes and desires. The mother must be mind for her child. **The first three years is the time in which to bend the tiny twig**. Mothers should understand the importance attaching to this period. It is then that the foundation is laid. {CG 194.2}

The character of Napoleon Bonaparte was greatly influenced by his training in childhood. **Unwise instructors inspired him with a love for conquest, forming mimic armies and placing him at their head as commander. Here was laid the foundation for his career of strife and bloodshed**. Had the same care and effort been directed to making him a good man, imbuing his young heart with the spirit of the Gospel, how widely different might have been his history. {CG 196.1}

Hume and Voltaire.--It is said that Hume, the skeptic, was in early life a **conscientious believer in the Word of God**. Being connected with a debating society, **he was appointed to present the arguments in favor of infidelity**. He studied with earnestness and perseverance, and his keen and active mind became imbued with the sophistry of skepticism. **Erelong he came to believe its delusive teachings, and his whole afterlife bore the dark impress of infidelity**. {CG 196.2}.

When Voltaire was five years old, he committed to memory an infidel poem, and the pernicious influence was never effaced from his mind. He became one of Satan's most successful agents to lead men away from God. Thousands will rise up in the judgment and charge the ruin of their souls upon the infidel Voltaire. {CG 196.3}

Opportunities of inestimable worth, interests infinitely precious, are committed to every mother. **During the first three years of the life of Samuel the prophet, his mother carefully taught him to distinguish between good and evil**. By every familiar object surrounding him she sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator. In fulfillment of her vow to give her son to the Lord, with great self-denial she placed him under the care of Eli the high priest, to be trained for service in the house of God. . . . **His early training led him to choose to maintain his Christian integrity. What a reward was Hannah's! And what an encouragement to faithfulness is her example!** {CG 197.1}

It is a sad fact that any weakness and indecision on the part of the mother is **quickly seen by the children**, and the tempter then works upon their minds, leading them to persist in following their inclination. If parents would cultivate the qualities necessary for them to use in the proper training of their children, if they would plainly lay before the children the rules they must follow, and not suffer these rules to be broken, the Lord would co-operate with and bless both parents and children. {CG 197.3}

What the child sees and hears is drawing deep lines upon the tender mind, which no after circumstances in life can entirely efface. The intellect is now taking shape, and the affections receiving direction and strength. Repeated acts in a given course become habits. These may be modified by severe training, in afterlife, but are seldom changed. {CG 199.4}

Young children, if left to themselves, learn the bad more readily than the good. **Bad habits agree best with the natural heart, and things which they see and hear in infancy and childhood are deeply imprinted** upon their minds. {CG 202.3}

Your child needs the hand of wisdom to guide him aright. **He has been allowed to cry for what he wanted, until he has formed the habit of doing this. He has been allowed to cry for his father. Again and again, in his hearing, others have been told how he cries for his father, until**

he makes it a point of doing this. **Had I your child, in three weeks he would be transformed.** I would let him understand that my word was law, and kindly but firmly I would carry out my purposes. **I would not submit my will to the child's will.** You have a work to do here, and you have lost much by not taking hold of it before. {CG 213.2}

The mother's work commences with the infant. She should subdue the will and temper of her child, and bring it into subjection, teach it to obey. As the child grows older, relax not the hand. Every mother should take time to reason with her children, to correct their errors, and patiently teach them the right way. Christian parents should know that they are instructing and fitting their children to become children of God. The entire religious experience of the children is influenced by the instructions given, and the character formed, in childhood. If the will is not then subdued and made to yield to the will of the parents, it will be a difficult task to learn the lesson in after years. What a severe struggle, what a conflict, to yield that will which never was subdued, to the requirements of God! **Parents who neglect this important work commit a great error, and sin against their poor children and against God.** 292 {CCh 193.4}

To allow a child to follow his natural impulses is to allow him to deteriorate and to become proficient in evil. The results of wrong training begin to be revealed in childhood. In early youth a selfish temper is developed, and as the youth grows to manhood, **he grows in sin.** A continual testimony against parental neglect is borne by children who have been permitted to follow a course of their own choosing. Such a downward course can be prevented only by surrounding them with influences that will counteract evil. From infancy to youth and from youth to manhood, a child should be under influences for good. {CG 491.2}

Men and women frame many excuses for their proneness to sin. Sin is represented as a necessity, an evil that cannot be overcome. But sin is not a necessity. **Christ lived in this world from infancy to manhood, and during that time He met and resisted all the temptations by which man is beset. He is a perfect pattern of childhood, of youth, of manhood.** {FLB 219.4}

"How much corruption we see in the world because parents neglect to do their duty, and **SIN LIES AT THEIR DOOR.** Satan stands by exulting as you permit your children to pass into his hands. Do not indulge your children in **EVIL WAYS, BUT FROM THEIR VERY INFANCY** let them see that you love the Lord, and that you mean to train them up as he would have you. Our blessed Saviour taught us to pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name." **Do we realize what is the meaning of this prayer?** Do we realize that we must hallow that name in our families, and that if we **ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO MANIFEST THE ATTRIBUTES OF SATAN**, that name is not hallowed in our households? If we want the holy angels to take charge of our **LITTLE ONES**, we must bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and teach them to hallow the name of God. We teach them to say, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." But do you teach them the meaning of this prayer? Do you teach them that the kingdom of God must be seen in your household, and that the will of God must be done by them and you? **DO YOU BREAK THE FORCE OF THIS PETITION BY SHAKING THEM, BY STRIKING THEM IN ANGER, BY SPEAKING HARSH WORDS, AND BY MANIFESTING PASSION?** Do not do this, but be merciful, kind, and tender-hearted. Let the will of the Lord be done in your family, not the will of the enemy. If mild measures will not avail, you must use the rod, you must give your children to understand that God must be honored in your house; but this work is sadly neglected. **Do you wonder that God does not walk through the midst of us when we allow Satan to work his way in our households, and when we neglect the solemn obligations that God has placed upon us?** Of what avail will be a list of church resolutions, if we have not the Spirit of God in our homes? Christ is watching to see who are training their families

for the great family above. **SUPPOSE ONE OF YOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WHOM YOU HAVE FAILED TO CORRECT, SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY IN ONE OF ITS FITS OF TEMPER, WHAT WOULD BE THE RESULT? I leave you to answer the question.** {RH, July 16, 1895 par. 3}"

The Lord commanded Saul to "utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed." **The Lord knew that this wicked nation would, if it were possible, blot out his people and his worship from the earth; and for this reason he had commanded that even the little children should be cut off.** But Saul had spared the king, the most wicked and merciless of them all; one who had hated and destroyed the people of God, and whose influence had been strongest to promote idolatry. {ST, July 17, 1884 par. 11}

The Lord loves those little children who try to do right, and he has promised that they shall be in his kingdom. But wicked children God does not love. He will not take them to the beautiful City, for he only admits the good, obedient, and patient children there. One fretful, disobedient child, would spoil all the harmony of heaven. When you feel tempted to speak impatient and fretful, remember the Lord sees you, and will not love you if you do wrong. When you do right and overcome wrong feelings, the Lord smiles upon you. {AY 61.3}

Many parents plead that they have so much to do that they have no time to improve their minds, to educate their children for practical life, or to teach them how they may become lambs of Christ's fold. Not until the final settlement, when the cases of all will be decided, and the acts of our entire lives will be laid open to our view in the presence of God and the Lamb and all the holy angels, **will parents realize the almost infinite value of their misspent time. Very many will then see that their wrong course has determined the destiny of their children.** Not only have they failed to secure for themselves the words of commendation from the King of glory, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," **but they hear pronounced upon their children the terrible denunciation, "Depart!" This separates their children forever from the joys and glories of Heaven, and from the presence of Christ. And they themselves also receive the denunciation, Depart, "thou wicked and slothful servant." Jesus will never say, "Well done," to those who have not earned the "well done" by their faithful lives of self-denial and self-sacrifice to do others good and to promote His glory. Those who live principally to please themselves instead of to do others good, will meet with infinite loss.** {FE 29.2}

Some parents allow Satan to control their children, and their children are not restrained, but are allowed to have wicked tempers, to be passionate, selfish, and disobedient. Should they die these children would not be taken to heaven. The parent's course of action is determining the future welfare of their children. **If they allow them to be disobedient and passionate they are allowing Satan to take them in charge and work through them as shall please his satanic majesty, and these children, never educated to obedience and to lovely traits of character, will not be taken to heaven, for the same temper and disposition would be revealed in them.** {3SM 314.4}

This is a most delicate subject. Many unbelieving parents manage their children with greater wisdom than many of those who claim to be children of God. They take much pains with their children, to make them kind, courteous, unselfish and to teach them to obey, **and in this the unbelieving show greater wisdom than those parents who have the great light of truth but whose works do not in any wise correspond with their faith.** {3SM 315.2}

Parents, you should commence to discipline the minds of your children while they are young, to the end that they may be Christians. Beware how you lull them to sleep over the pit

of destruction, **with the mistaken thought that they are not old enough to be accountable, not old enough to repent of their sins and profess Christ.** {CG 490.3}

Children of eight, ten, or twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners and of the way of salvation through Christ. {CG 490.4}

An eminent divine was once asked how old a child must be before there was reasonable hope of his being a Christian. **"Age has nothing to do with it," was the answer. "Love to Jesus, trust, repose, confidence, are all qualities that agree with the child's nature. As soon as a child can love and trust his mother, then can he love and trust Jesus as the Friend of his mother.** Jesus will be his Friend, loved and honored." {CG 486.3}

Children do not always discern right from wrong, and when they do wrong, they are often treated harshly, instead of being kindly instructed. {CG 259.4}

The moment that the child begins to choose his own will and way, that moment his education in discipline is to begin. This may be called an unconscious education. It is then that a work, conscious and powerful, is to begin. The greatest burden of this work necessarily rests on the mother. She has the first care of the child, and she is to lay the foundation of an education that will help the child to develop a strong, symmetrical character. {CG 230.1}

The Salvation of Infants and Imbeciles

Some questioned whether the little children of even believing parents should be saved, **because they have had no test of character and all must be tested and their character determined by trial.** The question is asked, "How can little children have this test and trial?" I answer that the faith of the believing parents covers the children, as when God sent His judgments upon the first-born of the Egyptians. Whether **all** the children of unbelieving parents will be saved we cannot tell, because **God has not made known** His purpose in regard to this matter, and we had better leave it where God has left it and dwell upon subjects made plain in His Word.--3SM 313-315 (1885).

In regard to the case of A, you see him as he now is and deplore **his simplicity.** He is **without the consciousness of sin.** The grace of God will **remove all this hereditary, transmitted imbecility, and he will have an inheritance among the saints in light.** To you the Lord has given reason. **A is a child as far as the capacity of reason is concerned, but he has the submission and obedience of a child.**--8MR 210 (1893).

The Lord commanded Saul to "utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed." **The Lord knew that this wicked nation would, if it were possible, blot out his people and his worship from the earth; and for this reason he had commanded that even the little children should be cut off.** But Saul had spared the king, the most wicked and merciless of them all; one who had hated and destroyed the people of God, and whose influence had been strongest to promote idolatry. {ST, July 17, 1884 par. 11}

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to speak impatient and fretful, remember the Lord sees you, and will not love you if you do wrong. When you do right and overcome wrong feelings, the Lord smiles upon you. {AY 61.3}

If there is something to be addressed today is the family circle which is the first church before registering membership with any other church. If we don't get it right at home, it will be more hard to make it right in church. **Let us not allow the beginning of all evil be charged in the books of heaven to the neglect of our parenthood** {CG 87.5}.

"How much corruption we see in the world because parents neglect to do their duty, and **SIN LIES AT THEIR DOOR**. Satan stands by exulting as you permit your children to pass into his hands. Do not indulge your children in **EVIL WAYS, BUT FROM THEIR VERY INFANCY** let them see that you love the Lord, and that you mean to train them up as he would have you. Our blessed Saviour taught us to pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name." Do we realize what is the meaning of this prayer? Do we realize that we must hallow that name in our families, and that if we **ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO MANIFEST THE ATTRIBUTES OF SATAN**, that name is not hallowed in our households? If we want the holy angels to take charge of our **LITTLE ONES**, we must bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and teach them to hallow the name of God. We teach them to say, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." But do you teach them the meaning of this prayer? Do you teach them that the kingdom of God must be seen in your household, and that the will of God must be done by them and you? **DO YOU BREAK THE FORCE OF THIS PETITION BY SHAKING THEM, BY STRIKING THEM IN ANGER, BY SPEAKING HARSH WORDS, AND BY MANIFESTING PASSION?** Do not do this, but be merciful, kind, and tender-hearted. Let the will of the Lord be done in your family, not the will of the enemy. If mild measures will not avail, you must use the rod, you must give your children to understand that God must be honored in your house; but this work is sadly neglected. Do you wonder that God does not walk through the midst of us when we allow Satan to work his way in our households, and when we neglect the solemn obligations that God has placed upon us? Of what avail will be a list of church resolutions, if we have not the Spirit of God in our homes? Christ is watching to see who are training their families for the great family above. **SUPPOSE ONE OF YOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WHOM YOU HAVE FAILED TO CORRECT, SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY IN ONE OF ITS FITS OF TEMPER, WHAT WOULD BE THE RESULT? I leave you to answer the question.** {RH, July 16, 1895 par. 3}"

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At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and, by kind and judicious management, can be taught to obey. The mother should not allow her child to gain an advantage over her in a single instance; and, in order to maintain this authority, **it is not necessary to resort to harsh measures; a firm, steady hand and a kindness which convinces the child of your love will accomplish the purpose. But let selfishness, anger, and self-will have their course for the first three years of a child's life, and it will be hard to bring it to submit to wholesome discipline.** Its disposition has become soured; it delights in having its own way; parental control is distasteful. **These evil tendencies grow with its growth, until, in manhood, supreme selfishness and a lack of self-control place him at the mercy of the evils that run riot in our land.** {CG 82.7}

The little ones, before they are a year old, hear and understand what is spoken in reference to themselves, and know to what extent they are to be indulged. Mothers, you should train your children to yield to your wishes. This point must be gained if you would hold the control over your children, and preserve your dignity as a mother. **Your children quickly learn just what you expect of them, they know when their will conquers yours, and will make the most of their victory.** {CG 91.2}

Am of the idea no child is born innocent or wicked, no child is born a Christian or a sinner, Bible and SoP reveals we are all born on probation and in need of a savior. I understand that we are all born children of God by creation, yet no one gets to Heaven unless he or she becomes a child of God by adoption through Christ, and no one suffers the second death unless they've become personally accountable for their own sin. We read: -

When parents and children meet at the final reckoning, what a scene will be presented! Thousands of children who have been slaves to appetite and debasing vice, whose lives are moral wrecks, will stand face to face **WITH THE PARENTS WHO MADE THEM WHAT THEY ARE. WHO BUT THE PARENTS MUST BEAR THIS FEARFUL RESPONSIBILITY? Did the Lord make these youth corrupt? OH, NO! HE MADE THEM IN HIS IMAGE, a little lower than the angels.** Who, then, has **done the fearful work of forming the life character?** Who changed their characters so that they do not bear the impress of God and must be forever separated from His presence as too impure to have any place with the pure angels in a holy heaven? **WERE THE SINS OF THE PARENTS TRANSMITTED TO THE CHILDREN IN PERVERTED APPETITES AND PASSIONS? AND WAS THE WORK COMPLETED BY THE PLEASURE-LOVING MOTHER IN NEGLECTING TO PROPERLY TRAIN THEM ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN GIVEN HER?** All these mothers will pass in review before God just as surely as they exist. {CG 561.4}

THE AWFUL WORK OF THE MOTHER

The sphere of a married woman

The mother is God's agent to Christianize her family. She is to exemplify Biblical religion, showing how its influence is to control us in its everyday duties and pleasures, teaching her children that **by grace alone can they be saved, through faith, which is the gift of God.** This constant teaching as to what Christ is to us and to them, His love, His goodness, His mercy, revealed in the great plan of redemption, will make a hallowed, sacred impress on the heart. AH 235.2

As you faithfully do your duty in the home, **the father as a priest of the household, the mother as a home missionary,** you are multiplying agencies for **doing good outside of the home.** As you improve your own powers, you are becoming better **fitted to labor in the church and in the neighborhood.** By binding your children to yourselves and to God, fathers and mothers and children become laborers together with God. 3TT 106.3

No Work Is Greater or Holier—If married men go into the work, leaving their wives to care for the children at home, **the wife and mother is doing fully as great and important a work as the husband and father.** Although one is in the missionary field, **the other is a home missionary, whose cares and anxieties and burdens frequently far exceed those of the husband and father.** Her work is a solemn and important one.... The husband in the open missionary field may receive the honors of men, while the home toiler may receive no earthly credit for her labor. **But if she works for the best interest of her family, seeking to fashion their characters after the divine Model, the recording angel writes her name as**

one of the greatest missionaries in the world. God does not see things as man's finite vision views them. AH 235.1

Home Missionary Work by Mother—**God does not call mothers away from home missionary work which will leave their children under the control of influences that are demoralizing and ruinous to the soul.** Are not her children in need of missionary labor? Are not her children worth earnest and prayerful effort? **Shall she neglect home missionary work for a larger field? Let her try her skill in her own home—take up her appointed, God-given work. If she has utterly failed, it is because she has not had faith or may not have presented the truth and lived the truth as it is in Jesus. Let her, after years of apparent failure, try again other methods, seeking counsel of God.** Present His promises on your knees before Him. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" James 1:5, 6. TSB 46.2

We must come back to our point, which is not to urge you all to give yourselves to mission work, but to serve God more in connection with your daily calling. I have heard that a woman who has a mission **makes a poor wife or a bad mother; this is very possible, and at the same time very lamentable;** but the mission I urge, is **not at all of this sort. Dirty rooms, slatternly gowns, children with unwashed faces are swift witnesses against the sincerity of those who keep other vineyards and neglect their own. I have no faith in that woman who talks of grace and glory abroad, and uses no soap and water at home. Let the buttons be on the shirts, let the children's socks be mended, let the house be as neat as a new pin, and the home be as happy as home can be. Serve God by doing common actions in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill them up with holy service.** Spurgeon ."

I am delighted to find the following in that invaluable work entitled "the young lady's counselor," By Rev. Daniel Wise, A. M.; It can be obtained at any Methodist Book Rooms: HR July 1, 1873, par. 9 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 10

"Permit me, by way of illustrating another feature of this question, to lead you into the sitting-room of a respectable and pious lady. She is neatly but plainly attired, and is busy, with the aid of a servant, dusting and cleaning the room. The door-bell rings, and the girl hastens to see who is the visitor. She finds the lady's pastor at the door, and, **without ceremony,** ushers him into the sitting-room. **The lady's face is suffused with blushes, as she confusedly lays aside her dusting-brush and offers her hand to the minister,** saying, 'sir, I am ashamed you should find me thus.'

"Let Christ, when he cometh, find me so doing,' replies her pastor.

"What! Sir; **do you wish to be found in this employment?**" earnestly inquired the astonished lady.

"Yes, madam, I wish to be found faithfully performing the duties of my mission, as I have found you fulfilling yours.'

"And was not the minister right? He recognized a great, but a despised, truth. He saw as high a moral importance in the humble task of the lady as in the missions of Gabriel to the ancient prophets; for both did the will of God in their respective spheres, and diversity of sphere does not necessarily involve real inferiority in the employment.

The lady in her home could exhibit an affection as true, and an obedience as sincere, as the angel in his sphere. It would be difficult to show wherein her employment was morally and necessarily inferior to his, inasmuch as the character of an act derives all its moral greatness, not from the sphere of the actor, but from its **conformity to the will of God.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 10 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 15

"Do you perceive the bearing of my illustration upon the question of woman's sphere? **It shows you that your sex is not necessarily inferior to the other, because it is called, by God and nature, to act in a different sphere. Your exclusion from the stage of public life does not imply your inferiority**—only the diversity of your powers, functions and duties. Indeed, it would defy the loftiest powers to show wherein the work, the mission of the sphere of woman, is a whit beneath that of her more bustling and prominent companion, man.

"What is the sphere of woman? Home, the social circle. What is her mission? To mold character, to fashion herself and others after the model character of Christ. What are her chief instruments for the accomplishment of her great work? The affections. Love is the wand by which she is to work moral transformations within her fairy circle. Gentleness, sweetness, loveliness and purity are the elements of her power. **Her place is not on life's great battle fields. Man belongs there.** It is for him to go forth armed for its conflicts and struggles, to do fierce battle with the hosts of evil that throng our earth and trample upon its blessings. **But woman must abide in the peaceful sanctuaries of home, and walk in the noiseless vales of private life. There she must dwell, beside the secret springs of public virtue. There she must smile upon the father, the brother, the husband, when, returning like warriors from the fight, exhausted and covered with the dust of strife, they need to be refreshed by sweet waters drawn 'from affection's spring,' and cheered to renewed struggles by the music of her voice. THERE SHE MUST REAR THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT AND STATESMAN, THE SELF-DENYING PHILANTHROPIST AND THE OBEDIENT CITIZEN. THERE, IN A WORD, SHE MUST FORM THE CHARACTER OF THE WORLD, AND DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF HER RACE. How awful is her mission! What dread responsibility attaches to her work!** Surely, she is not degraded by filling such a sphere. **Nor would she be elevated, if, forsaking it, she should go forth into the highways of society and jostle with her brothers for the offices and honors of public life. Fame she might occasionally gain, but it would be at the price of her womanly influence.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 15 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 17

"Fancy yourself far out at sea, in **a noble ship, contending with a furious storm.** Beneath is one wild whirl of foaming surges; above, the array of lightnings, like the swords of cherubim, wide brandished, to repel aggression from heaven's gates.' Behold, amidst this scene of grandeur, **the stormy petrel gliding up the face of a huge wave, darting above the foam of a breaker, or sweeping along the watery valleys as composedly and as naturally as it ever swept over the same sea in an hour of calm.** Behold, too, **another bird,** whirling and darting above the spray with a **cry of seeming despair;** now flying before a monster sea, and anon **struggling to keep its wet and weary wings from folding into helpless inaction.**

"Tell me, lady, why this little trembler is in so pitiful a plight, while the stormy petrel gambols freely among the waves. You cannot answer. Then listen. The petrel is in its appropriate sphere. The little trembler is a land-bird, tempted, at first, by sunny weather, to wander among the islands, and driven, at last, by a strong wind to sea. **He is out of his sphere; and hence his quiet has fled, his song is silenced and his life endangered. God made him for the land. The grove is his home, and his sphere is among the flowers.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 17 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 20

"It is thus with the entire creation. Everything has its appointed sphere, within which alone it can flourish. Men and women have theirs. They are not exceptions to this truth, but examples of it. To be happy and prosperous, they must abide in them. Man is fitted for the storms of public life, and, like the petrel, can be happy amid their rudest surges. Woman is formed for the calm of home. She may venture, like the land bird, to invade the sphere of man, but she will encounter storms which she is utterly unfitted to meet; happiness will forsake her breast, her own sex will despise her, men will be unable to love her, and when she dies she will fill an unhonored grave. HR July 1, 1873, par. 20 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 21

The mouth of the Lord has spoken through the prophetess, let all those who believe in her inspiration accept this as truth. Not only did it come from a prophetess but a lady, wife, mother and companion of a ministering husband.

The issue would not even be social misfit, misplaced priorities and want of attentions and lack of enough information which leads to spiritual dearth in our partners. They may know a lot of verses and quotes than us but do they understand their sphere and have they taken it with joy and delight as the command from the Lord?! We may fight for years for something that would only take a minute to solve by someone swallowing their pride and making a decided u turn to their rightful sphere then all other things falls in place. We at Gospel Sounders Ministry our goal is to restore marriage in its rightful principles, not to encourage any divorce or separation but teach everyone to cheerfully accept their spheres. This will solve many inconsistencies that are springboard to many problems in strained marriages.

I hope everyone catches these magnanimous phrases from EGW

1. Mother is God's **agent to Christianize** family
2. Mother is a **home missionary**
3. No work is **greater or holier than the mother's work**
4. Her work is of the **most solemn important**
5. She is the **greatest missionary in the world**
6. God **does not call mothers away from home**
7. Home missionary is her **God-given work**
8. She should serve God by **doing common duties at home with a heavenly spirit**
9. **The sitting room is an index of a pious Christian lady**
10. She is a **candidate of heaven if Christ finds her in the common labor of home missionary**
11. There is a **high moral importance in the humble task of a mother at home just as the work of Angel Gabriel in the field** (amazing and fascinating)
12. She is **excluded from combat field yet her work not inferior but greater than that of her husband in the field**
13. Her work is to **smile to her husband, brother and father to her children when he comes back** (this will make him forget all the troubles of the day)
14. At the peaceful sanctuary of home, **she forms and shapes the character of the nation and determines the destiny of her race.**
15. **Her joy and happiness is swept away like the little trembler bird if she seeks to occupy a sphere God has not assigned her**

What an incredibly awful mission for a married woman! No work in the world, president, bishop, pope or a prophet can match her work. Yet how pathetic anyone should aim so low to venture into a sphere not belonging to them. No wonder the Bible says:

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, **with shamefacedness and sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 15 **Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.**

Parenting part of the Third Angel's Message:

The special work of parents is to make the laws of God plain to their children and to urge their obedience to them, that they may see the importance of obeying God all the days of their life. This was the work of Moses. He was to enjoin upon parents their duty to give to their children an example of strict obedience. **And this is the work that above everything else must be done in the home life today. It is to accompany the third angel's message.** Ignorance is no excuse why parents should neglect to teach their children what it means to transgress the law of God. The light is abundant, and none need to walk in darkness, none need to be in ignorance. God is as verily our instructor today as He was the teacher of the children of Israel, and all are bound by the most sacred obligations to obey His laws. {CG 558.1}

The Rewards

A Graphic Scene of the Judgment Day.--I had a dream once in which I saw a large company gathered together; and suddenly the heavens gathered blackness, the thunder rolled, the lightning flashed, and a voice louder than the heaviest peals of thunder sounded through the heavens and the earth, saying, "It is done." Part of the company, **with pallid faces, sprang forward with a wail of agony, crying out, "Oh, I am not ready." The question was asked, "Why are you not ready? Why have you not improved the opportunities I graciously gave you?" I awoke with the crying ringing in my ears. "I am not ready; I am unsaved--lost! lost! eternally lost!"** {CG 560.1}

In view of the solemn responsibilities that rest upon us, let us contemplate the future, that we may understand what we must do in order to meet it. In that day shall we be confronted with neglect and contempt of God and His mercy, with rejection of His truth and love? In the solemn assembly of the last day, in the hearing of the universe, will be read the reason of the condemnation of the sinner. **For the first time parents will learn what has been the secret life of their children. Children will see how many wrongs they have committed against their parents.** There will be a general revealing of the secrets and motives of the heart, for that which is hid will be made manifest. Those who have made sport of solemn things connected with the judgment will be sobered as they face its terrible reality. {CG 560.2}

When God Asks, "Where Are the Children?"-- Parents who have neglected their God-given responsibilities must meet that neglect in the judgment. The Lord will then inquire, "Where are the children that I gave you to train for Me? Why are they not at My right hand?" Many parents will then see that unwise love blinded their eyes to their children's faults and left those children to develop deformed characters unfit for heaven. Others will see that they did not give their children time and attention, love and tenderness; their own neglect of duty made the children what they are. {CG 561.1}

Parents, if you lose your opportunity, God pity you; for in the day of judgment God will say, "What have you done with My flock, My beautiful flock?" {CG 561.2}

Suppose you should get to heaven and none of your children be there. How could you say to God, "Here am I, Lord, and the children which Thou hast given me"? Heaven marks the neglect of parents. It is recorded in the books of heaven. {CG 561.3}

Families Will Pass in Review Before God.--**When parents and children meet at the final reckoning, what a scene will be presented! Thousands of children who have been slaves to appetite and debasing vice, whose lives are moral wrecks, will stand face to face with the parents who made them what they are. WHO BUT THE PARENTS MUST BEAR THIS FEARFUL RESPONSIBILITY? Did the Lord make these youth corrupt? Oh, no! He made them in His image, a little lower than the angels. Who, then, has done the fearful work of forming the life character? Who changed their characters so that they do not bear the impress of God and must be forever separated from His presence as too impure to have any place with the pure angels in a holy heaven?** Were the sins of the parents transmitted to the children in perverted appetites and passions? And was the work completed by the pleasure-loving mother in neglecting to properly train them according to the pattern given her? **All these mothers will pass in review before God just as surely as they exist.** {CG 561.4}

In Heaven Is a Pictorial Record.--**Let parents and children remember that day by day they are each forming a character, and that the features of this character are imprinted upon the books of heaven.** God is taking pictures of His people, just as surely as an artist takes pictures of men and women, transferring the **features of the face to the polished plate.** What kind of picture do you wish to produce? **Parents, answer the question!** What kind of picture will the great Master Artist make of you in the records of heaven? We must decide this now. Hereafter, when death shall come, there will be no time to straighten the crooked places in the character. {CG 562.1}

Have You Been Careless?--Oh, that parents would look prayerfully and carefully after their children's eternal welfare! Let them ask themselves, Have we been careless? Have we neglected this solemn work? Have we allowed our children to become the sport of Satan's temptations? Have we not a solemn account to settle with God because we have permitted our children to use their talents, their time and influence, in working against the truth, against Christ? Have we not neglected our duty as parents and increased the number of the subjects of Satan's kingdom? {CG 563.2}

If mothers neglect to properly educate their children, their neglect is reflected back upon them again, making their burdens and perplexities harder than they would have been if they had devoted time and patient care in training their children to obedience and submission. It will pay in the end for mothers to make the formation of the characters of their children their first and highest consideration, that the thorns may not take root and yield an abundant harvest. {CG 563.3}

Children Will Condemn Unfaithful Parents.--The curse of God will surely rest upon unfaithful parents. Not only are they planting thorns which will wound them here, but they must meet their own unfaithfulness when the judgment shall sit. Many children will rise up in judgment and condemn their parents for not restraining them and charge upon them their destruction. The false sympathy and blind love of parents cause them to excuse the faults of their children and pass them by without correction, and their children are lost in consequence, and the blood of their souls will rest upon the unfaithful parents. {CG 563.4}

Children Will Pay Tribute to Faithful Parents.-- When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened; when the "well done" of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe and, **pointing to their mother, say, "She made me all I am**

through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation." {CG 564.1}

Parents May Bring Children With Them to Promised Land.--God has permitted light from His throne to shine all along the path of life. A pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, is moving before us as before ancient Israel. **It is the privilege of Christian parents today, as it was the privilege of God's people of old, to bring their children with them to the Promised Land.** {CG 565.1}

You want a household for God; you want your family for God. **You want to take them up to the gates of the city and say, "Here am I, Lord, and the children that Thou hast given me." They may be men and women that have grown to manhood and womanhood, but they are your children all the same; and your educating, and your watchfulness over them have been blessed of God, till they stand as overcomers. Now you can say, "Here am I, Lord, and the children."** {CG 565.2}

Broken Family Chains Will Be Relinked.--Jesus is coming, coming with clouds and great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to honor those who have loved Him and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them or His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. {CG 565.3}

Comfort for a Bereaved Mother.--You inquire in regard to your little one being saved. Christ's words are your answer: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Remember the prophecy, "Thus saith the Lord: A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted. . . . Thus saith the Lord: Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears; for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to thine own border." {CG 565.4}

This promise is yours. You may be comforted and trust in the Lord. The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts. Put your trust in the Lord, and be not afraid. {CG 566.1}

Children Will Be Borne to Mothers' Arms.--Oh, wonderful redemption! long talked of, long hoped for, contemplated with eager anticipation, but never fully understood. {CG 566.2}

The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." **Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms.** Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. {CG 566.3}

Heaven will be cheap enough if we obtain it through suffering. As I saw what we must be in order to inherit glory, and then saw how much Jesus had suffered to obtain for us so rich an inheritance, I prayed that we might be baptized into Christ's sufferings, that we might not shrink at trials, but bear them with patience and joy, knowing what Jesus had suffered that we through His poverty and sufferings might be made rich. {CG 567.1}

Heaven Is Worth Everything!--Heaven is worth everything to us. **We must not run any risk in this matter.** We must take no venture here. We must know that our steps are ordered by the

Lord. **May God help us in the great work of overcoming.** He has crowns for those that overcome. He has white robes for the righteous. He has an eternal world of glory for those who seek for glory, honor, and immortality. **Everyone who enters the City of God will enter it as a conqueror.** He will not enter it as a condemned criminal, **but as a son of God.** And the welcome given to everyone who enters there will be, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. {CG 567.2}

Fathers and mothers, how stands your record? Have you been faithful to your trust? **As you have seen your children inclined to follow a course that you knew would result in impurity of thought and word and act, have you, first asking God for help, tried to show them their danger?** Have you pointed out to them the peril of taking a path of their own choosing? **Mothers, have you neglected your God-given work--the greatest work ever committed to mortals?** Have you refused to bear your God-given responsibilities? In the time of trouble just before us, when the judgments of God fall upon the impure and unholy, will your children curse you because of your indulgence? {CG 556.2}

Parents New in the Message Need Instruction.-- **Those who bear the last message of mercy to the world should feel it their duty to instruct parents in regard to home religion.** Their great reformatory movement must begin in presenting to **fathers and mothers and children the principles of the law of God.** As the claims of the law are presented, and men and women are convicted of their duty to render obedience, show them the responsibility of their decision, **not only for themselves but for their children.** Show that obedience to God's Word is our only safeguard against the evils that are sweeping the world to destruction. {CG 556.3}

Our Youth Need Help and Encouragement.--**Now is our time and opportunity to labor for the young people.** Tell them that we are now in a perilous crisis, and we want to know how to discern true godliness. Our young people need to be helped, uplifted, and encouraged, but in the right manner; not, perhaps, as they would desire it, but in a way that will help them to have sanctified minds. **They need good, sanctifying religion more than anything else.** {CG 556.4}

Do Not Delay.--Coming events are casting their shadows upon our pathway. **Fathers, mothers, I appeal to you to make most earnest efforts now for your children.** Give them daily religious instruction. Teach them to love God and to be true to the principles of right. With lofty, earnest faith, directed by the divine influence of the Holy Spirit, work, work now. **Do not put it off one day, one hour.** {CG 557.1}

Do a Thorough Work.--**Parents, humble your hearts before God. Begin a thorough work with your children. Plead with the Lord to forgive your disregard of His Word in neglecting to train your children in the way they should go. Ask for light and guidance, for a tender conscience, and for clear discernment that you may see your mistakes and failures. God will hear such prayers from a humble and contrite heart.** {CG 557.2}

Confession May Be Necessary.--**If you have failed in your duty to your families, confess your sins before God. Gather your children about you and acknowledge your neglect. Tell them that you desire to bring about a reformation in the home, and ask them to help you to make the home what it ought to be.** Read to them the directions found in the Word of God. Pray with them; and ask God to spare their lives, and to help them to prepare for a home in His kingdom. **In this way you may begin a work of reformation; and then continue to keep the way of the Lord.** {CG 557.3}

Give Children an Example of Strict Obedience.-- **The special work of parents is to make the laws of God plain to their children and to urge their obedience to them, that they may see the importance of obeying God all the days of their life.** This was the work of Moses. He was to enjoin upon parents their duty to give to their children an example of strict obedience. **And this is the work that above everything else must be done in the home life today. It is to accompany the third angel's message.** Ignorance is no excuse why parents should neglect to teach their children what it means to transgress the law of God. The light is abundant, and none need to walk in darkness, none need to be in ignorance. God is as verily our instructor today as He was the teacher of the children of Israel, and all are bound by the most sacred obligations to obey His laws. {CG 558.1}

Pray and Work for Their Salvation.--**Teach your children that the heart must be trained to self-control and self-denial.** The motives of the life must be in harmony with the law of God. Never be satisfied to have your children grow up apart from Christ. Never feel at ease while they are cold and indifferent. Cry to God day and night. **Pray and work for the salvation of the souls of your children.** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." It is the mainspring, the balance wheel of character. Without the fear of the Lord, they will fail of accomplishing the great object of their creation. {CG 558.2}

Act as Character Builders.--**Seventh-day Adventist parents should more fully realize their responsibilities as character builders.** God places before them the privilege of strengthening His cause through the consecration and labors of their children. **He desires to see gathered out from the homes of our people a large company of youth who, because of the godly influences of their homes, have surrendered their hearts to Him and go forth to give Him the highest service of their lives. Directed and trained by the godly instruction of the home, the influence of the morning and evening worship, the consistent example of parents who love and fear God, they have learned to submit to God as their teacher and are prepared to render Him acceptable service as loyal sons and daughters. Such youth are prepared to represent to the world the power and grace of Christ.** {CG 558.3}

Shall we be indifferent to the work God has given us and at the expense of it engage in any other work? NO. If we would successful missionaries in the field, then our homes have to show for it first.

Blessings