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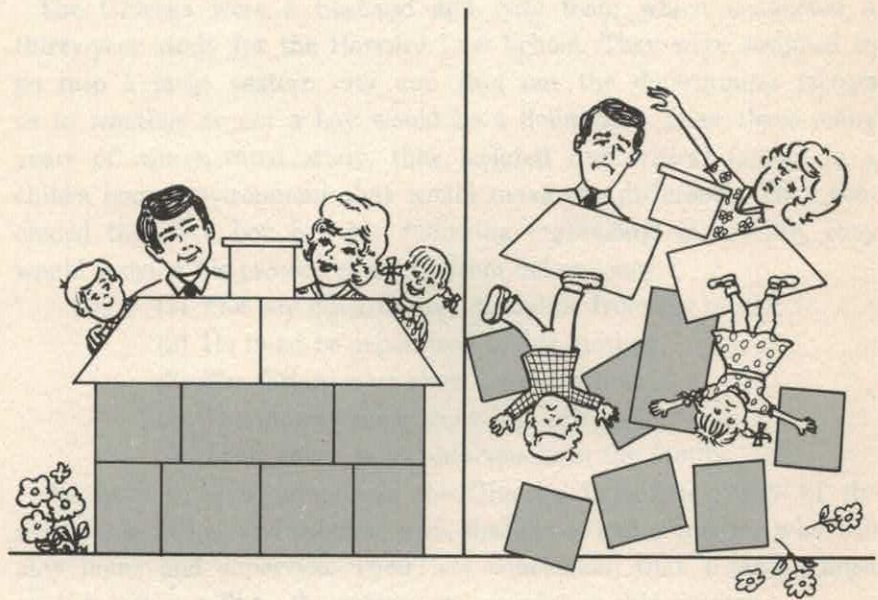
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## TOGETHER



**United We Stand, Divided We Fall**

## Chapter Thirteen

# Together

The Gluecks were a husband and wife team which conducted a thirty-year study for the Harvard Law School. They were assigned to go into a large eastern city and find out the determining factors as to whether or not a boy would be a delinquent. Over these many years of concentrated study, they isolated five critical factors in a child's home environment that would make the difference. They concluded that if a boy had the following ingredients in his life, they would provide his protective shield from delinquency:

- (1) The boy must receive discipline from his father.
- (2) He must be supervised by his mother.
- (3) The father must show him affection.
- (4) The mother must show him affection.
- (5) There must be a cohesiveness in the family.

We have covered completely the Gluecks' first four points of the need for a father and mother, love, discipline, and a mother who will stay home and supervise. Their last conclusion, that a family must stick together, will be the subject we consider in this chapter.

Before we get involved in talking about the things a family should do together, I should like you to answer the following yes or no questions:

Yes No 1. Do you want your daughters to follow your moral standards? (What you judge to be right and wrong behavior.)

Yes No 2. Do you want your daughters to follow your personal habits?

Yes No 3. Do you want your daughters to follow your religious convictions?

- Yes No 4. Do you want your daughters to follow your example as a wife and mother?
- Yes No 5. Do you want your sons to follow your husband's moral standards? (What he judges to be right and wrong behavior.)
- Yes No 6. Do you want your sons to follow your husband's personal habits?
- Yes No 7. Do you want your sons to follow your husband's religious convictions?
- Yes No 8. Do you want your sons to follow your husband's example as a husband and father?

### United We Stand

I have chosen *United We Stand; Divided We Fall* as the sub-topic for this chapter. A very important word in this title is the word *Stand*. Every parent *stands* for something. Just as a merchant selects and sells his products, we as parents display the moral standards we keep, personal habits we practice, religion we embrace, and the manner in which we perform as mates and parents. The question is, "Are our products worth selling?"

If you were able to answer *yes* to the above eight questions, you are displaying products worth buying. What you must do is gather your children around you and expose them to your standards as much as possible.

Human beings are gregarious and want to be with other human beings. That is where the feelings of belonging, closeness, and companionship originate. This human need is the reason parents must arrange their lives so that they will be their children's closest companions and can draw them around themselves into a tight unit of togetherness. They must implant, indoctrinate, influence, persuade, and fix deeply in their children's lives their family values.

### United Means Unified

Another important word in our title is *United*. We talked about this in Chapter Six, but because of its vital importance, it must be mentioned again.

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*Daddy and Mother must, above all else, present a united stand.* No force is strong enough to break down the family walls *IF* Daddy and Mother are united. It is when one parent or the other teams up with the children that a home and what it stands for will come tumbling down. It is no longer united, but divided.

The children are put into positions where they have to choose which standard they will buy - - Daddy's or Mother's. They are neither old or mature enough to know what is best for them. It leaves them hurt, confused, and in a real dilemma.

As parents, may we never forget that any time there is an area on which we don't agree, we are loosening a brick in the foundation of our homes. That one weakness can be the beginning of what may later cause our homes and everything we have stood for to come crashing down.

#### **She Turned Her Back on Everything and Everybody**

A young gospel preacher was telling the tragic story of his younger sister. When she reached the teen years, he said, she completely turned her back on their family. When she graduated from high school, she left their home in the south, went west, and joined a hippie colony.

When the minister was asked how this could have happened to his sister, he replied, "It was the way my parents handled her. Daddy was strict with us boys, and when our little sister came along, he didn't change. But Mother didn't agree with his strictness in relationship to our sister. Daddy would take a strict stand, and Mother would revoke it. She would always take our sister's side against daddy. The only way I can explain why she has done what she has, is that Daddy and Mother never agreed on how to handle her."

#### **A Frequent Question**

Without fail, every time I talk on the need for parents to be united, I always get asked this question, "What is a Christian woman to do if she is married to a non-Christian husband? Their stands can sometimes be poles apart."

I will be frank in admitting I don't have answers to all of the questions that may arise from such a union. One thing I do know, however, is that a woman in that position must always remember she is there because of choice. There was a time when she bought her husband heart and soul. I would say if he was that enticing, there surely must be something about him worth selling to his children.

There are three reminders I like to give a Christian woman yoked to a non-Christian man.

(1) *Never forget God's command for a wife to be obedient to her husband.* I know of a Christian woman who yielded to the desires of a non-Christian husband for many years. He demanded his lunch on the table at twelve o'clock, and Sunday was no exception. She would have to leave the morning worship service early in order to obey his wishes. Because of her obedience to him, as well as her consecrated service to God, he was won to Christ and now serves as an elder in the church.

One Christian woman, because of her consecrated Christian life and consistent obedience to her husband, won him to Christ but never knew it. It was after her death that he sorrowfully repented and turned to God. In his story of why he became a Christian, he revealed his former treatment of her. He admitted there had been times when he physically stood in the doorway and withheld the car keys to keep her from attending a worship service. She never retaliated, but yielded to him in obedience and kept right on serving the Lord. Why did he become a Christian? Because he had lived with one for so many years.

The scriptures say we must obey God rather than man, but a woman who refuses to obey her husband is in the first place not obeying God. As I mentioned previously, if a situation is one in which a woman is in an evil and ungodly circumstance and her husband constantly forces her to engage in sinful relationships, God would never expect her to doom her soul. She can withdraw herself from his leadership and live alone. Any time conditions are hopeless in that a husband is constantly jeopardizing his wife's soul, she must arrange her life so that she can serve the Lord.

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(2) *Work at being a superb helpmeet.* A second rule for a Christian wife to remember is to work at attracting, adapting, and appeasing her non-Christian husband. This is a second key to winning him to Christ. Once he witnesses daily his wife's physical gifts, he will be more openminded to spiritual instructions.

(3) *Let your Christian light shine to others.* After you have attended to husband, children, and house, do good deeds for others. Remember the sick, elderly, lonesome, grieved, shut-ins, or orphans in some way.

### Ten Building Blocks

With Daddy and Mother standing *united*, their task is to gather and keep their children around them. By this means, the children will be exposed over and over to the stands their parents want them to adopt for their own lives.

As I teach this lesson, I use ten building blocks and construct a house. For the remainder of the chapter, let's consider the ten things a family can do in order to unify and strengthen their home and relationships together.

### NO. 1 - A FAMILY CAN WORSHIP TOGETHER


Worship is the cornerstone that holds a home together. The homage and reverence a family shows to God helps keep everyone in his proper perspective. In Chapter Fourteen we will study the acts of public worship, but for now I should like to discuss the daily private worship which a family can share together.

Richard Baxter was a minister in England many years ago. For three years he preached his heart out and had no visible response. "Finally one day," he wrote, "I threw myself across the floor in my study and cried out to God. 'God, you must do something with these people or I'll die.'" He said it seemed that God said, "Baxter, you're working in the wrong place. You are expecting revival to come through the church. Try the home."

Mr. Baxter then began to work at getting families to start daily worship in their homes. His congregation sprang to life and grew to be exceptionally large.<sup>34</sup>

Nothing can start or end a day better than for a family to bow their hearts together before the throne of God. God told His people of old, "*Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*" Deuteronomy 6:4 - 9.

A family worship should include four aspects. (1) *Every member of the family should be in attendance.* The time of day when all family members can gather together for worship will vary. Early morning is best for some families, whereas late evening is better for others. (2) *The devotion should be brief,* but not rushed. The time spent in worship will depend a great deal on the variation of ages of those attending. Usually from ten to twenty minutes is sufficient. (3) *There should be variety.* Every day should not produce the same routine. There can be Bible reading, story telling, listening to records or tapes; sentence, silent, or individual prayers; group or individual singing; memory work, question and discussion time; or simply silent meditation. (4) *It should be comprehensible.* Everyone in attendance should go away enriched. If Daddy reads difficult scripture, he should stop periodically and explain the message in simple words. And one or two songs may have to be quite simple in order for a three-year-old to participate.

Whether a family's worship is private or public, they should do it together. Parents should not send their children to worship, but take them. This is training.  It is not only "doing as I say," but "doing as I do."

#### NO. 2 - A FAMILY CAN WORK TOGETHER

We have covered quite thoroughly the subject of work; so my additional remarks will be brief. There is one more question regularly

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## TOGETHER

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asked in TUAC classes that I should like to discuss. Many mothers wonder, "Is it all right to teach boys homemaking chores?" The answer is yes. There will be occasions in the life of every young man when he must know something about cooking and house cleaning. Contrary to the thinking of some, a boy is not a sissy simply because he knows how to use a broom or fry bacon.

Effeminacy in a young man is caused by something other than learning domestic chores. An extremely cruel and unjust father or an overprotective mother often produces a sissified boy. A mother will sometimes yield, take up for, and protect a son to such an extent that he attaches himself to her. She is his constant refuge and defender. For lack of being made to stand up and exercise his manly instincts of strength and bearing responsibility, he becomes a defenseless weakling.

Muddled and bewildered children will never be a problem as long as a Daddy and Mother obey God's assigned duties. When I was a child, the role of man and woman never confused me. My father and mother's word was law, and they backed each other in it. Daddy was the one who made the living, and Mother's department was the home. My brothers naturally identified with Daddy, and my sister and I with Mother.

Outdoor work provides a good opportunity for all the family to work on projects together. Gardening, keeping lawns and flower beds, picking fruit, or setting up and keeping a camp site are things a family can work at together.

### A Universal Lament

I should like to pass on to young mothers what seems to be an almost universal lament among older mothers. After a family of children is grown, the mother may think back over the years and say, "I was so much harder on our oldest child. I expected more of him than I did of the younger ones. I wish I had that portion of my life to live over."

This may be a frequent error because of parents' eagerness to see a child grow up. They get overly anxious for change and new accomplishments to be made. This develops into a pushy situation in



which they begin to expect adult skills to be quickly developed instead of letting them come naturally.

Let's take a lesson from senior mothers and not expect our oldest child to achieve faster or do all the work because he is the oldest. Each child has his own capabilities, and we must be wise enough to determine what they are.

### NO. 3 - A FAMILY CAN TALK TOGETHER

The subject of talking together has also been covered quite thoroughly. There is one remaining aspect, however, about the verbal exchange in a family, that often causes problems.

Many times Daddy and Mother may, unknown to each other, give contradictory permissions or facts. A child may go to his mother and ask for consent to do something. Perhaps the time is not right, and it will upset her daily schedule; so she says *no*. The child then quietly slips around to Daddy and asks him permission to do the same thing. Daddy has no knowledge of mother's negative response, and it does not interfere with his plans; so he says *yes*.

What is Junior to do? Here Daddy is on one side and Mother is on the other. Children are wise as little owls. Junior may have planned it that way. It works especially well for children if Daddy is the positive one. A child immediately calculates that Daddy is the chief; so his positive reply should automatically nullify mother's negative.

Parents absolutely must not tolerate this kind of conniving. *A child needs to understand that if he is told NO by either parent, he is not to go to the other.* Parents should also have another understanding. If a particular action is all right with one but he hasn't had a chance to talk it over with the other, one should respond, "It is all right with me *if* it is all right with your daddy (or mother)."

Well do I remember how efficient my father and mother were in sticking together on permissions. They were as competent as private detectives. After worship on Sunday morning, a friend would often ask me to go home with her for lunch and to spend the afternoon. Whichever of my parents was closer, I would ask for the permission. If it were Daddy, I would say, "Daddy, is it all right if I go home

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with Phyllis today?" Never would he give a quick or direct answer. He would always say, "Is it all right with your mother?" "I don't know. I haven't asked her." "Well, you go ask your mother."

Away I would go to look for Mother. When I would approach her with the same question, she too would give no hasty answer. She would say, "Have you asked your dad?" "Yes, but he told me to come and ask you." "Well, if it is all right with him, it is all right with me."

Off again I would go to find Daddy. I would locate him and ask again, "Daddy, Mother said if it is all right with you, it is all right with her for me to go home with Phyllis." My final permission would come when he said, "All right, if it's all right with your mother, it is all right with me."

As a child, I couldn't understand the necessity for all the red tape. But now as a parent I understand perfectly. My parents had a private communication system working that allowed no wires to get crossed.

### Keep a Proud Family Name

Another important subject a family needs to talk about together is keeping a proud family name. "A good name is better than precious ointment." Ecclesiastes 7:1.

Many young men and women have refrained from indulging in an activity that could have eventually led to shame, because they didn't want to blemish their family's name.

A young man once told his father after he was married, "You know, Dad, many times as a boy, when I would be tempted to engage in a questionable activity, your words, 'Son, don't forget you're a Harrison,' would go through my mind. You will never know how many sins those words kept me from participating in."

### YOUR NAME \*

You got it from your father; 'twas the best he had to give,  
And right gladly he bestowed it; it is yours the while you live.

\* Used by permission.

You may lose the knife he gave you and another you may claim,  
But you'll never hurt your father if you're careful with his name.

It was fair the day you got it and a worthy name to wear;  
When he got it from his father, there was no dishonor there.

Through the years he wore it proudly; to his father he was true,  
And the name was pure and spotless when he passed it on to you.

Oh, there's much that he has given that he values not at all;  
He has watched you break your playthings in the days when you were  
small.

You have lost the watch he gave you and you've scattered many a game,  
But be careful when you're tempted to be careless with his name.

It is yours to keep forever, yours to wear the while you live,  
Yours perhaps at some time distant . . . to another boy to give.

And you'll smile as did your Father smile upon his baby fair,  
If a clean name and a good name you are giving him to wear.

This poem was given to me by a TUAC student. Her family story behind it is beautiful. I should like to share it with you.

"My grandmother gave birth to fifteen children. Three died in their youth, but with the help of God and a wonderful husband she reared twelve. Seven of the twelve were sons. They were growing up for the most part during the depression - - in the days of cardboard suitcases.

"The story goes that, as each grew old enough to seek his fortune or go to war, Grandma wrote this poem on paper and pasted it inside the lid of his suitcase. His instructions were to 'live out of the suitcase' until he married.

"My uncles tell me they revered their mother and did as they were told. They say that each time they opened their suitcases to dress to go out, they could not help seeing this poem written in her own handwriting. They vow it was reminder enough to keep them out of plenty of trouble. I guess it was, because one now serves as an elder and two as deacons in the church.

"They were all raised in the church, and I heard Grandma say many times, 'I raised them good, I raised them right, and I raised them often.' "

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#### NO. 4 - A FAMILY CAN TRAVEL TOGETHER

When traveling is mentioned, we tend to think of going on a long journey to a faraway place. If you can afford to tour the world, that is an excellent way to help educate your children. But not many of us can visit the catacombs in Rome or the Eiffel Tower in Paris. If you are one of the fortunate few who can afford long-distance trips, that is fine and certainly an excellent way for a family to spend its time together.

But it is the short trips, like going across town to youngest son's soccer game, or six blocks up to the school for the children's Christmas program, that are so important. *Any time any member of the family is in a performance, everyone should travel together to the scene for the occasion.* There may be an audience of a thousand people; but to a child, his parents and family are the most important ones there. Their presence is all that matters to him.

#### Should I Leave the Children?

Speedy, air travel, international business affairs, and large corporational interchange is involving more and more men in an excessive amount of travel. It is a thrill to most of us when we get a chance to go to the airport and board a plane. But to the man who does it all the time, it gets to be a real grind and a lonesome routine. Many daddies who must travel a great deal are pleased to take their wives along occasionally. Consequently, this question frequently arises, "Should I leave the children to go places with my husband?" The answer is yes. *A wife must always remember her husband comes first.* If you refuse to be a good helpmeet and your husband is unhappy, everyone suffers. Children will be far better off to be left with grandparents or other responsible people occasionally than for their mother to refuse to accompany their daddy to the convention or regional meeting.

I believe we all realize that this practice could be carried to the extreme. You know, from my previous chapters, that I am not advocating that children be left too frequently. Common sense would tell us that if a mother is away four days out of every two weeks, it would be too much. But if she is gone with Daddy four days out

of every four months and the children are left in responsible hands, it would not be harmful.

### The Ideal Trip

The ideal trip is not when Daddy goes alone. The ideal trip is not when Daddy and Mother go alone. *The ideal trip is when everyone goes along.*

When I was a single schoolteacher, it upset me greatly for parents to allow their children to be absent from school for a family trip. My concern was focused on all the instruction they were missing.

Now that I am a parent, I would not discourage parents at all from taking their children out of school for a one or two-week travel trip. I should far rather deal with a little one who feels loved in his home relationship than one who is emotionally disturbed because he feels abandoned by his parents.

The advice I like to give young couples is to plan your trips with your children in mind. Get in the habit of taking them wherever you go. I know it is far easier and more relaxing to leave them with someone else. But remember! If you push them into the background when they are little and a lot of trouble, they will push you into the background when they are older.

### NO. 5 - A FAMILY CAN PLAY TOGETHER

A family that has fun together will be one together.<sup>33</sup> A young autocratic family should concentrate on playing together and keeping recreation a family affair.

Many mothers are little more than full-time chauffeurs for Junior and Sis. On Monday they must be taken to their swimming lesson at 4:30. Tuesday is the Cub Scout meeting at 4:15. Music lessons are at 5:00 on Wednesday and baseball practice at 5:15 on Thursday. Friday evening the arts and crafts class meets at 6:00 in the park and recreation building, and we have to be at the Ice Chalet for skating lessons at 9:30 on Saturday morning. Nor is there a break on Sunday, because Junior's baseball game is being played that afternoon.

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All of these out-of-the-home activities teach a child under twelve years of age one basic lesson: fun is found away from home and in the company of other people.

In one TUAC class a mother testified of her disgust. She said she used to be a Girl Scout leader and spent hours of her time working on demonstrations, crafts, and lessons. She declared, "One day it just dawned on me what I was doing. I was taking it upon myself to teach those little girls what they should have been learning from their mothers at home. I will never spend my time that way again, but will devote those invaluable hours to my own children."

The junior and senior high years will give ample time for engaging in out-of-the-home activities. The earlier years had better be used to teach your children the basic lessons of life. In the teenage years, when young people get jobs and begin to contribute to society, their schedules will be too full for very much work and activity at home.

#### Stay Home and Play With the Family

*Pre-teen children need to stay home and play with their own family.* It may sound strange to some that a child needs to be taught to stay home, but he does. "*Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.*" Proverbs 25:17.

A family can, in addition to games and activities within the four walls of home, ski, camp, skate, bike, fish, bowl, attend the theater, (when a decent movie can be found), swim, boat, and dine out together. The important idea to remember is *Do It Together*.

#### One Outside Activity Isn't Too Much

It would be foolish for me to leave the impression that not one outside activity should be permitted for a pre-adolescent. Developing such skills as playing musical instruments and certain athletic skills may require special tutoring and coaching. One such activity is fine, if a child displays a special zeal for it, but let the rest of the fun be activities the family does together.

Yes, autocratic parent, it takes time and may require your becoming young at heart once again. But for the sake of building a strongly knit family, it will be worth everything you put into it. Have the

special family fun night we talked about in Chapter Eleven, and keep your family together.

What Will My Boys Remember?<sup>35</sup>

What will my boys remember  
 When they've grown old and gray?  
 The pants knees oft were full of holes?  
 Or the trout we caught that day?  
 Just what will they remember most?  
 Two little beds unmade?  
 Or the fun they had at hide-and-seek  
 The days that Mother played?  
 What matter if my ironing waits  
 While I smooth out their troubles,  
 Take time to kiss those briar-scratched hands,  
 And start them blowing bubbles?  
 Will they remember mud-tracked floors  
 When they've grown old and gray?  
 What care they if each room is dusted,  
 If I'm too tired to play?

--Phyllis C. Michael

NO. 6 - A FAMILY CAN PLAN TOGETHER

Some activities in which a family participates together may be planned by the children. To many people, the idea of an autocratic home brings to mind scenes of generals and colonels shouting orders to the helpless little privates. They must jump and salute on command. It would be unfortunate indeed if we behaved that way with our children.

There are many activities around home the children can plan. Family worship can be planned and conducted by the children on designated days. They can take turns at planning the Friday family-night activities. The special camping trip can be their project. Plans about where to go, what food to take, and what games and activities to have around the campfire can be drawn up by them. Let your children plan as many things as they can, and you take a rest.

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### NO. 7 - A FAMILY CAN PRAY TOGETHER

The family that prays together, stays together.<sup>33</sup> Teach your child to pray, not a rote prayer, but one from his heart.

Personally, I wish the children's prayers of "God is good. God is great. Let us thank Him for our food;" or "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to take," had never been conceived in the minds of the writers.

A child who has been taught memorized prayers has a more difficult time developing a sincere communication with God. His memorized prayers become only a quick ritual through which to hurry. It carries the idea that I know God is great, but He can wait. I've got to hurry, or I'll be late.

Talking to God is like conversing with anyone. It should be a sincere and relaxing time. A child will learn best how to talk to God by hearing his parents talk to Him.

As soon as a baby starts learning to form words, he or she should begin learning to pray. As he sits in the highchair at each meal, Mother can fold her hands, bow her head, and say short phrases and let the baby repeat them. Soon the baby will be putting his own words together. If you want to experience a little bit of heaven, just listen to the prayers of a two-year-old. There is nothing fake or insincere about them. He tells God exactly what's on his heart and is thankful for every toy he owns.

Every family should pray together. Family worship, mealtime, and bedtime are excellent times to have this family activity. As all of the family clasps hands, each can have a turn to share with God the thoughts that are on his heart.

### NO. 8 - A FAMILY CAN SHARE TOGETHER

Nothing will make a child more selfish and pave the way for him to be an uncooperative mate than for his parents to give him his own private everything. The telephone, television, radio, stereo, piano, desk, and car are things all the family can share.

If a young person wants his own private telephone or television for his room, and buys, pays for the installation, and makes the monthly payments all by himself, that young man or lady is worthy



of commendation. But wise parents know that these items can be the very prized possessions that will rally a family around in a circle of togetherness.

A young lady whose parents limit her to a ten-minute telephone conversation quickly learns the reason why. There are other members of the family who may want to make or receive a call on the family phone. She is also being taught not to be a gossip nor a time waster.

If all the family has to share the same television, there has to be some give and take. Also, Daddy and Mother can oversee what is being fed into the minds of their little ones when they are all gathered around one television set. *A family that shares together cares together.*

#### NO. 9 - A FAMILY CAN SACRIFICE TOGETHER

Whatever the urgent need may be for any member of the family, the remaining members should rally to the need. Jerry's broken leg will call for Sam and Pete to do his chores and carry him up and down the flight of stairs for a few weeks. Johnny's careless pitch may call for Dad to go half way on repairing Mrs. Smith's picture window, or the family may have to forego television repairs in order to pay for Amy's new braces.

#### Mamma, Aren't You Going to Leave Me?

Another of our adopted sweethearts was a perfect example of childhood insecurity. She came to our home at age three after having already experienced two previous homes. With her huge blue eyes, long auburn hair, and tiny frame, she was very squeezable and lovable.

Several months after we had taken her into our family, she awakened me in the early morning. Her temperature was running high, and she was suffering terrible abdominal pain. I gave her some medication, and she relaxed and went back to sleep.

When morning came, she was no better. The medicine had worn off, and she was writhing in pain. We quickly got her to the doctor, who immediately discerned the need for an emergency appendectomy.

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We rushed her to the nearest hospital, the surgical team was summoned, and she was whisked off to surgery. After we had spent two hours in the waiting room, the doctor finally arrived. His news that her appendix had burst and peritonitis had set in, astounded me. How fast misfortune can happen!

Of course I stayed at the hospital with her while Daddy went back to mind some business at home. When she had gotten out of the recovery ward and was back in her room, she was very pleased to see me there. As I walked over to her bed and took her hand in mine, the first thing she asked was, "Mamma, aren't you going to leave me?" I assured her I would not leave her, and she would soon be well and we would be home again.

The reason she asked if I were going to leave her was that my husband and I had planned a trip to California. The car was ready, and we had made arrangements for a Christian family to keep the children. If her sickness had happened twenty-four hours later, we would have been on our way without the children.

When she saw that she was far more important to us than a trip to California, it did wonders for her. When I stop to think about the progress she has made over the years, I thank God He has helped us to help her in her development. And do you know what? I do not mind at all that my husband and I have not as yet taken that second pleasure trip alone. We are learning that it is more rewarding and fun to take the children along.

When we were married, we went to Acapulco, Mexico, on our honeymoon trip. It was so enjoyable and memorable that we talked at the time of repeating the trip on some future anniversary. I sometimes ask my husband about that trip, and he always replies, "Honey, I wouldn't think of our taking that trip alone. All you would talk about would be the children. If we go, they will go with us."

Yes, it does something mighty special for a child when he sees that his family will sacrifice on his behalf.

#### NO. 10 - A FAMILY CAN CHOOSE COMPANIONS TOGETHER

At the beginning of David Wilkerson's book, *Parents On Trial*, he explained his purpose in writing the book. His original aim was to

try to find first hand information as to why some children become delinquents. He felt he would find the best answers if he could interview these young people's parents. As he talked to each set of parents, an amazing thing developed. When he asked them what they felt they had done wrong with their children, they acted astonished and naive. From their viewpoint, they had done no wrong. Their children's downfall was strictly the fault of bad companionship.

Mr. Wilkerson concluded in his book that parents are the ones on trial. Their failure to love, discipline, supervise, keep the home together, and make their children be responsible is the real reason we have delinquents. But as far as those parents were concerned, it was someone else's fault and they were completely innocent.<sup>4</sup>

Bad companions can certainly be a force that is capable of tearing down one's good character. "*Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals.*" I Corinthians 15:33 RSV. Parents must themselves associate with good Christian couples and then talk to their children about the importance of choosing wholesome friends.

#### "Son, I Don't Want You Dating Her"

My mother tells of a time when she intervened in one of my brother's choice of companions. She had developed good rapport with him over the years, and one day in their conversation he expressed to her his delight over a certain girl in the community. He went on to tell her of his plans to ask the girl for a date. My mother was not happy about this, because she knew the girl and her family well. All she remembers saying, that prevented him from pursuing the friendship, was, "Son, that girl is not a girl of good character, and I do not want you dating her."

He heeded her advice and never dated the girl. Perhaps his willingness to listen and his respect for Mother's authority and judgment are reasons for his being a responsible family man today.

#### One Teenager Who Dared to Be Different

My sweet Christian mother had a saying in reference to choosing good company that I guess really impressed us six children. I remember her telling us, "If you run with the goats, you are going

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to smell like them." That was her way of saying that if you mix with people of bad character, you will become like them.

My younger sister was also influenced by this truth at my mother's knee. I have always loved and admired her for having Christian convictions. When she was a teenager (the age when most young people think they have to be like their peer group), she wasn't afraid to be different or stand alone. She always chose her companions with a great deal of care. When it came time for worship, she would not go somewhere with her friends, but they would go to worship God with her.

Because she was one teenager who dared to be different and loved Christ enough to make Him Lord of her life, she was able to lead one of her best friends to Christ. This high school girl friend married a Christian man and has a Christian home today because of my sister's influence as a young girl. Unlike most high school relationships, their companionship still lives because they cemented it by becoming sisters in Christ when they were young.

Let's teach our children to dare to be different, stand alone if necessary, and choose their companions with care.

#### "I Live Because She Passed This Way"

Family togetherness will build a sense of devotion and a spirit of determination within a child.

At the close of my life, when my children lay me to rest, I hope I shall have influenced them to the point that this poem will speak their sentiments about me:

#### ROADSIDE MEETINGS

A little more tired at close of day,  
 A little less anxious to have our way;  
 A little less ready to scold and blame;  
 A little more care for a brother's name - -  
 And so we are nearing the journey's end,  
 Where time and eternity meet and blend.  
 The book is closed and the prayers are said,  
 And we are a part of the countless dead.

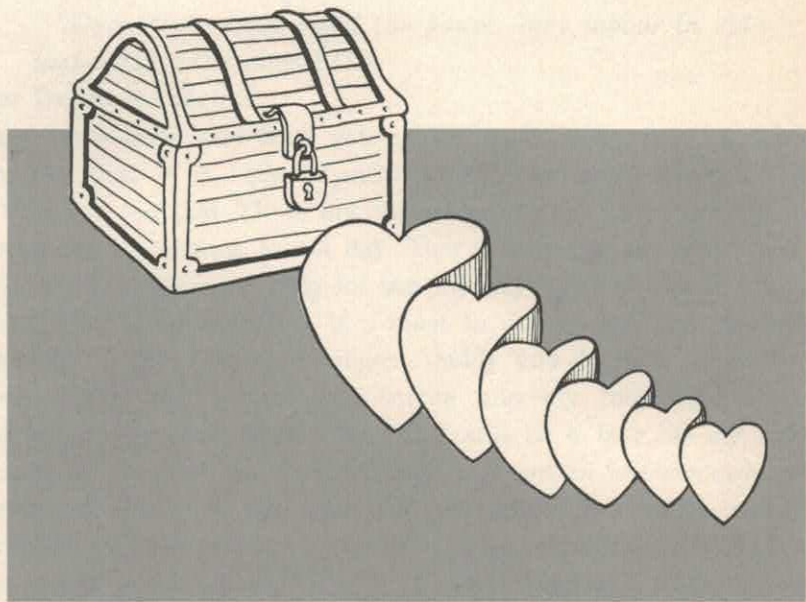
Thrice happy then if some soul can say,  
"I live because she passed this way."

--Stephen Crane, quoted in  
*Leaves Of Gold*<sup>14</sup>

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. Plan a special togetherness activity for the entire family this week. Don't forget to let the children help.
2. Go as a family to worship this week.
3. Start having a daily family worship. Let the children pray and Daddy read from the Bible.
4. Choose the lesson that has helped you most. Write a short report on how that lesson has helped your children, and give it to your teacher.

## PRAY and WORSHIP



**Secrets to Treasure and  
Hearts God Will Measure**

## Chapter Fourteen

# Pray and Worship

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1.*

Dear Daddy and Mother,

You have been very busy getting me ready every day for school. You say that it is very important that I get an education. That is why you see that TV is not turned on until I have prepared my lessons for the coming school day. That is why you see that I get to bed early to prepare my body for the physical strain of school.

Yes, getting an education is a must to prepare one for the social demands of this life; but tonight, Daddy and Mother, when I am asleep, won't the two of you tip-toe into my room and steal a look at my sleeping face? There may still be a tear on my cheek, though my cares of the departed day have gotten lost somewhere in dreamland. Look at me, and ask yourselves how much spiritual education you are giving me . . . Is it more important to be a doctor than to be a Christian? . . . Is it more important to be a nurse than an angel of God? . . . What kind of person do you really want me to be? Now is the time to educate me spiritually. After I have opened the door of adulthood, it may be too late.

Please, Daddy and Mother, I need "Spiritual Education" too! Won't you please take me regularly to Bible Study and Worship - - on both Sundays and Wednesdays?

Lovingly, Your irreplaceable child . . . \*

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\* Source unknown.

### Salvation Is What It's All About

I wish I could personally ring your doorbell and sit with you around your table to study this concluding chapter. I would ask you in all sincerity, "Is God really the builder of your home? And is Christ indeed the Lord of your life?"

Basically, salvation is what *Training Up a Child* is all about. Why should we bother with trying to rear our children properly if heaven is not the prize we are striving to obtain for them and for ourselves?

### Build a Living Faith

Perhaps you have been wondering why I left this lesson on "pray and worship" until last. If I were taking the topics in order of importance, should not this one have been first?

To answer that question, I must take you back to the time when I decided to use the little train as a visual aid. I went to the library and studied the features of the old-fashioned locomotives. It was interesting to me to learn that the most important car on a train is the caboose. It is there that the conductor rides. It is there that he maintains his office and keeps all records, including information as to the contents of each car; all communication lines are centered in the last car of the train. The caboose is the operation center of the train.

God is the conductor of our lives, and we must consult Him for direction. I could think of no more excellent way to conclude my class (and now a book) than to end it by giving further spiritual instruction.

This lesson is isolated from the others because it takes us into the realm of our spiritual existence. Prayer and worship are vital spiritual activities. Any autocratic family which prays and worships God will build within its children *a living faith*. The children's souls will be awakened to spiritual values. A child whose parents teach him to pray and worship will not only receive direction from God while on earth, but will have a chance to live eternally with Him in heaven.

### PRAY

If you spank a child, you can change his actions. If you pray for him, God can change his heart. *Daily prayer is the hidden key that*

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*winning mothers have found to unlock the secret chambers of their children's hearts.* We can love, chasten, talk, and cry; but we fail if we neglect prayer.

We have spent hours studying how to organize an autocratic home. But because we are subject to human weaknesses, there will always be times when we fail to express love when we should, or when we administer discipline when we shouldn't. We can do our best to lay the bricks of our children's foundation for life as skillfully as possible, but only God can supply the divine mortar that will smooth out our imperfections as parents.

#### **The Unveiling of a Secret**

There was once a mother who spent thirty-six years of her life rearing six children. With the exception of the youngest, they had all grown up and were married or away from home.

One day when she was in town shopping with her daughter, she revealed her secret of successful motherhood. She said, "Darling, there has never been a day of your life that I have not prayed for you. Many times I felt inadequate as a mother, but I always tried to do the best I knew how and leave the rest to God. At night I would lay down my head on my pillow and call each of you children's names before God's throne. It has always been my prayer that He would give you a special blessing and use you in His service."

Yes, everything will be all right if a child is blessed with a mother who *prays* for him.

#### **PRAY EVERY DAY FOR EACH CHILD**

THIS SECTION IS PRINTED IN CAPITALS BECAUSE OF MY INTENSE DESIRE TO IMPRESS EACH NEW MOTHER WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING EVERY DAY FOR HER CHILDREN.

WE HAVE LEARNED IN *TRAINING UP A CHILD* THAT WE MUST DO OUR UTMOST TO APPLY "CON SIST' ENT LY" EVERY PRINCIPLE WE HAVE LEARNED. AFTER THAT, OUR FINAL STEP IS TO KNEEL BEFORE GOD IN PRAYER. WE MUST ASK HIM TO TAKE EACH LITTLE LIFE FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE AND MOLD IT INTO AN ACCEPTABLE STEWARD FOR HIM.

I HAVE NEVER MET A WINNING PARENT WHO TOOK THE CREDIT FOR THE HAPPINESS OR WELL-BEING OF HIS CHILDREN. ALL THE WINNERS SAY, "WE GIVE GOD FULL CREDIT FOR ANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OUR CHILDREN POSSESS."

GOD IS SO GREAT THAT HE FILLS THE UNIVERSE, AND YET HE IS SO SMALL HE CAN LIVE WITHIN MY HEART. DO YOU *PRAY EVERY DAY FOR EACH CHILD* THAT GOD WILL ABIDE IN HIS HEART?

### WORSHIP

The important thing to remember in worshipping God is to make sure your worship is acceptable to Him. It is vitally important to worship God *EXACTLY* according to His specifications.

If Nadab and Abihu could speak to us today, they would warn us to worship God *PRECISELY* as He has commanded. These two priests must have reasoned that their deed of bringing strange fire before the Lord was a harmless act. God, however, did not think so. Because He had not commanded their act of worship, these two men were immediately devoured by fire from the Lord. (Leviticus 10:1 - 2)

Jesus said, ". . . *true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth . . .*" John 4:23. He explains in John 17:17 that *THY WORD IS TRUTH*. To worship *IN TRUTH*, then, is to worship according to the New Testament. (See Soul Saving Secret Three.)

### Simplicity, Simplicity, Simplicity

Before you can fully understand God's expectations for worship, you will need to study the next section on Soul Saving Secrets. But for now, I want to impress you with the simplicity of God's requirements for worship.

If the five acts of worship are performed as God has directed, your devotion will be free of pomp, ritual, or showy performances. In His wisdom, God made plans for a Christian to be able to worship regardless of his circumstances or location.

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Paul and Silas were cast into prison and their feet locked in stocks, but even under those wretched conditions, they were able to worship God. (Acts 16:23 - 25)

The acts of worship are so simple they could have been carried out by Columbus while making his ocean voyage, or by the pioneers as they traveled by covered wagon over the Rocky Mountains. Any Christian today can worship God, even if he is flying in the most modern jet, or is submerged in a submarine in the ocean's depths. No matter where Christians are on the face of the earth, they can worship by (1) praying, (2) singing, (3) studying God's Word, (4) giving, and (5) partaking of the Lord's Supper.

### Praying

According to *Acts 2:42, 12:5 and 12, 16:25, 20:36, Romans 8:26, I Thessalonians 5:1, 7 and I Timothy 2:1 - 3*, we are to petition our Heavenly Father actively.

When we pray, Christ is the one who intercedes for us to God. As a telephone carries our message across country, Jesus takes our requests and expressions of thanksgiving to God. (I Timothy 2:5) For this reason, we must be *IN CHRIST* (Soul Saving Secret Four) before we have access to God's spiritual blessings. Since we pray through Christ, our prayers must be in His name. (John 14:13)

### Singing

The Bible teaches that Christians' bodies are God's temples on earth. (I Corinthians 6:19) God built within each normal body the ability to make music by singing. The human voice is *the only instrument* God instructed us to use in expressing adoration and praise to His name. (Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16)

We are further instructed to sing with the spirit and with the understanding. (I Corinthians 14:15)

### Studying God's Word

We can study the Bible by reading or hearing it preached. The Bible is God's way of speaking to man today. (I Corinthians 14:37) Prayer is our means of talking to God - - He is the receiver; we are

the sender. Bible Study is our way of *hearing* God - - He is the sender and we are the receiver.

A blind college instructor made a lasting impression upon me of the importance of showing respect for God's Word. One day, led by his seeing eye dog, he walked sternly to face our fifty-member a cappella chorus. Prior to his entry, there had been a scripture reading in the assembly, and he had heard someone in the chorus whispering during the reading.

We received a rebuke that I'm sure none of us has forgotten. He told us he didn't care if we chose to whisper and talk during a prayer, but "*WHEN GOD IS TALKING TO YOU*, you had better be quiet and listen." You may be sure we did get quiet, and I try to share that lesson with as many people as I can.

### Giving

The Bible states in I Corinthians 16:1 - 2 that New Testament Christians gathered on the first day of the week and contributed to God as they had been prospered.

Contrary to the Old Testament law, in which the people were told exactly how much to give, Christ's law instructs: "*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.*" II Corinthians 9:7.

New Testament Christians, therefore, are to give free will offerings. They will naturally give to God according to how much faith, love, and appreciation they have in their hearts. Their contribution is then distributed to help those in need and to spread to the lost the good news of Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection.

### The Lord's Supper

Christ instituted the Lord's Supper Himself. (Luke 22:14-20) It is a wonderful privilege to remember the Lord's death by partaking of the emblems around the Lord's Table on each first day of the week. Jesus said of the unleavened bread, "*. . . this do in remembrance of me;*" and of the fruit of the vine, "*. . . this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*" Luke 22:19 - 20; I Corinthians 11:24 - 25.

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Paul told the Christians at Corinth: "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" I Corinthians 11:26. The early New Testament Christians gave the world an example of gratitude and thanksgiving for Christ's marvelous sacrifice. How often did they observe the Lord's Supper? "*Upon THE first day of the week, WHEN the disciples came together to break bread . . .*" Acts 20:7.

Even though it is not specifically stated that the early disciples took the Lord's Supper *every* first day of the week, we know that they did. God's command to the Israelites was, "*Remember THE sabbath day to keep it holy.*" Exodus 20:8. They didn't argue, "God didn't say to remember *every* Sabbath," but common judgment dictated to the Jews that every week had a Sabbath day. Therefore, every Sabbath was a holy day to be respected by them. Since the disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread, and every week has a first day, it is logical to conclude that we, like the early church, should partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week.

#### All Over the World

There are New Testament Christians all over the world who assemble to worship every First Day of the week. Their worship is simple, just as Christ designed it to be. They pray, sing, study God's Word, give, and partake of the Lord's Supper to remember His death till He comes again.

#### Learn It, Love It, Live It

With this discussion of the importance of taking our children to worship and teaching them to reverence God, I conclude the original outline of our *Training Up a Child* study. It is my prayer that you have been greatly benefited by this reading and will experience many happy days of parenting.

For those of you who would like to know the Bible more completely, as well as how to obtain salvation, I invite you to continue the study.

I have inserted the next section especially for those who love the Lord's Word, want to learn it, and are willing to live it. I entreat you to study diligently the Seven Secrets that can Save your Soul.