

Turning Point Mission Center

(A Holy Spirit & Truth Church)

1814 Shady Lane Drive - Jackson, MS 39204

601.372.1080 – www.lighthouse.tp.org

Elder Michael F. Owen, Senior Pastor

Elder Arnette D. Owen, Pastor

Elder Minnie J. Brooks, Assistant Pastor

2010 Family Conference Outline

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Time	Topic	Facilitator
9:00am	Devotion	Deacons In Charge
9:15 am	Praise Services	Sis. Hope Cleveland
9:30am	Pastoral Staff Ministry	Pastor Michael
9:45am	Session 1 - God's Plan for Your Family	Pastor Arnette
10:55am	5 minute break	N/A
11:00am	Session 2 - Successful Parenting	Pastor Michael
12:10pm	5 minute break	N/A
12:15pm	Conference Wrap-Up	Pastor Arnette
12:30pm	Conference Ends - Dismissal	Pastor Michael

God's plan for the family in retrospect of today's family make-up – this will be an informative workshop as we review the diverse family units of today's society: married couples, single parents, dual headed households, blended/step-parent families, grandparents raising grandchildren, foster families and legal guardians.

Facilitator: Pastor Arnette Topic: God's Plan for Your Family

It's God's desire that your family not just be something that you survive but rather an area of your life that thrives. In this conference we will explore how to implement God's plan for your family. Putting God's principles in your family will help you to have the family you have always dreamed about.

Facilitator: Pastor Michael Topic: Successful Parenting

In this conference Pastor Michael will share parenting do's and don'ts from a Christian Perspective. Much of it will be gleaned from the Word of God, his life experiences and godly wisdom. Nothing will be held back and whether you are already a parent or planning on being one there will be something in this conference for everyone.

GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY **“THE CHRISTIAN HOME”**

“In the formation of character, no other influences count so much as the influence of the home.” - Ed 283. “The happiness of families and churches depends upon home influences. Eternal interests depend upon the proper discharge of the duties of this life. The world is not so much in need of great minds as of good men who will be a blessing in their homes.” - 4T 522. *“The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are ‘the issues of life’ (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation, is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.”* - MH 349.

“The home is the citadel of the church. In the beginning, the home was the church, as it was also the state. It was intended to comprehend the whole organization of society. Men have made other organizations since, governments of state, of church, of business, of society; but the home still remains the nucleus, the center, the surety of the stability of every other institution. Upon its right influences depend the welfare of society, the

Prosperity of the nation, and the success of the church.” - A. W. Spalding, in Bible Truth Series, No. 7.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

God has given parents children, and when He raptures His people, He is going to ask them an important question as penned in Jeremiah 13:20 “Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: **where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?**”

Christian parents who have honored and obey God’s standards in rearing their children “flocks” will be able to give the answer as penned in Hebrews 2:13 “And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, **Behold I and the children which God hath given me.**”

GOD’S DESIGN FOR FAMILY

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOME

Genesis 2:21,24; Ephesians 5:22,31; 2 Corinthians 6:14.

Genesis 2:21 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;” Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Ephesians 5:22 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto

the Lord.” Ephesians 5:31 “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

“Christ . . . ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above. . . “The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind.

“It is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love. Only where Christ reigns can there be deep, true, unselfish affection. Love is a precious gift, which we receive from Jesus. Pure and holy affection is not a feeling, but a principle.” - MH 358.

“Great care should be taken by Christian youth in the formation of friendships and in the choice of companions. Take heed, lest what you now think to be pure gold turns out to be base metal. . . Never should God’s people venture upon forbidden ground. Marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by

God. But too often the unconverted heart follows its own desires, and marriages unsanctioned by God are formed. Because of this many men and women are without hope and without God in the world. Their noble aspirations are dead; by a chain of circumstances they are held in Satan's net." - FE 500.

"Christ is needed in the home. Only His presence can prevent the grievous wrongs which so often embitter married life. Only where Christ reigns, can there be deep, true, unselfish love. Then soul will be knit with soul, and the two lives will blend in harmony. Angels of God will be guests in the home, and their holy vigils will hallow the marriage chamber. Debasing sensuality will be banished. Upward to God will the thoughts be directed; to Him will the heart's devotion ascend." - 5T 362.

"Those professing to be Christians should not enter the marriage relation until the matter has been carefully and prayerfully considered from an elevated standpoint, to see if God can be glorified by the union. . . . They should seek to glorify God by their union from the first, and during every year of their married life." - 2T 380.

THE HUSBAND - KING AND PRIEST

1 Corinthians 7:3; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Colossians 3:19; 1 Timothy 5:8

1 Corinthians 7:3 “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.”
Ecclesiastes 9:9 “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.”
Colossians 3:19 “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” 1 Timothy 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specifically for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

“Let the husband aid his wife by his sympathy and unfailing affection. If he wishes to keep her fresh and gladsome, so that she will be as sunshine in the home, let him help her bear her burdens. His kindness and loving courtesy will be to her a precious encouragement, and the happiness he imparts will bring joy and peace to his own heart.” - MH 374. “The husband and father is under special responsibility to do all in his power to lighten the burden of the wife and mother. . . . He should be affable, courteous, kind, and tender, and especially attentive to all her wants.” - CH 78.

“The meaning of ‘husband’ is house band. All members, of the family center in the father. He is the *lawmaker*, illustrating in his own manly bearing, the sterner virtues, energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. The father is in one sense the *priest of the household*, *laying upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice*. The wife and children should be encouraged to unite in this offering, and also to engage in the song of praise. Morning and evening, the father, as priest of the household, should confess to God the sins committed by himself and his children through the day.” - 2T 701.

THE WIFE - QUEEN AND TEACHER

Proverbs 31:10-31; Colossians 3:18

Proverbs 31:10-31 “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth

her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” Colossians 3:18 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.”

“The mother is the queen of the home, and the children are her subjects. She is to rule her household wisely, in the dignity of her motherhood. Her influence in the home is to be paramount;

her word, law. If she is a Christian, under God’s control, she will command the respect of her children.” – CT 111.

“A neglect on the part of woman to follow God’s plan in her creation, an effort to reach for important positions which He has not qualified her to fill, leaves vacant the position that she could fill to acceptance. In getting out of her sphere, she loses true womanly dignity and nobility. When God created Eve, he designed that she should possess neither inferiority nor superiority to the man, but that in all things she should be his equal. The holy pair were to have no interest independent of each other; and yet each had an individuality in thinking and acting.” - 3T 484.

“The mother’s work often seems to her an unimportant service. It is a work that is rarely appreciated. Others know little of her many cares and burdens. Her days are occupied with a round of little duties, all calling for patient effort, for self-control for tact, wisdom, and self -sacrificing love; yet she cannot boast of what she has done as any great achievement. She has only kept things in the home running smoothly; often weary and perplexed, she has tried to speak kindly to the children, to keep them busy and happy, and to guide the little feet in the right path. She feels that she has accomplished nothing. But it is not so. Heavenly angels watch the careworn mother, noting the

burdens she carries day by day. Her name may not have been heard in the world, but it is written in the Lamb's book of life.”
- MH 376, 377.

“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. . . . Her work is a solemn and important one, - to mold the minds and fashion the characters of her children, to train them for usefulness here, and fit them for the future, immortal life. 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.” - 5T 594.

HOME “A PARADISE” - LOVE THE LAW

“Mutual kindness and forbearance will make home a Paradise and attract holy angels into the family circle.” - 1T 386,387.

“Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme, and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, ‘Them that honor Me, I will honor.’!--ST 424. “Even in our day, angels in human form enter the homes of men and are entertained by them. And

Christians who live in the light of God's countenance are always accompanied by unseen angels, and these holy beings leave behind them a blessing in our homes."-6T 342. "Make the home a Bethel, a holy, consecrated place." - CT 114.

"Let the husband and wife study each other's happiness, never failing in the small courtesies and little kindly acts that cheer and brighten the life." - MH 393. "Those who are to represent the high and holy God must keep their souls pure and clean, and . . . this purity must extend to their dress, and to everything in the home, so that the ministering angels will have evidence that the truth has wrought a change in the life, purifying the soul and refining the tastes. Those who, after receiving the truth, make no change in word or deportment, in dress or surroundings, are living to themselves, not to Christ. They have not been created anew in Christ Jesus, unto purification and holiness." - CH 101,102.

"Manifest a kindly forbearing spirit; and encourage the same in your children, cultivating all the graces that will brighten the home life. The atmosphere thus created will be to the children what air and sunshine are to the vegetable world, promoting health and vigor of mind and body." - MH 387. "A house with love in it, where love is expressed in words and looks and deeds, is a place where angels love to manifest their presence,

and hallow the scene by rays of light from glory. There the humble household duties have a charm in them.” - 2T 417. “The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother’s presence its greatest charm.” - CT 114.

THE FAMILY ALTAR-LITTLE CHURCH OF THE HOME

Genesis 18:19; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15; Malachi 4:5, 6; 1 Timothy 3:4, 5

Genesis 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

2 Timothy 1:5 “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 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Malachi 4:5-

6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth

with a curse.” 1 Timothy 3:4-5 “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”

“Abraham was honored of God because he cultivated home religion, and caused the fear of the Lord to pervade his whole household.” - 5T 547. “He [God] chose him to be the father of a great nation, because He saw that Abraham would instruct his children and his household in the principles of God’s law. . . . And Abraham’s influence extended beyond his own household. Wherever he pitched his tent, he set up beside it the altar for sacrifice and worship. When the tent was removed, the altar remained; and many a roving Canaanite, whose knowledge of God had been gained from the life of Abraham His servant, tarried at that altar to offer sacrifice to Jehovah.” - Ed 187.

“Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God’s altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations. Daily annoyances beset the path of young and old. Those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives must pray. Only by receiving constant help from God can we gain the victory over self.” - MH 393.

“In all that pertains to the success of God’s work, the very first victories are to be won in the home life. Here the preparation for the Sabbath must begin. Throughout the week let parents remember that their home is to be a school in which their children shall be prepared for the courts above. . . . Parents, during the week live as in the sight of a holy God, who has given you children to train for Him. Train for Him the little church in your home, that on the Sabbath all may be prepared to worship in the Lord’s sanctuary. Each morning and evening present your children to God as His blood-bought heritage. Teach them that it is their highest duty and privilege to love and serve God.” - 6T 354.

“If the home life is what it should be, the habits formed there will be a strong defense against the assaults of temptation when the young shall leave the shelter of home for the world.” - CH 100.

“It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a hedge about their children. In the church at home the children are to learn to pray and to trust in God. . . . Will the Lord of heaven pass by such homes, and leave no blessing there? Nay, verily. Ministering angels will guard the children who are thus dedicated to God.” - CT 110.

“In too many households prayer is neglected. Parents feel that they have no time for morning and evening worship. They cannot spare a few moments to be spent in thanksgiving to God for His abundant mercies, for the blessed sunshine and the showers of rain, which cause vegetation to flourish, and for the guardianship of holy angels. They have no time to offer prayer for divine help and guidance and for the abiding presence of Jesus in the household. They go forth to labor as the ox or the horse goes, without one thought of God or heaven. . . .

“From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out, - homes where God is worshiped, and truest love reigns. From these homes morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew.

“A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion. An argument that the infidel cannot gainsay.” - PP 143, 144.

THE FAMILY GIFT - CHILDREN

Children are also members of the family and are thus fully integrated in God's plans for the family. Psalms 127:3-5 "Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Children are a blessing and a gift from God. When God entrusts children to mothers and fathers, He holds us accountable for teaching our sons and daughters about salvation, and sanctification—how to grow every day in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Most Christian parents desire to build scriptural convictions into the lives of their children, but many parents do not know how to carry out the command of Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Many Christian parents are searching for practical suggestions that would help them teach their children spiritual truths. Parents must first submit to the ruleship, loyalty and obedience of God with all diligence and prayer. As parents yield to the will of God through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, they will be

SUCCESSFUL PARENTING GUIDANCE

The information presented below comes from **Child Guidance, 1954, by Ellen G. White**

Begin the Teaching Early.--Obedience to parental authority should be inculcated in babyhood and cultivated in youth. 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. From their earliest life children should be taught to obey their parents, to respect their word, and to reverence their authority.

Before Self-will Grows Strong.--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.

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. 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.

Obedience to Parents Leads to Obedience to God.-- The youth and children who have praying parents have been greatly privileged, for such have an opportunity to know and love God. In respecting and rendering obedience to their parents, they may learn how to respect and obey their heavenly Father. If they walk as children of the light, they will be kind and courteous, loving and respectful, to their parents, whom they have seen, and thus be better qualified to love God, whom they have not seen. If they are faithful representatives of their parents, practicing the truth through the help given them of God, then by precept and example they acknowledge the

ownership of God and honor Him by a well-ordered life and godly conversation.

Only the Obedient Enter Heaven.--Let parents and teachers impress upon the minds of the children that the Lord is proving them in this life, to see if they will render obedience to Him with love and reverence. Those who would not be obedient to Christ here would not obey Him in the eternal world. If parents or children are ever welcomed into the mansions above, it will be because they have in this world learned to obey the commands of God.

Use Gentle but Persistent Effort.--Children are to be taught that their capabilities were given them for the honor and glory of God. To this end they must learn the lesson of obedience. . . . By gentle, persistent effort the habit should be established. Thus to a great degree may be prevented those later conflicts between will and authority that do so much to arouse in the minds of the youth alienation and bitterness toward parents and teachers, and too often resistance of all authority, human and divine.

Allow No Arguments or Evasions.--The first care of the parents should be to establish good government in the family. The word of the parents should be law, precluding all arguments or evasions. Children should be taught from infancy to implicitly obey their parents.

Strict discipline may at times cause dissatisfaction, and children will want their own way; yet where they have learned the lesson of obedience to their parents, they are better prepared to submit to the requirements of God. Thus the training received in childhood influences the religious experience and molds the character of the man.

Permit No Exceptions.--As teachers in their own family, parents are to see that the rules are not disobeyed. . . . By allowing their children to go on in disobedience, they fail to exercise proper discipline. Children must be brought to the point of submission and obedience. Disobedience must not be allowed. Sin lies at the door of the parents who allow their children to disobey. . . . Children are to understand that they are to obey.

Require Prompt, Perfect Obedience.--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.

Requirements Should Be Reasonable.--The requirements of the parents should always be reasonable; kindness should be expressed, not by foolish indulgence, but by wise direction. Parents are to teach their children pleasantly, without scolding or faultfinding, seeking to bind the hearts of the little ones to

them by silken cords of love. Let all, fathers and mothers, teachers, elder brothers and sisters, become an educating force to strengthen every spiritual interest, and to bring into the home and the school life a wholesome atmosphere, which will help the younger children to grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In our own training of children, and in the training of children of others, we have proved that they never love parents and guardians less for restraining them from doing evil.

Reasons for Obedience Should Be Given.--Children are to learn to obey in the family government. They are to form a symmetrical character that God can approve, maintaining law in the home life. Christian parents are to educate their children to obey the law of God. . . . The reasons for this obedience and respect for the law of God may be impressed upon the children as soon as they can understand its nature, so that they will know what they should do, and what they should abstain from doing.

The Parent's Word Should Be Law.--Your children, that are under your control, should be made to mind you. Your word should be their law.

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. . . .

In the strength of God, parents must arise and command their households after them. They must learn to repress wrong with a firm hand, yet without impatience or passion. They should not leave the children to guess at what is right, but should point out the way in unmistakable terms and teach them to walk therein.

Influence of One Disobedient Child.--One disobedient child will do great harm to those with whom he associates, for he will fashion other children after his own pattern.

Winking at Sin.--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.

Habit of Obedience Established by Repetition.-- Lessons on obedience, on respect for authority, need to be often repeated. This kind of work done in the family will be a power for good, and not only will the children be restrained from evil and constrained to love truth and righteousness, but parents will be equally benefited. This kind of work which the Lord requires cannot be done without much serious contemplation on their part, and much study of the Word of God, in order that they may instruct according to His directions.

Train the Child to Yield.--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.

It is the veriest cruelty to allow wrong habits to be developed, to give the law into the hands of the child and let him rule.

Do Not Gratify Selfish Wishes.--If parents are not careful, they will treat their children in such a way as will lead the children to demand attention and privileges that will call for the parents to deprive themselves in order to indulge their little ones. The children will call upon the parents to do things for them, to gratify their wishes, and the parents will concede to their wishes, regardless of the fact that it is inculcating selfishness in their children. But in doing this work parents are wronging their children, and will find out afterwards how difficult a thing it is to counteract the influence of the education of the first few years in a child's life. Children need to learn early that they cannot be gratified when selfishness prompts their wishes.

Give Nothing for Which Children Cry.--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.

Never Permit Display of Angry Passions.--Among the first tasks of the mother is the restraining of passion in her little ones. Children should not be allowed to manifest anger; they

should not be permitted to throw themselves upon the floor, striking and crying because something has been denied them which was not for their best good. I have been distressed as I have seen how many parents indulge their children in the display of angry passions. Mothers seem to look upon these outbursts of anger as something that must be endured, and appear indifferent to the child's behavior. But if an evil is permitted once, it will be repeated, and its repetition will result in habit, and so the child's character will receive an evil mold.

When to Rebuke the Evil Spirit.--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.

Begin With the "Songs of Bethlehem."--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.

No Wavering or Indecision.--Perverse temper should be checked in the child as soon as possible; for the longer this duty is delayed, the more difficult it is to accomplish. Children of quick, passionate disposition need the special care of their parents. They should be dealt with in a particularly kind but firm manner; there should be no wavering or indecision on the part of the parents in their case. The traits of character which would naturally check the growth of their peculiar faults should be carefully nourished and strengthened. Indulgence of the child of passionate and perverse disposition will result in his ruin. His faults will strengthen with his years, retard the development of his mind, and overbalance all the good and noble traits of his character.

An Example of Parental Self-control Is Vital.-- Some parents have not control over themselves. They do not control their own morbid appetites or their passionate temper; therefore they cannot educate their children in regard to the denial of their appetite, and teach them self-control.

If parents desire to teach their children self-control, they must first form the habit themselves. The scolding and faultfinding of parents encourages a hasty, passionate temper in their children.

Weary Not in Well-doing.--Parents are too fond of ease and pleasure to do the work appointed them of God in their home life. We should not see the terrible state of evil that exists among the youth of today if they had been properly trained at home. If parents would take up their God-given work and would teach self-restraint, self-denial, and self-control to their children, both by precept and example, they would find that while they were seeking to do their duty, so as to meet the approval of God, they would be learning precious lessons in the school of Christ. They would be learning patience, forbearance, love, and meekness; and these are the very lessons that they must teach to their children.

After the moral sensibilities of the parents are aroused, and they take up their neglected work with renewed energy, they should not become discouraged or allow themselves to be hindered in the work. Too many become weary in well-doing. When they find that it requires taxing effort, and constant self-control, and increased grace, as well as knowledge, to meet the unexpected emergencies that arise, they become disheartened, and give up the struggle, and let the enemy of souls have his own way. Day after day, month after month, year after year, the work is to go on, till the character of your child is formed, and the habits established in the right way. You should not give up and leave your families to drift along in a loose, ungoverned manner.

Never Lose Control of Yourselves.--Never should we lose control of ourselves. Let us ever keep before us the perfect Pattern. It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or to feel angry--even though we do not speak. We are to walk worthy, giving a right representation of Christ. The speaking of an angry word is like flint striking flint: it at once kindles wrathful feelings.

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.

"He that is slow to anger," says the wise man, "is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city." The man or woman who preserves the balance of the mind when tempted to indulge passion stands higher in the sight of God and heavenly angels than the most renowned general that ever led an army to battle and to victory. Said a celebrated emperor when on his dying bed, "Among all my conquests there is but one which affords me any consolation now, and that is the conquest I have gained over my own turbulent temper."

Alexander and Caesar found it easier to subdue a world than to subdue themselves. After conquering nation after nation, they fell--one of them "the victim of intemperance, the other of mad ambition."

- **END INFORMATION FROM CHILD GUIDANCE** -

The 'family unit' has very much changed over the last few decades and is now unrecognizable from the start of the century. In many homes, the mother no longer stays at home and looks after the children. Fathers no longer spend all their time out working providing for the family. In fact, who is to say that the normal family has a mum and a dad? Working mothers are the norm nowadays with most females holding full and part time jobs. This is due to either financial circumstances or being their own choice.

We must remember that the parents in the home are indeed the adults, and they have to be the role models and set the tone for the home. **Exodus 20:12** "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." God calls for children to obey their parents. Parents are mandated by God to provide for their children. **2 Corinthians 12:14** "Behold, for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."

There is a growing problem in our youth's culture. Children trust their peers more than their parents and other caring adults; thus, they are growing up wanting to be more like their friends than their parents.

Psalms 127:3 “*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*”

Parenting is a skill set which can be learned. Being a parent is a joyous thing in the Lord, but good parenting skills are something that you have to continuously work at. You will never be a “perfect” parent, because we all make mistakes. Here are a few tips to ensure that you are being the best parent that you can be:

Show Love.--Ephesians 6:4 “*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*”

Always give your children a lot of love. Tell them “I love you” and make sure they know that they are special to you. Loving, gentle touch offers healing. Transfer assurance through a pat on the shoulder. Send love by touching your child's heart. Or convey safety and nurturing through holding or massaging your child's hand. Provide them with a lot of hugs and kisses and always be there when they need a shoulder to cry on. But real love is more than saying a few words and being available. The

behavior of loving parent means being respectful to your child, showing kindness, caring enough to spend time in taking a walk, sharing God's Word, reading other spiritual or moral stories, and sharing stories of your own life to equip them with strong reasoning and decision-making skills, as they mature in age and character development.

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

Special care must be taken to ensure that your child(ren) know the difference between right and wrong. Also work diligently to help your child(ren) understand how to choose what is right and obey God's commands, your rules, the rules of the land (law) and those in authority.

Listen When Your Child Talks.--James 1:19-20
“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear**, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

Make your children a priority by investing time, love, affection and concerns in them. Listening to your children shows them that they are important to you. No matter how strange or ridiculous it may be, listen to your child's stories, ideas and complaints. When you listen to your children, then they know that you are interested in what they have to say. Don't just

pretend to be listening, as children can quickly see that you are really not that interested and that you are just pretending.

Be attentive, don't impose your ideas, keep your emotions under control, give words of encouragement and maintain respect at all times when you are listening and talking with your child(ren). This shows that you value their ideas and want to hear more from them. Show concerns for those things that they are concerned or interested in. If you don't know or have the expertise to properly guide or direct them in the areas of interest, please pray and ask God to lead you to the best resource to provide the needed expertise to ensure that your child(ren)'s obtain the needed guidance or discipline to help them grow and develop in those areas of concerns and/or interest. However, there are instances where God might redirect their areas of interest, so be prepared to help them in the transition to the new direction. It is your God given duty and responsibility to empower your child(ren) to make good decisions for their lives.

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

Let the heart talk. Anger, heaviness, sadness, anguish, grief, or cynicism—almost anything can be talked through. Encourage the child to talk about those things that they are concerned or troubled about. Parents, please listen and do not judge or try to

solve the problem before the child has fully expressed themselves. Listen, listen and listen even the more. If the child is hesitant to share their concerns or views, do not force them to talk, but rather pray with your child and encourage them from the Word of God. Also, as you are praying with them, place their hands directly over their hearts, have them to close their eyes and imagine Jesus' smiling face looking at them, and let them talk to Jesus as you are praying. Please trust the Holy Spirit to give you the insight as to what and how to pray for your child.

If your older children do not respond to this approach, then give them a puppet or a stuffed animal, and encourage them to imagine that they are talking with Jesus about their concerns or the issue troubling them. Still pray with the youth before you leave them alone to talk with Jesus. It is important to get them to express what is inside their hearts and get things "off their chests." Don't push children who withdraw or become quiet. You, as the parents, must continue to pray, study the Word of God and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. As you work with your child(ren) to encourage them to talk through this matter with you as you diligently listen to your child and help to develop their sound, reasoning skills to make the right decision. God will and can help you to talk with your child(ren) in such a manner that they will grow to trust Jesus to help them.

Regular communication will boost your child's confidence and trust in you. It will also help you develop strong bonds of understanding. Children who feel empowered:

- Think for themselves.
- Understand the long-term consequences of their actions.
- Feel good about themselves.

Make Your Child Feel Safe.--Psalms 4:8 *“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.”*

Children are defenseless in life and they may be scared easily by things they don't understand. The key to providing security to children is recognizing and meeting their needs. Comforting your child at every stage in life will provide them with the security they need to grow and develop into a mature, responsible, respectable and accountable adult as a total person – that is, spiritually, emotionally, physically, professionally and financially. They need to know that you are there for them, and that you will protect them and stand with them in the Lord. They also need to see that you have taken steps to protect them. As parents, God expects you to help protect your child(ren) from negative elements including the wrong type of friends, associates, acquaintances, influence, etc.

Psalms 121:7-8 “The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”

As you spend time with the Lord, He will give you insight, understanding and wisdom and knowledge from His Word as to how to train, nurture, discipline and rear your child(ren) in the fear, admonition and love of the Lord. In obedient to God’s Word, you can trust God to protect and keep your child(ren) as they grow-up and become responsible individuals and even responsible parents themselves.

Provide Order and Organization.--Children need a regular and daily schedule. They need to have meals, naps and bedtimes at consistent times throughout the day. Even as your child(ren) age, they still need order and consistency in their lives. Of course, the parents should adjust/adapt their child(ren) regular and daily schedule to complement their age and maturity, but parents should never relinquish their rights to govern, control and directs what take place in their home. Parents are the adult in the home and as such, they have to be the role models and set the tone for the home. Parents must lead by precepts and examples. **Deuteronomy 6:5-7** “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: (v7) 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.”

Parents should establish the rules and consistently enforce them. The rules should be practical and feasible, and ought to be dependent on the children's age. To this end, children should have limits. Young child(ren) frequently do not know where the limits are, while older child(ren) normally rebel when they see an opportunity to demonstrate self-sufficiency. A stern warning should be issued when your children's do not comply with the family's rules or they do something you have asked them not to do. Parents should remain relaxed and be clear concerning the repercussions, if this kind of conduct continues. An ample amount of time should be provided for your child(ren) to stop behaving badly and comply with your rules. Depending on what their ages are, the designated period of time could be between one to seven minutes. Within this curing time period, wait to see if they will abide by your regulations, but if they do not cease acting up, parents should take the appropriate actions to discipline them immediately, but stay relaxed and don't use violence.

1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Depending upon your child’s age, you can plan routines together. For example, after school, does your child need a play break, homework time or food snack. It needs to be made clear, what you expect them to complete before dinner; before they go to bed, etc. For example, they need to take a bath, brush their teeth and get their school supplies ready for the next day before retiring for the night. Parents also need to give care and attention to how you and your child organize your morning without rushing? Much prayer, care and effort must be devoted to ensure that a daily devotion is held before you and your family starts your day. Please prayer so that God will give you just what is needed to maximize this time and at the same time arm your child(ren) with the Word of God to fuel their day as well as serve as a protector throughout their day.

Appreciate Your Child.--You can show appreciation in so many small ways, and children truly need to know that they are doing well and that you are pleased with their behavior, attitude, and overall performance. Use positive reinforcements to encourage and promote acceptable behavior and positive expected outcomes. You can use frequent pats on the back, smiles, give special treats, and praises for achieving

well-earned or task successfully accomplished in accordance with the appropriate expected outcome and righteous manner.

Children are more likely to behave if they obtain encouragement from you when they're being agreeable.

Consistency is Key.--Proverbs 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

Study God’s Word and use godly counsel to determine the best rules for your family. Your rules might not necessarily be the same rules you had when you were growing up, but whatever rules you choose to use, they need to be enforced on a consistent basis. This goes for both parents (mom and dad), family members and baby sitters. If two parents are raising the child, then they both need to enforce the same rules. In those instances, when both parents are not residing in the same physical home, please pray and diligently work to ensure that rules are enforced on a consistent basis in the rearing of the child(ren). Special care and much prayer must be exerted to ensure that the child(ren) are the priority as opposed the parents focusing on their differences and issues. God has blessed you to be parents, and as such, God expects you to rear your child(ren) in the fear and admonition of His Holy Word. After all, you are training the child(ren) for God, so trust Him to lead,

guide and direct you in this great undertaking, you can be successful in Him.

It is a given that you will have to discipline your child at some point in their life, but God has given us guidance in this area. When it becomes necessary to use the rod of correction, it should be done in love. Parents should never discipline their child(ren) they are angry or out of control. Remember to tell your child what he or she did wrong, and be certain to obey God's command to *train* your child. Tell your child specifically how to fix the problem—what he or she should do differently next time. After you administer discipline, hug your child and reassure him or her of your love.

The parents should be united in the rules used in this area and they should make sure the child know why they are being discipline and feel their parents' love even in the midst of being discipline. The child not be allowed to do wrong or display unacceptable behavioral and not surface any consequences for their actions. Parents have to make sure their actions do not appear that unacceptable or undesirable behavioral is being rewarded. The child should never be promised that they are going to be disciplined or punished, but the parents fail to follow-through on such actions.

Spend Time with Your Child.--Proverbs 2:6 *“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”*

Children thrive on the time they get to spend with their parents. Little trips to the park to play, or reading before bedtime will go along way with your child(ren). Children misbehaving to acquire their mum's or dad's particular attention is totally normal. Many bad behaviors stem from a lack of attention on the parents' part and the child is simply trying to get your attention. Plan special outings, events, and projects just for the family to help re-enforce quality time. Use certain tasks, at home, to help promote spending time with your child(ren). For example, teach your child(ren) how to fold their clothes taken from the dryer, or teach them how to clean their room, or help you with cleaning tasks, cooking tasks, etc.

Reserve some time to devote to your children for having fun and their, in most instances, unfavorable conduct will disappear.

Parents of young children can hardly envision the day when their precious youngsters will be leaving home to go to college, or to be married. Many mothers and fathers of adult children will attest to the fact, however, that the day will come sooner than you can imagine. It will seem like only yesterday that you had them close by your side. Do not allow the difficulty of

these “high-maintenance” years to rob you of the joy of parenting these precious little ones.

Help your child learn something new.-- God creates children with a natural curiosity. They are eager to learn and you are their first teacher. A two-year-old child delights in catching a big ball. Catch lightning bugs with a three-year-old. Find shoe skates at a garage sale and help a four-year-old skate up and down the driveway. Attach training wheels to a small bicycle and encourage a five-year-old to learn to ride a bike. Every new accomplishment builds his or her self-confidence.

Read the Bible to your child and talk about God with him. Pray together.--There are many excellent lessons for children in the Bible as well as excellent Bible storybooks written especially for young children. Remember to be considerate of a young child’s short attention span. The stories will often prompt questions in your child’s mind. Encourage children to talk about their questions with you. Remind your children often, even before they learn to talk, that they are gifts to you from our Heavenly Father.

Teach children to quote verses such as, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” and “Children, obey your parents, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.” Familiarize children with the knowledge that God is our Creator and loving Father.

Forgive your child immediately.--You are God's ambassador to your young child. You represent His standards of discipline, and your disciplinary methods should reflect His firm lovingkindness and mercy.

Do not hold a grudge against your child. Refrain from using the silent treatment to punish his or her disobedience. Never bring up past offenses against your child. Be certain that you do not speak negatively about your child in his or her presence.

Always speak about your child's dad/mom with loving respect.--Take opportunities throughout the day to point out to your child, good qualities in your spouse. Verbally express a grateful spirit for the things the child's other parent does for him or her. Strive to set a godly example for your child by demonstrating *agape* (unconditional, Christ-like) love for your spouse.

Keep your promises to your child.--Do not make promises to your child that you cannot keep. Be as good as your word. Teach your child that he or she can depend on you. Expect your child to be honest and reliable when he or she makes a promise. Remember that you must teach your child by examples and precepts. God is a promise-keeper, so you too must be a promise-keeper in order to teach your child to be a promise-keeper as well. Many of God's promises are conditional;

therefore in order for God to carry out His part, we must do our part. God is a promise-keeper, are you?

Ask your child for forgiveness when you make a mistake, and be free with your praise.--Children will be quick to humble themselves and ask forgiveness when they fail, if their parents model the role of humility before him. Do not be afraid to admit to your child that you make mistakes. God, alone, is perfect. Find ways to praise your children every day. Affirmation helps develop self-confidence, personal growth and character development.

GENERAL APPLICATION

Dear brothers and sisters, our family is at the heart of God's plan. It is the most precious thing in our life. If our family life is not being lived to the glory of God, we are losing out. What can we do? To begin with, let's not settle for the status quo! *Here are a few suggestions:*

1. Young people: obey your parents. Vow to reserve sex for marriage. Plan now how you will structure a Godly home.
2. Singles: remember, if you still have parents -- love and respect them. Don't destroy a family in order to get a mate. Do everything possible to make families of your acquaintance stronger. Plan your family life now, before you get infatuated with someone.

3. Broken homes: try to rebuild where you are right now. God forgives and heals, although it may take awhile.
4. Parents: dedicate your family to the Lord, and then do it again every day. Remember there is a Third Parent Who will help us, the Holy Spirit, but the responsibility is especially with the father to seek His help.
5. Worship the Lord together in the home. Memorize His Word together. Dad, it is up to you; mother can help, but it is basically up to you. Don't fail your family by not leading them to the Lord daily in worship of Him.
6. Leaders and Officials of the church: leaders need to constantly "think family" when they plan church programs. Ask while planning, "Is this activity going to strengthen or weaken families?" The church, like the early church, needs to have small group meetings in homes.

To sum this all up, remember what Joshua said at the end of his life -- a very astounding, striking thing: " Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites,

in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:14-15)

Abbreviation Key to Ellen G. White Books and Pamphlets:

MH - Ministry of Healing, The

FE - Fundamentals of Christian Education

5T- Testimonies for the Church Volume 5

2T - Testimonies for the Church Volume 2

CH – Counsels on Health

CT – Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

3T - Testimonies for the Church Volume 3

1T - Testimonies for the Church Volume 1

ST – Signs of the Times

6T - Testimonies for the Church Volume 6

Ed – Education

PP – Patriarchs and Prophets