

LESSON 2



THE HOME INFLUENCE HAS GREAT EFFECT

Scripture Texts: Joshua 24:14-16; 2 Timothy 1:5-6

It is the responsibility of each generation to pass along the teaching and training that has proved successful in the past generations. This is the key to all the following lessons.

MEMORY VERSE: *"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."*

2 Timothy 1:5

Children Tend to Become as Their Elders

In most cases children will grow to become like their parents and grandparents. Children grow faster and learn more in the first three to four years of their lives than any other period of growth. Our home training program must be well-rounded and balanced and adhered to closely. When parents have no self-esteem, are always beat down, and have a negative attitude most of the time, the children will become the same way. Mothers need to understand why God, in His Word, tells them to be keepers at home. It is a full-time job to give training to that family. This is one reason the devil is attacking the home in so many ways and trying to destroy marriage.

Most all couples are capable of becoming parents, but not all realize their responsibility as parents to those children. It means more than providing food, clothing, and shelter for them. Lines of communication must be initiated and maintained between parents and child. Children must feel that their parents are interested in their feelings and problems. Give the children of your time so they may feel free to express to you the small things, and then they will bring the larger problems also.

If we listen to the small things, they will feel free to discuss with you the heavy burdens that come along a little later. Share their bad moments by giving them ear, and they will allow you to share their good moments. Share without criticism and give some input of praise and encouragement. Allow the child to make mistakes and errors of judgment. Teach him that this is a normal part of growth and that it should not cause him to feel inferior or uncomfortable. Do not be overcritical. You are training that child to be either strong in mind, body, and soul, or you are making him a cripple, unable to cope with the great tests of life that lie ahead. Remember that each of your children is a different person, and must be taught as a separate and distinct person.

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to criticize. If he lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If he faces ridicule, he learns to be shy. If he is shamed, he learns to feel guilty. If he is shown tolerance, he learns to be patient. If he is encouraged, he learns confidence. If he is praised, he learns to appreciate others. If his parents are fair, he learns justice. If he obtains approval, he learns self-esteem. If he is shown friendship, he will be friendly. If he is given love and acceptance, he will love and accept others.

Parents, if we do not understand ourselves, we can never help our children to understand and respect us as parents or to respect themselves.

JUST A THOUGHT

**You can preach a better sermon with your life
than with your lips.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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