Along the Concrete

The splendid obedience of parents to their children has been pointed out as one of the remarkable developments of modern life. We have not made a mistake in writing or in typesetting. We mean just what we say—the obedience of parents to their children. In all too many homes God's order has been reversed and instead of honoring and obeying their parents, children (both young and old) have taken the place of "boss," and mother and father must obey if they want peace and rest.

The need for our lesson of today is both great and acute. The future happiness of hundreds of thousands of children (Eph. 6:3) and the present welfare of thousands of neglected and boss-ridden parents will depend on the intelligence and faithfulness with which this lesson is taught in our churches, and the honesty of heart with which men and women study and receive the truth.

I. The Command of God (Exod. 20:12).

The first and most important consideration to come before us is—what is the mind and will of the Maker of us all regarding this matter of the relation between parents and children? His words are plain—we are to "honor" our fathers and our mothers.

The word "honor" carries with it a great deal more than just perhaps the three outstanding elements are respect, obedience, and affection. We should look up to them with high regard, obey them as long as they have the authority over us, and show true affection for them.

II. The Example of Jesus (Luke 2:46-52).

The fact that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh only enhances the glory of His conduct. He who is the divine presents an example of obedience and consideration both as boy and man which we do well to emulate.

1. As a boy (Luke 2:46-52). The boy Jesus, increasing "in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man," (v. 52) had come to His twelfth year and with His parents had gone up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. There moved in His heart the conviction that He must now be about His Father's business—an altogether proper and commendable purpose but one which resulted for the moment in separation from His parents. This was far more serious than a physical separation, for we read that they did not understand Him (v. 50). Tragic indeed are the consequences of our failure to understand our children. Notice, however, that Jesus did not withdraw Himself from their watch care, nor refuse to obey them even though they failed to understand Him. Equally tragic are the results of hasty and bitter separations brought about by the disobedience of children.

2. As a man (John 19:26, 27). The value of our lesson will be greatly reduced if we see only the responsibility of children while they are young. We are the children of our parents as long as we and they live. Being grown up and having a family of one's own does not relieve one of the precious responsibility of care for one's parents. Jesus was dying on the cross, His brethren apparently still regarded Him as unbelief, and His mother now needed a son to care for her. Even in His dying agony Jesus remembers to commit her to the care of His beloved disciple, John. One marvels at the carelessness and hardness of heart that will permit men and women who have time and money for everything else and yet will neglect their aged parents and even plead them off into a public institution for care. Notice the promise that accompanies the command of God (Deut. 20:12; Eph. 6:3). If that is the reward of those who do right, what do you think will be the punishment of those who disobey God?

III. The Admonition of Paul (Eph. 6:1-4).

This matter of honoring and obeying parents "is right," says Paul. It is the Lord's way. Only if parents command their children to do wickedness would there be ground for disobedience to parents. Apart from such circumstances every parent has the right to expect the child's obedience.

There is tremendously important truth on the other side of the picture. Parents are not to provoke their children to anger, to disrespect or disobedience. How much we need God's grace at that point. It is so easy to say and do things that needlessly irritate our children. It is so convenient to nag at a careless child. Often we expect more of them than their age will justify. We are apt to punish them in a spirit of anger or revenge and thus to destroy the value of discipline. May God help us, who are parents, that we may take to heart this part of our lesson. Our children are our most valuable possession.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
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Lesson for November 6

HONORING OUR PARENTS

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 20:12; Luke 2:46-52; Ephesians 6:1-4.
GOLDEN TEXT—Honor thy father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Exodus 20:12.

Dispelling The Fog

By Charles Michelson, Director of Publicity, Democratic National Committee

Dust identities are not rare in political circles, but Senator Vandenberg, candidate hopeful for the Republican presidential nomination two years hence goes far to make them. He might be described as the Dionne of the situation, for he is an example of the splenetic in politics and opinions. He is Conservative before committees of Commerce, Liberal before groups of College commencement, he is Hitlery for the Senate, he is for Capital, and then again he is for the Ten Commandments with painfully some reservation as to the 9th.

In the first of these incarnations he recently assailed the Wagner Labor Act, which he said led either "to fascism on the right or communism on the left."

The Senator charged among other things that the act precipitated and prolonged the depression. Yet the other day Vice President H. H. Burton under whose jurisdiction the labor relations board and the act come, made this statement to a group of Women Voters in New York State:

"We have had no trouble with the Wagner Act. It is designed to take the part of the employee which it takes. We of the Labor Board have been behooving the Wagner Labor Relations Act as it exited the labor policies of his corporations and perhaps those have something to do with it. His experience of friction between his organization and its employees was slight. This statement is a departure from the habit so carefully cultivated by other masters of great corporations of my acquaintance, stamping out the first approach of unionism, has resulted in peace instead of strikes over a long period of years.

Perhaps equally revolutionary to the policy he announced of running into fights as a result of our

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