

264 dren have been bought with a price, they are the property of Jesus Christ.  
265 And **the loss of their souls will be placed to your account, since they**  
266 **have been given into your guardianship.** {Ms105-1894}

267 Be a Sunshiny Parent

268 Parents, the happiness of your children depends upon the way in which  
269 you discharge your duty toward them. Teach them carefully and prayer-  
270 fully, here a little and there a little, leading, guiding, and when necessary  
271 commanding. **Parents whose hearts are given to the Lord will follow**  
272 **His way in directing their household; and blessings will flow from**  
273 **them to their children.** {RH January 29, 1901, par. 7} **While we are**  
274 **not to indulge blind affection, neither are we to manifest undue**  
275 **severity. Children can not be brought to the Lord by force. They can**  
276 **be led, but not driven.** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and  
277 they follow me,” Christ declares. He did not say, My sheep hear my  
278 voice, and are forced into the path of obedience. In the government of  
279 children, love must be shown. **Never should parents cause their chil-**  
280 **dren pain by harshness or unreasonable exactions. Harshness drives**  
281 **souls into Satan’s net.** {RH January 29, 1901, par. 8} **Parents, as surely**  
282 **as you treat your children in a cold, unloving manner, just so surely**  
283 **will the image of God in the soul be defaced.** Christians should act like  
284 Christ. **Cherish and cultivate all that is pure and lovely in the heart**  
285 **of your child. Be kind. ... Let there be no fretting, no scolding, no**  
286 **unnecessary exactions.** Administer the rules of the home in wisdom and  
287 love, not with a rod of iron. Children will respond by willing obedience  
288 to a rule of love. **Commend your children whenever you can. Provide**  
289 **the little ones with innocent amusements. ... Never wound their**  
290 **hearts by a lack of consideration.** Walk constantly in the way of the  
291 Lord, following the example set by Christ. {RH January 29, 1901, par.  
292 9} **Make the home a Bethel,** a holy, consecrated place. **Make the lives**  
293 **of your children as happy as possible. Keep the soil of the heart mel-**  
294 **low by love and affection, thus preparing it for the seed of truth.** Re-  
295 member that the Lord gives the earth not only clouds and rain, but the  
296 beautiful, smiling sunshine, causing the seed to spring up and the blos-  
297 soms to appear. **Remember that children need not only reproof and**  
298 **correction, but encouragement and commendation, the pleasant sun-**  
299 **shine of kind words.** {RH January 29, 1901, par. 10} **We need more**  
300 **sunshiny parents and more sunshiny Christians.** {RH January 29,  
301 1901, par. 11}

302 *Unless indicated otherwise, all of the quotations come from the writings*  
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## Flourishing Parents

### 1 *Marriage, Roles and Family Culture*

2 The Parents’ Marriage

3 Ephesians 5:22-28 (NKJV) 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as  
4 to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head  
5 of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the  
6 church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in  
7 everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the  
8 church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse  
9 her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her  
10 to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such  
11 thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands  
12 ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife  
13 loves himself.

14 The Father’s Role

15 Genesis 18:19 (NKJV) 19 For I have known him, in order that he may  
16 command his children and his household after him, that they keep the  
17 way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may  
18 bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.

19 Deuteronomy 6:7 (NKJV) 7 You shall teach them diligently to your chil-  
20 dren, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk  
21 by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

22 Joshua 24:15 (NKJV) 15 “But as for me and my house, we will serve the  
23 LORD.”

24 Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children  
25 to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

26 Colossians 3:21 (NKJV) 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest  
27 they become discouraged.

28 I was shown that the **true meaning of husband is houseband.** Every  
29 member of the family centers in the father. **He is the law-maker, illus-**  
30 **trating in his own manly bearing, sterner virtues, energy, integrity,**  
31 **honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness.** The  
32 father is **in one sense the priest of the household,** laying upon the altar  
33 of God the morning and evening sacrifice. The wife and children should  
34 be encouraged to unite in their offering and also in the songs of praise to  
35 our merciful, compassionate Redeemer for His unbounded mercy and

36 matchless love. **The father should, as priest of the household, confess**  
37 **morning and evening to God the sins committed by himself and [his]**  
38 **children through the day, which have come to his knowledge, and**  
39 **also those sins which are secret, which God's eye alone has taken**  
40 **cognizance of.** This rule of action heartily, zealously carried out on the  
41 part of the father when present and the mother when the father is absent,  
42 will redound in blessings to the family. {Ms5-1867.21}

#### 43 The Mother's Role

44 Proverbs 31:26-28 (NKJV) 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And  
45 on her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She watches over the ways of  
46 her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children  
47 rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:

48 Titus 2:4-5 (NKJV) 4 that they admonish the young women to love their  
49 husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers,  
50 good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be  
51 blasphemed.

52 **Next to God, the mother's power for good is the strongest known on**  
53 **earth.** – {HR March 1, 1880 Par. 12}

54 **The king upon his throne has no higher work than has the mother.**  
55 **The mother is queen of her household. She has in her power the**  
56 **molding of her children's characters, that they may be fitted for the**  
57 **higher, immortal life.** An angel could not ask for a higher mission; for  
58 in doing this work she is doing service for God. {ST March 16, 1891  
59 Par. 1}

60 **The mother's daily influence upon her children is preparing them**  
61 **for everlasting life or eternal death. She exercises in her home a pow-**  
62 **er more decisive than the minister in the desk, or even the king upon**  
63 **his throne. The day of God will reveal how much the world owes to**  
64 **godly mothers** {ST November 3, 1881, par. 9 }

65 If married men leave their wives to care for their children at home, the  
66 **wife and mother is doing fully as great and important a work as the**  
67 **husband and father.** Although one is in the missionary field, **the other**  
68 **is a home missionary, whose cares and anxieties and burdens fre-**  
69 **quently far exceed those of the husband and father.** ... The husband  
70 in the open missionary field may receive the honors of men, while the  
71 home toiler may receive no credit for her labor. But **if she works for the**  
72 **best interest of her family, to fashion their characters after the divine**  
73 **model, the recording angel writes her name as one of the greatest**  
74 **missionaries in the world.** {ST October 15, 1885, par. 3}

75 The mother should not accept burdens in the church which compel her to  
76 neglect her children. **The best work in which a mother can engage is to**  
77 **see that no stitches are dropped in the training of her children.** A  
78 well-disciplined, well-ordered family exerts a more powerful influence

225 **from every idol, whate'er that idol be. Yield all to Christ, and give**  
226 **yourselves to Him,** every individual member of the family.  
227 {Lt185-1901.10}

#### 228 Be the Right Example

229 There are few parents who realize **how important it is to give to their**  
230 **children the influence of a godly example.** Yet this is far more potent  
231 than precept. **No other means is so effective in training them in right**  
232 **lines. The children and youth must have a true copy in right-doing if**  
233 **they succeed in overcoming sin and perfecting a Christian character.**  
234 **This copy they should find in the lives of their parents.** {RH October  
235 12, 1911 Par. 2}

#### 236 Pray

237 "Many of the children of believing parents, children who have been  
238 trained in the Sabbath-school, and are familiar with the Scriptures, have  
239 yet no interest in religion. **Under the most powerful appeals of the**  
240 **Holy Spirit, they seem as unmoved as if chiseled out of stone.** What  
241 can be done to break the spell which Satan has cast upon these souls? **I**  
242 **can see no help, except as parents shall present their children at the**  
243 **throne of grace, in humble, earnest, believing prayer, entreating the**  
244 **Lord to work with their efforts and the efforts of their ministers,**  
245 **until conviction and conversion shall be the result.** {ST March 16,  
246 1882, Art. B, par. 5}

#### 247 Make Your Home Attractive

248 How many parents are lamenting the fact that they cannot keep their  
249 children at home, that they have no love for home. ... **Investigation**  
250 **would generally reveal that the sin lay at the door of the parents.**  
251 **They have not made home what it ought to be,—attractive, pleasant,**  
252 **radiant with the sunshine of kind words, pleasant looks, and true**  
253 **love.** {RH December 9, 1884, par. 6}

#### 254 Recognize Your Accountability

255 Parents, an awful responsibility rests upon you. **If you find no pleasure**  
256 **in rendering a whole-hearted service to God, if you close the door**  
257 **lest truth and righteousness shall enter in, lest light shall penetrate**  
258 **the darkness and worldliness that surrounds you, remember that**  
259 **you are manifesting the fact that you prefer the friendship of your**  
260 **neighbors to the friendship of God.** By precept and example, you are  
261 training your children to think that **it does not matter whether they**  
262 **keep the commandments of God, or choose the ways of those who**  
263 **despise his law,** and trample his requirements under their feet. Your chil-

191 Be Careful of Your Words  
192 It is almost impossible to set the feet of children in safe paths when the  
193 parents do not co-operate. **Evil sentiments falling from the lips of inju-**  
194 **dicious parents are the chief hindrance to genuine conversions**  
195 **among children.** {Ms49-1901.20}

196 Walk the Talk  
197 **It is because so many parents and teachers profess to believe the**  
198 **word of God while their lives deny its power, that the teaching of**  
199 **Scripture has no greater effect upon the youth.** {Ed 259.2}

200 **Not until parents themselves walk in the law of the Lord with perfect**  
201 **hearts will they be prepared to command their children after them.**  
202 **A reformation in this is needed—a reformation which shall be deep**  
203 **and broad.** {PP 143.2}

204 Subdue Yourself  
205 **In order for you to control and govern your children with success,**  
206 **you must first have perfect government, perfect control, over your-**  
207 **selves.** You must **first subdue yourself**, have your words and the expres-  
208 sion of your countenance, and the tones of your voice, in perfect submis-  
209 sion and control; **then can you with success govern and subdue your**  
210 **children.** {Ms2-1860}

211 Obtain a Correct Knowledge of Right Methods of Discipline  
212 Parents need to be daily converted. **Unless there is a decided change in**  
213 **the way children are managed in connection with home discipline,**  
214 **unless children are dealt with in accordance with the principles re-**  
215 **vealed in the Word, many souls will be lost because of the neglect of**  
216 **fathers and mothers to obtain a correct knowledge of right methods**  
217 **of discipline.** {Ms77-1912.4}

218 Follow In the Footsteps of Jesus  
219 Fathers and mothers, you have children to save, and **you cannot bring**  
220 **them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord unless you fol-**  
221 **low in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, unless you follow in the footsteps**  
222 **of self-denial and self-sacrifice.** {Ms117-1909.38}

223 Turn From Every Idol  
224 **Turn from every practice that will grieve the dear Redeemer. Turn**

79 in favor of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. ***In no***  
80 ***other way can a mother help the church more than by devoting her***  
81 ***time to those who are dependent upon her for instruction and training.***  
82 {Ms 75, 1901, par. 4}

83 The Culture of the Holy Spirit in the Home  
84 Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
85 peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness,  
86 self-control. Against such there is no law. James 3:17-18 (NKJV) 17 But  
87 the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, will-  
88 ing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without  
89 hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those  
90 who make peace.

91 *Additional Texts On Parenting*  
92 Genesis 17:1-4 (NKJV) 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the  
93 LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk  
94 before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between  
95 Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” 3 Then Abram fell on  
96 his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 “As for Me, behold, My  
97 covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.  
98 Exodus 20:12 (NKJV) 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your  
99 days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving  
100 you.  
101 Psalms 127:1 (NKJV) 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor  
102 in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman  
103 stays awake in vain.  
104 Psalms 127:3 (NKJV) 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
105 Psalms 144:12 (NKJV) 12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in  
106 their youth; That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace  
107 style;  
108 Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) 10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of  
109 wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.  
110 Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) 6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And  
111 when he is old he will not depart from it.  
112 Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV) 15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a  
113 child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.  
114 Proverbs 29:17 (NKJV) 17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest;  
115 Yes, he will give delight to your soul.  
116 Isaiah 40:11 (NKJV) 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will  
117 gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently

118 lead those who are with young.  
119 Isaiah 49:25 (NKJV) 25 For I will contend with him who contends with  
120 you, And I will save your children.  
121 Isaiah 54:13 (NKJV) 13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD,  
122 And great shall be the peace of your children.  
123 Lamentations 2:19 (NKJV) 19 “Arise, cry out in the night, At the begin-  
124 ning of the watches; Pour out your heart like water before the face of the  
125 Lord. Lift your hands toward Him For the life of your young children,  
126 Who faint from hunger at the head of every street.”  
127 Matthew 19:14 (NKJV) 14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to  
128 Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” 15  
129 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.  
130 Ephesians 6:1-3 (NKJV) 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for  
131 this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first com-  
132 mandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may  
133 live long on the earth.”  
134 Colossians 3:20 (NKJV) 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for  
135 this is well pleasing to the Lord.

### Helpful Admonitions

136  
137 Repent And Be Converted  
138 Seek the Lord, fathers and mothers. **What is the work you are to do?**  
139 **Look to God and repent and be converted.** {Ms65-191}  
  
140 Give Yourself To the Converting Power of God  
141 Let this meeting be one of decided interest, **a meeting where we shall**  
142 **do something ourselves—give ourselves to the converting power of**  
143 **God.** {Ms80-1912.11}  
  
144 Accept God’s Will and Way  
145 *When the will and ways of God become the will and ways of Seventh-*  
146 *day Adventist parents, their children will grow up to love and honor*  
147 *and obey God.* Satan will not be able to gain control of their minds, for  
148 they have been educated to regard the Word of the Lord as supreme, and  
149 they will test every experience that comes to them by the law and the tes-  
150 timony. {Lt356-1907.21}  
  
151 Make the Bible Your Textbook  
152 **Parents, if you would educate your children to serve God and do**  
153 **good in the world, make the Bible your textbook.** ... Whatever else is

154 taught in the home or at school, the Bible, as the great educator, should  
155 stand first. **If it is given this place, God is honored, and He will work**  
156 **for you in the conversion of your children.** {ST 321.3}  
  
157 Make An Unreserved Surrender  
158 **An unreserved surrender to God will sweep away the barriers that**  
159 **have so long defied the approaches of heavenly grace. Bring your**  
160 **lives into conformity to the will of Christ, and your children will be**  
161 **won to Him.** {ST November 11, 1903 Par. 8}  
  
162 Put Your Heart Wholly On the Lord’s Side  
163 **Have the parents given the whole heart to God?** ... The heart is the  
164 citadel of the whole man, and, **until the heart is wholly on the Lord’s**  
165 **side, the enemy will find his stronghold there, and no human power**  
166 **can dislodge him.** The Lord alone can do this work. {ST May 7, 1894,  
167 par. 8}  
  
168 Surrender to Do God’s Will  
169 Blessed is the family **where father and mother have surrendered**  
170 **themselves to God to do his will!** One well-ordered, well- disciplined  
171 family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can  
172 be preached. Such a family **gives evidence that the parents have been**  
173 **successful in following God’s directions, and that their children will**  
174 **serve him in the church.** {RH June 6, 1899 Par. 14}  
  
175 Surrender To the Rule of Christ  
176 It is their privilege to possess **a greater influence over their households**  
177 **than the monarch on his throne possesses over his subjects; but they**  
178 **will have the influence of the Holy Spirit only as they surrender**  
179 **themselves to the rule of Christ.** {RH February 19, 1895 Par. 2}  
  
180 Train Yourself  
181 If parents would bring their children up in the fear of the Lord, they  
182 themselves must walk in the way of the Lord. **If they neglect to educate**  
183 **and train themselves: if they cherish those traits of character which**  
184 **disqualify them for patiently training their children in right habits;**  
185 if they will not take the responsibility of reaching a high standard for  
186 themselves, failing to become sanctified through the truth and trans-  
187 formed in character, **how can they impress upon their children the ne-**  
188 **cessity of forming correct habits? Such parents cannot elevate the**  
189 **souls of any within the sphere of their influence.** {RH April 13, 1897,  
190 par. 6}