

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

BY

JESS HALL

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN HOME? Only in the realm of Christianity can the idea of the true Christian home be fully developed. It is only in the Christian home that the constitution of the Christian family in its social and spiritual relations may be fully developed.

In this age of extreme individualism, the mission of the home as the first form of society has just about disappeared from view. We have lost sight, almost entirely, of the important bearing the home has upon the formation of Character.

In this age of 'young Americanism' we have lost sight of the old time basis, and fundamental truth that human character, good or bad, is a development beginning with the nursery and ending with the grave. As a result:

1. Many children are being reared in a state of domestic libertinism. And what is the "state of libertinism?" Thoughts: *Sicentious Conduct - Free thinking, uncontrolled*
 1. Husbands and wives do not fully realize their moral relationship to each other. *Free from Self-reliance*
 2. Parents have been inclined to renounce their parental authority over their children.
 3. As a result, children brought up in this state of libertinism neither respect, nor obey their parents in the way they should.
 4. When this is true, the influence of the home is lost. The children grow up in spiritual ignorance, and eventually become a curse to themselves as well as to their parents.

With this introductory background for all our lessons during this Vacation Bible School let us now consider:

THE MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME

1. WHAT THEN IS THE MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME? It is two fold:
 1. Parents responsible for temporal and eternal well-being of the members in family
1 Tim 5:8; "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."
 2. Parents may abuse this mission in two ways:
 1. When they by their own indolence and dissipation compel the children to support them. See 2 Cor. 12:14
 2. When they become the willing slaves of their children, labor to amass a fortune for them, permit the children to grow up in ignorance and idleness not knowing how to work. 1 Thess. 4:10-12; 2 Thess. 3:11; Proverbs 31:27.
2. The Mission of the Christian home involves: (1 Sam. 2:26; Luke 2:52)
 1. Right education of the children in (1) Body, (2) Mind, (3) Spirit.
 2. This means: Right preparation of the children to live in (1) State, (2) Church, (3) Eternity.
3. THE Mission of the Christian Home Involves: (1 Thess 2:7, 11)
 1. To nurse means: to protect, to foster, to supply with appropriate food, to cause to grow, to promote strength, to manage with a view to increase.
 2. Strip the Christian family of its mission as a nursery for the souls of the children, and take away from the parents their noble mission as stewards of God; and you have heathenized, even brutalized the home.

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LESSON TWO

INTRODUCTION

Our first lesson had to do with THE MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME. This lesson then will deal with THE HOME AS A STEWARDSHIP. We will say:

1. The Christian home is a stewardship.
2. Therefore, the parents are stewards of God. What is a steward?
 1. A steward is a servant of a particular kind.
 2. A steward must act with what is committed to his care. Matt. 25:14-30
 3. In a religious sense, a steward is a minister of Christ, whose duty is to dispense the provisions of the gospel, to preach its doctrines and to administer its ordinances.
 4. It is required of such that they be found faithful. 1 Cor. 4:1, 2; Let a man so account of us, as the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God, (2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

THE HOME AS A STEWARDSHIP

1. The training of the soul for heaven is both the duty and the glory of our homes.
 1. The greatest trust committed to parents is the souls of their children. As stewards of God, the most responsible duty of parents is to attend and care for the souls of their children.
 1. It is not the wealth, nor the magnificence of life which will make your home happy. What will make your home happy?
 - (1) Souls of children fed upon "the sincere milk of the word," and "trained up in the ways of the Lord." Proverbs 22:6; 1 Peter 2:2.
 - (2) "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:37. The whole world, if gained, would not buy redemption for the soul.
 2. Consider parents who neglect their stewardship.
 1. Many parents neglect this highest interest of home (stewardship of home) at the altar of mammon or of fashion.
 1. Many parents leave their children to grow up in spiritual ignorance and wickedness. Parents responsible for teaching their children. Gen. 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Ephesians 6:4; Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5.
 2. As a stewardship, God has entrusted the Christian home (parents) with very important interest.
 1. Parents cannot do as they please with their children.
 2. Children are the heritage of the Lord. They are not at the absolute disposal of their parents.
 3. Children are entrusted to the care of the parents to be educated and dealt with according to the will of God. As parents and teachers before our children we "must be blameless, as the steward of God, not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine (beer ETC) no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as we have been taught..." Titus 1:7-9
 3. Principles involved in stewardship.
 1. It involves the principle of accountability. It implies a final settlement.
 2. You will be asked how you employed your talents.
 1. You will be called to give account for those souls which "hung upon your hire;" whether you nursed them for him, and whether or not you provided them meat in due season. Will you be able to answer: Here are the five talents thou gavest me and five others also. Matthew 25:14-30.

See
Exodus
2:7-9

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LESSON THREE

THE CHARACTER OF HOME EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

In our lesson today we will consider one of the most important features of the Christian home: A school for the education of character.

1. It is in the home that children receive training for good or for evil.
2. There is not a word, nor an emotion, nor an act, nor even a look which does not teach the child something.
3. Character is ever being framed and moulded by all that goes on in the home.

We are building every day
In a good or evil way
And the building as it grows
Will our inmost soul disclose.

Till in every line
All our faults and failings shine.
It can be a castle grand,
Or a wreck upon the sand.

Do you ask what building this
That can show both pain and bliss
That can be both dark and fair
Lo! its name is Character.

Build it well what ere you do
Build it straight and strong and true.
Build it high and clean and broad
Build it for the eye of God.

CHARACTER OF HOME EDUCATION

1. Home-education must be intellectual.
 1. Much of human character and happiness depends upon the right education of the mind. Complete education, no half-way methods worth any thing.
 1. In the Bavarian Alps, half way up the perilous climb to the summit is what is known as Half-Way-House. Here the climbers stop for a rest. They look at the roaring fire in the fire place, the comfortable chairs, the hot coffee and sandwiches. Here they decide they have climbed for enough and here they stop.
 2. Many Christian (Nominally Christian) homes are only Half Way Houses.
 - (1) Father and mother are loyal to the marriage vows. Father is a good provider of food, warm clothing for every one. All physical needs supplied.
 - (2) But here they stop! Kindness is lacking. The gospel of Christ is not taught in the home. Children are left to drift for themselves.
2. Home-education must be moral.
 1. Children should be educated to know right from wrong, emotions cultivated, passions and desires ruled and faith developed.
 1. Childhood is the period for this education. Proverbs 22:6, Eph. 6:4
3. Home-education must be religious.
 1. Parents are obligated to be faithful in the spiritual culture of their children.
 1. In the morning of the child's life begin to sow the seed, "Line upon line and precept upon precept; here a little and there a little and God will give the increase. Isaiah 28:10; 1 Cor. 3:6

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LESSON FOUR

NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF HOME EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Home-education in all of its parts is most sadly neglected and abused in this present day by a large percentage of parents. Education of the children generally left to two sources:

1. The teacher in the Sunday morning Bible class.
2. The teachers of secular education: grade and high school, and college. Why is this so? Because:
 - (1) Not many parents know the Bible well enough to teach it to the children.
 - (2) Formal, or secular education must be received in a class room.

Parents should consider the power of the teachers in the thinking and life of the child. Some hinderances to any teaching program:

1. Teachers who are not really prepared to teach.
2. Lack of respect for the Bible in the parents and the children.
3. Poor attendance on the part of the teacher as well as the pupil.
4. Failure to distinguish between helps (Lesson sheets, quarterlies Etc.) and the Bible.
5. A lack of cooperation between the teachers and parents.

Edmund Burke said, "Education (right education) is the cheapest defense of nations. Why is it so? Because it prevents vice, poverty, misery, and relieves the state of the support of paupers and criminals."

NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF HOME EDUCATION

1. The Need of Home Education

1. If you do not educate your children in the truths as revealed in the Bible then you may be assured that he will become educated in the ways of Satan and falsehood.
2. Neglecting the right educating of your children one man said, "Is like being solicitous about the shoe, but neglecting entirely the foot that is to wear the shoe."

2. How we neglect and abuse home-education.

1. Substitution is one avenue of neglect in home-education.
 1. Parents often substitute Bible stories, cards and literature of various kinds for the Bible itself.
 2. Children should have a Bible and be taught to take care of that Bible.
 3. Parents often think that they have educated their children when secular education is substituted for religious education. Both secular and religious education go together. See Luke 2:52; 1 Samuel 2:26; 3:19. Harmonious growth:
 - (1) Bodily stature-bodily strength. (2) Mental and intellectual enlargement.
 - (3) Spiritual attainment and nobility of character: "In favor with God and man."
2. We may abuse home-education by separating the moral from the mental and the secular from the religious. This course is generally followed by parents when:
 1. They educate their children for mere worldly utility and fashion.
 2. When they forget the welfare of the soul, and look only to the advantage of the body.
 3. The Bible should be the text book for all home-education for it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16."

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LESSON FIVE

FAMILY HABITS

INTRODUCTION

THE FAMILY SLIPS ARE SHOWING is the title of one chapter in a book that I have. AMERICAN YOUTH IN TROUBLE is the title of the book.

We speak today of the red peril and the yellow peril. Perhaps we should add the "black peril" to the list now. It is not these "on the outside" dangers that really threaten us. Some dangers on the inside of the U. S. A.:

1. The most insidious, the most dangerous and devastating peril rises in the godlessness of the training so many of our American young people are receiving.
 1. You teach a man that he is nothing more than a remodeled ape and he is just certain to act like an ape.
 2. The basic cause of the whole world situation is that our young people have no knowledge of God.
 3. In our reckless standards of building a nation, honesty, integrity, and moral decency are already near fatal casualties.

I read an ad one day which said: "Have all the comforts of home without work." *2 then 4:10*
Actually, we cannot have such comforts without some work, and the satisfaction of home lies in what we do ourselves.

Much of the character for good or bad, depends upon the habits of the home. FAMILY HABITS have much to do with our welfare here and here-after. So we consider:

FAMILY HABITS

1. It is the duty of the parents to crush every evil habit in its incipient state.
WHY is this so? Because:
 1. Habits when formed are not easily broken. Habits enslave us to them.
 2. The stream of our existence first forms the channel through which our life flows.
 3. The channel then rules, guides and controls the current of the stream. The deeper the channel the greater the controlling influence over the stream. So it is with habits formed in the family. Here are habits being formed:
 1. The habit of thought: is it pure?
 2. The habit of conversation: is it holy?
 3. The habit of action: is it godly? If not these habits do not belong in the Christian home. Phil. 4:8, 9
2. HABIT: Establish the habit of "doing all things decently and in order." 1 Cor. 14:40
 1. Without this rule your Christian life will be blustery and stormy, and will be as unstable as water. Romans 12:21
3. HABIT: Establish the habit of perseverance in well-doing. "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." "And let us not be weary in well doing..." 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9
 1. Form not the habits of a "hit" or "miss" "if nothing happens" we will.
4. HABIT: Form the habit of contentment with your home and condition in life.
 1. "But godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6; Proverbs 15:16
5. HABIT: You should avoid establishment of the habit of castle-building.
 1. Do not fancy a better home and fall out with the one you could enjoy.
 2. Never permit the flimsy creations of a distorted imagination to gain ascendancy over your reason and faith.
6. HABIT: Form the habit of being "instant in season and out of season." 2 Tim. 4:2
"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10
7. HABIT: Comes from a Latin word which means literally: to have, to hold. That which holds you.

HOW TO TURN YOUR CHILDREN INTO CROOKS

BY

Talbot Dilworth Harrison

INTRODUCTION

If I have correct information Mr. Talbot Dilworth Harrison archdeacon of Chesterfield, England.

In naming twelve rules on HOW TO TURN YOUR CHILD INTO A CROOK, Mr. Harrison seemed to be aiming at indulgent parents. As the story comes to me, his twelve rules were published in his parish magazine.

We list his twelve rules here with the thought and prayer that a close study of them might be helpful to some parents in the rearing of the children to be strong and faithful Christians. I pass them along to you for whatever they may be worth to you. (j. hall) The rules are as follows:

1. Begin from infancy to give the child everything he wants. This way he will grow up to believe that the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh. It will encourage him to pick up "cuter phrases" that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him spiritual training. Wait until he is 21, and let him decide for himself.
4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will lead him to believe later when he is arrested for stealing a car that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around, books, shoes, and clothes. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing the responsibility onto others.
6. Let him read any printed matter that he can get his hands on. Be careful to see that silverware and glasses are all sterilized, but let his mind feed on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in his presence. Then he will not be too shocked when the home is broken up.
8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you did.
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every desire is gratified. Denial may lead to frustration.
10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself, saying, "I never could do anything with him."
12. Prepare for a life of grief for you certainly will have it.

NOTE: If the above rules fail to turn your child into a delinquent, please let me add one more that is sure to do the job. Here it is:

13. Talk, in an ugly spirit, about the church, the preacher, the elders, the deacons Bible school teachers, and any or all of the members. (j. hall)