

View

A Homemaker's Take On I Cor. 13

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper... not a homemaker.

If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness... not godliness.

Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh.

Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window.

Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk.

Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys.

Love is present through the trials.

Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive.

Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood.

Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart.

Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child.

As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
WHIT SASSER'S "EXHORTATIONS & STUFF"

The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons

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Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774
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Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
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Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514
dpaulposey@mac.com

Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
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Webmaster: Richard Harvey

Who's the Boss?

BY JASON JACKSON

Two boys were working on a go-cart in the garage. Their sister went out to call them in for dinner. "It's time to come in and get cleaned up for dinner," she demanded. They didn't budge, much less acknowledge her presence. In a few minutes, she returned. "Mom said it's time for dinner." Suddenly, they paid attention (Tedd Tripp. *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. Wapwallopen, Penn: Shepherd Press, 1995, p. 28).

We live in a world where authority is minimized. It is evident in the public school system, the home, in the workplace, and even in the church. Many people do not like to submit to authority of any kind.

When it is adopted by parents, this mentality makes scriptural parenting impossible. Christian parents are required to "be the parents." But in order to be effective parents, we must remember "who's the boss?" – God is. We cannot say what we want to say, tell our children whatever we desire, demand of them our every whim, or let them "discover" themselves by rearing themselves.

God gives parents a few years wherein they are to control the shaping influences of their child's heart and teach them how to react to life in a godly way. God demands that we bring children up in the Lord's discipline and instruction (Eph. 6:4). We must, therefore, consider how the structure of the family, the values of the family, and the roles within the family will shape the thinking and behavior of our children.

Our children observe us as we resolve conflicts and deal with failures. What do they learn? That the loudest wins? That failure is demoralizing? Our children are affected by these shaping influences.

They are not, however, blank slates upon which we carve their personalities with absolute control. They have hearts. They make decisions.

We must, therefore, teach them to react to life – to its shaping experiences – in a godly manner.

When we instruct as we walk, talk, play, and rest (Dt. 6:7), our children will learn how to live with an eternal perspective – if that is the perspective from which we live.

On the other hand, if we are more upset about grass stains on new jeans than disobedience, what message will they ultimately get? If they are managing their own time, and they know more about cartoons than the Bible – where is their interest going to be as they grow?

God is the boss! And parents need to be obedient by providing what children need the most – Christian parents who will nurture in them a love for God, our heavenly Father, and a love for his word – the Bible – every day.

The Mother of the Prodigal Son

Where is the mother of the prodigal son
 On that day so long ago?
 What were her thoughts
 And what were her fears
 As she watched him turn and go?
 How many times in the dark of night
 Did the tears slide down her face?
 Did she get out of bed
 And fall to her knees,
 Just to pray that her boy was safe?
 How were the days when she did not know
 Was he alive? Was he warm? Was he well?
 Who were his friends?
 And where did he sleep?
 Was there anyone there she could tell?
 But, oh, on that day
 When she looked down the road
 As she had looked since her son went away,
 Did love unspeakable flood her soul?
 Did she cry?
 What did she say?
 I think when the father had welcomed their son
 And the boy had greeted his brother,
 That the servants made a path
 For him to enter the door
 And the waiting arms of his mother.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN