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Bible Speaks To: Churches, Homes, Individuals

Wyatt Sawyer

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III. MARKS OF A MATURE FAMILY or HOME.

- A. Most often when a N.T. writer was PROUD of a congregation, he complimented their CORPORATE FAITH, CORPORATE HOPE and CORPORATE LOVE. * Col. 1:1-5. * I Thess. 1:1-4.
- B. Occasionally a N. T. writer compliments some Christian's PRIVATE FAITH, PRIVATE HOPE and PRIVATE LOVE. (Head of a great Family.) *III John 1-6. Faith. Hope. Love!!!
- C. NOTE: The FAMILY, being the church in miniature may be earmarked "mature" or "immature" to the degree that it has these 3 great virtues!
- D. WARNING: "These Values grow in young children MORE from proper-Christian-examples on the part of the parents, than on lectures, precepts, scoldings, sermons or whippings!!!"

IV. DEVELOPING THE MATURE NEW TESTAMENT HOME. ^{HOME OF} CHRIST.

- A. First, these GRACES must be clearly recognized
- FAITH: Heb. 11:1. Substance. Evidence.
Faith gives us the courage to face the PRESENT with confidence and the FUTURE with keen anticipation!!
- Faith without works is like a Cadillac without without gas. Plenty of power, but no FIRE.
Faith gets a severe test when you find yourself in a worship service with nothing less than a \$20 bill in your pocket.

- B. Hope: Romans 8:24-25. Desire, Expectations

"Those who have an eternal hope in Christ are not whistling in the dark but walking boldly in the light!"

- Hope is not wishful thinking, but calm assurance."

Ill. South sea island has turtle races. Boys ride them in the lagoon. Use a stick called the "hope-stick". Hold the turtle's head up! Cannot submerge without lowering his head. Hope is the Christian's "stick" which keeps his head UP. Cannot submerge in doubt nor despair while the hope-stick is in use! (Miller.p.93)

Rutnam City 10-2-77

MT 9-4-77 PM - Rockford, 9-17-77 PM

Teapny work!
GIVING. John 3:16. 4.
Matt. 7:12!!!

Duty makes us do things WELL, but love makes us do them beautifully.

True love does not consist of holding hands..
it consists of holding hearts!

B. Second, these GRACES are developed and matured only by a closer & closer walk with God!!!

1.) PARENTS, what about YOUR faith? Mature?

a. Crisis-test before your children; a sign!

b. You have two basic choices in a crisis:

(1. Get nervous, upset, frustrated and then worry, fret and stew? THEN, you complain, murmur, fall apart and strike out at OTHERS...and maybe God! OR

(2. Clearly & calmly locate the problem, define the problem, analyze the problem and then GET IN TOUCH WITH GOD! I Pet. 5:6-7. Phil. 4:6-7.

111. Bro. McCurdy, Hillcrest, Abilene.
Hit and run car killed daughter, grand
daughter and daughter-in-law. He grieved
in a calm, spiritual sort of way. "She is
better now". WAS!! "The Lord giveth and the
Lord taketh away. Blessed...". Like Job!
THIS MAN HAD FAITH. NO ONE QUESTIONED!!

.) PARENTS, what about **YOUR** hope? Mature?

a. Security-lifestyle is the sign=maturity.

b. Is your daily-focus on THIS world or the world to COME? Matt. 6:33. Direction?

c. How do your children think you FEEL about the 2nd coming of Christ? Ready? Afraid?

d. Do you KNOW you have eternal life in Christ?
Like Paul? II Tim. 1:12-13.

Romans 14:7-8.

3.) PARENTS, what about YOUR love? Mature?

a. "Father, the most important thing you can do for your children is to LOVE their mother."

b. EDDIE CANTOR, entertaining orphans one time asked a little 4 yr. old girl if he could do anything for her. She replied, "LOVE ME!" YOUR children are saying "LOVE ME!"

INV: 1413 Take time! Be patient! Be kind to me!

Reservoir, 1979.

C. Bill 23 lb. 3 yr. & 4 months. Leroy Moore
 E. "Boy, emotionally deprived.
 Foster home. Gained 6 lbs.
 Soon w normal--with love & care!"

C. Bill: 23 W- 3 yr. old dwarf.

~~#0766~~
1077.

ANN LANDERS

Prayer for children is wise advice

DEAR ANN: Recently you printed a Prayer for Parents. I thought it was beautiful. And now I have composed a prayer for children. I hope you will give it equal time. — YOUNG AND WISHING.



LANDERS

God in heaven, I am young and don't understand what it is like to be a parent, but it must be very hard because so many people are failing at it these days.

I pray for Mom and Dad, God, that You will help them to be good parents — strong in the ways you want them to be, so I can look up to them with admiration and feel confident that their instruction is right.

Help me, dear Lord, to understand my parents. Remind me that when I don't get my way it is because they love me and not because they want to be mean or deprive me of anything.

Help me, God, when I become stubborn and refuse to listen, to accept the fact that they have wisdom and experience because they were once teenagers but I have never been a parent.

Put in my heart the respect and consid-

eration they deserve for their years of hard work and sacrifice. They raised me the best way they knew how. Let me not repay them with grief or shame. Rather help me to give them obedience, respect, forgiveness and love. Most of all, God, while I still have them here on earth, help me to appreciate my parents.

DEAR YOUNG AND WISHING: You may be young but you are wise beyond your years. Thanks so much for sharing.

* * *

DEAR ANN: My husband and I are invited often to eat dinner at his brother's house. His wife is a nice person and we all get along fine. But she is a terrible housekeeper and to make matters worse, they have a couple of huge cats that have the run of the place.

A few weeks ago my sister-in-law put a can of cat food on the kitchen cabinet — next to the meal she had prepared for us. The big Tom jumped up on the cabinet, walked over the dinner rolls and swished his tail through the meatballs and cabbage. My husband and I both saw this and we lost our appetites completely.

Since that incident, my husband refuses to eat at their house and I am running out of excuses. He says I can't tell them the real reason because it would only start trouble. Any suggestions,

Ann? — CROSSFIRE IN NAMELESS CITY

DEAR FIRE: Just say your husband has developed a preference for eating at home (which is no lie) and while you aren't crazy about the idea there's nothing you can do but comply with his request.

* * *

DEAR ANN: Yesterday I answered the phone and there was gasping and heavy breathing on the line. I thought either someone was having a heart attack or this was one of those "funny calls."

After I hung up I wondered if people who are in trouble know they can dial 0 for Operator and get help immediately. Even in the dark, a person who can't find his glasses can dial 0 — the last digit on the phone. Knowing this will give folks a sense of security. Tell 'em, Annie. — OSHKOSH

DEAR OSHKOSH: You told 'em, by gosh, and I thank you.

Discover how to be date bait without falling hook, line and sinker. Ann Landers's booklet, "Dating Do's and Don'ts," will help you be more poised and sure of yourself on dates. Send 50 cents in coin along with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 1400, Elgin, Ill. 60120.

LACK OF LOVE

Lack of love turned a 3-year-old boy into a pitiful 23-pound dwarf - and led a British court to take him away from his father. Doctors testified that the boy was physically normal - and said there was absolutely no reason for his shocking condition except "emotional deprivation." When a child is emotionally deprived, the pituitary gland may stop working properly. It may fail to control the functioning of other glands, which affect the normal growth process.

Officials finally decided to remove the boy from his home - and the court backed up their decision. And he's put on 6 pounds since being placed in a foster home a few months ago. Explained an optimistic doctor, "It will take time - 2 years or more - to put him right. But there are no abnormalities, and he's not malformed. If he can stay in an environment where he gets love and care, he will still be able to lead a normal life."

Added Dr. Robert Fiser, chairman of the Pediatrics Department at the University of Arkansas Medical Center, "There is no doubt at all that there are children deprived of love who simply fail to grow normally. These kids can eat and eat and gain no weight; nor will their height increase as it should. Of course, many children are deprived of love and don't become dwarfs. But in rare cases where the growth hormone is totally absent, it can and does happen."

"LOVE"

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huge grin on their faces."

YOUNG AREN'T REBELS

Young Americans are returning to the traditional work and marriage values because of inflation, unemployment, and the lessons they learned in the late 1960s and early 70s. That's the view of top psychiatrists who have kept tabs on attitudes of the country's young people. "Young people today are not smart alecks, rebellious and eager to knock the country. They have more respect for one another. They are not so tolerant of all the nonsense we've seen up until recent years," said Dr. Berthold Schwarz, consultant psychiatrist from Montclair, N.J.

Added bestselling author Dr. Jean Rosenbaum, of Durango, Colo.: "Young people can't afford to be rebellious and aggressive when they are competing for jobs. They can no longer rely on financial support from parents." Many hard lessons were learned in the late 1960s, Dr. Rosenbaum said. "Young people discovered that many of their so-called leaders were strictly self-serving, who didn't give a damn about the kids. When these leaders abandoned them, the young people were left with no sense of identity - so they have scurried back to the old standards."

PORNO PLAGUE

The current plague of pornography in the U.S. is creating a sexually deformed younger generation, warn 2 psychiatrists. "Young people are having severe sexual prob-

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I. LAST LESSON NOTED THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS:

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES:

1. NT says MUCH about the church in detail.
NT says LITTLE " the HOME in detail.
In 1901 - 30s nothing preached about home. Private!
2. Noted: 7 similarities between church & home.
(lost)

3. Question: WHY? So much more said about the church than the HOME? FAMILY?
Ans:

4. STATEMENT: There IS more said about the HOME in the N. T. than most people realize!

Explain: The home and the church were both
~~the~~ ONE family in some cities.

Therefore: God's great spiritual truths
which were given to the CHURCH
OVERFLOWED into the Christian Home!

FAMILY

Thus: CHRISTIANS in the/HOME were getting
God's spiritual truths to the CHURCH &
God's spiritual truths to the HOME ALSO.

5. CONCLUSION:

- a. The CHURCH is only the assembly of Christian FAMILIES.
- b. God's TRUTHS about his CHURCH apply to the members of these families, and
- c. God's TRUTHS about the HOME also apply directly to the members of these families.
- d. This is why we sometimes say: THE HOME IS THE CHURCH IN MINIATURE. God's "smaller" family.
- e. The CHURCH is God's "larger" family, made up of many Christian homes.

only one life - Quality of life!

God's Family Circles:
 1. World - Family of the flesh. *lost.*
 2. Home - Family of the heart. *(Choice)*
 3. Church - Family of the Spirit. *John 3. Saved. (Choice)*

*Young - SAFE
Old - LOST
SAVED*