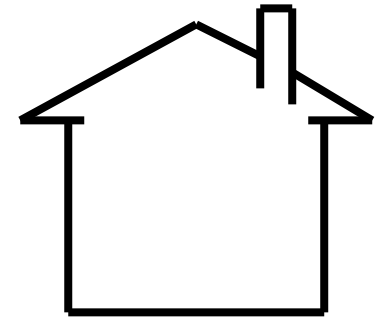


# THE CHRISTIAN HOME



## Agenda:

5th Session

- Should wives and mothers work outside the home?

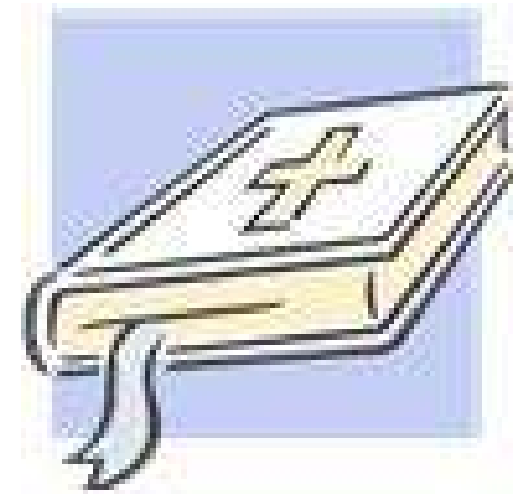
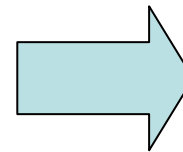


- The responsibility of parents to their children (Introduction).

# THE CHRISTIAN HOME

## ❑ Making a Christian Home

The Christian home must be built according to a precise plan...



**God's plan! The only plan that will be successful!**



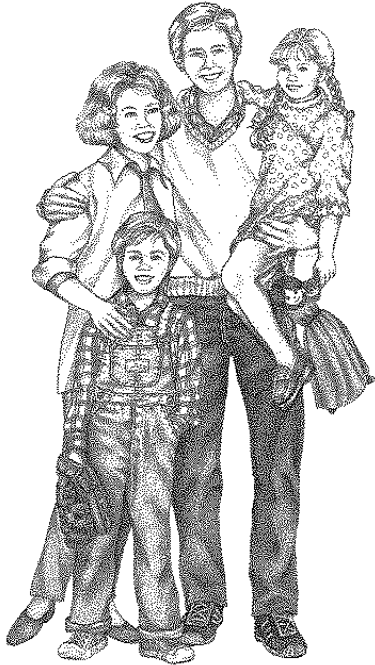
## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Making a Christian Home.

The role of a wife and mother has been greatly threatened and damaged in the past 50 years. The pressure, propaganda, and humanistic philosophies under the guise of improvements for women, skewed ideas of equal rights for women, and our societies increasing secular view of life has denied, confused, and in many cases destroyed the biblically defined role for women. As a result, to discuss the biblical role is often emotionally charged, and difficult because of so many preconceived notions. We must keep in mind that Satan desires to destroy the institution of the home. The statistics given in the first handout show his success. One of his primary actions is focused on destroying the home through the wife and mother. This is precisely what he did in the Garden of Eden. As we move closer to the time of Christ's second return, and the continual decline of society, we as Christians must not abandon the clear timeless teaching of the Word of God. We must be committed to establishing our homes on the Rock (Mat 7:24), trusting that God knows precisely what is best for us, in contrast to the passing philosophies of a Christ rejecting society.

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- ❑ Making a Christian Home.



*“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.”*

**Psalms 127:1**

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Making a Christian Home.



“Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

1 Pet 5:8

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Eph 6:11-12

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ The Role of the Wife and Mother is – what we have covered.

- To submit to the headship of her husband
- To be the keeper of the home
- To be diligent to maintain a flourishing spiritual life
- To be the primary nurturer in rearing the children
- To be her husbands lover



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

***Titus 2:5 is the usual reference for a discussion on women working and seems to most directly address the question:***

- What does the passage mean when it says “workers at home?” Worker & home are both the word – oy-koo-ros – (translated “household” 1 Tim 3:15; and families in Titus 1:11). This same word is simply repeated twice in the Greek in this passage. **Scholars say it means domestically inclined, or focused on the home.**



Because of the word meaning “domestically inclined,” the word “work” has been added by some translators as a reference to duties at home. Thus adding “workers at home” is an arbitrary translation and should not be confused with our culture in which so many women are doing the antithesis – that is being employed (working) outside the home. When studying this passage, there are differences even in the following good Bible translations:



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❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

*Titus 2:5 is the usual reference for a discussion on women working and seems to most directly address the question:*

- **NAS** Titus 2:5 to be sensible, pure, *workers at home*, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.
- **NIV** Titus 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, *to be busy at home*, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.
- **NKJ** Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, *homemakers*, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- In the culture when this was written, a wife being employed outside the home was not an issue, *and therefore could not be the direct intent of this passage*. However, there were other “out-of-the-home” issues. Although there is not a verse directly using the same word configuration in an exact context, we get a clue as to what Paul likely had in mind in a similar context with his words to young widows in 1 Timothy 5:13:

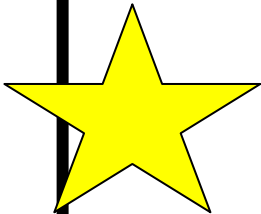


## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

○ The focus here was not on employment outside the home but on not being meddlesome, but tending to personal responsibilities and home, and not making ones self a nuisance and busybody by spending a lot of time in other people's homes, while at the same time neglecting their own responsibilities. This is also an issue today, but is not culturally as significant as the issues caused by women employed outside the home. **The similarity is that in both cases the wife who is not tending her own home may be neglecting it for some other priority.**

- Because the reference is not directly aimed at employment outside the home, we cannot make this passage a command (as some have) for not having a job outside the home.
- We can however, **make it a strong reference for the focus and priority to be on the responsibilities of the home – that is clearly the command and expressed concern.**





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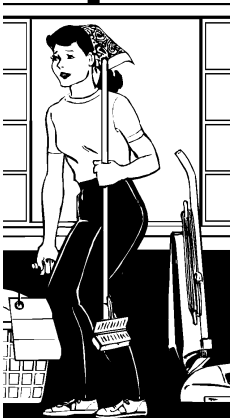
❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

- **Proverbs 31**: describes the activities of the godly wife, and these include purchasing materials and food, buying property, planting a vineyard, and doing business. Look especially at **Prov 31:16** where she purchases a field. This shows some outside the home innovative activity. So **we cannot dogmatically say the Word commands women not to work outside the home** as the wife and mother of **Prov. 31** manages some outside work (although this is obviously not a full-time occupation), and it is associated with the well being of the home. Certainly it does take her physically outside the home at least to some measure. In this sense she is not strictly working at home, i.e. in her house—though most of her activities outlined in **Proverb's 31** are specifically in the home. Some have argued then that as long as the wife working outside the home is ultimately benefiting the vitality of the home (as **Prov 31:16** seems to be) it is acceptable. However, **there are other variables that also must be considered that are not present in Prov 31:16.**

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

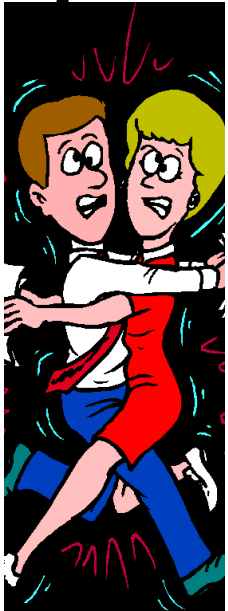
### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

- There are three major, and any number of minor issues regarding woman working outside the home. “Outside the home” being defined in our culture as **being employed outside the home in the work force environment**:
  - One of those issues we have already touched on with Titus 2:5 – that is the home is the first priority for the wife and mother. When working outside the home, it places great pressure on this priority. Not only is **the working wife not present during most daylight hours in the home**, but when she is, most of her energy has already been expended with her job. It is extremely difficult for her then to prioritize the home or practically maintain excellence as a wife, mother, and steward of the home environment.
  - A second issue of major importance has to do with the **headship of the family**. In Ephesians 5:22-23 we are told “the husband is the head of the wife.” Also, in our Titus 2:5 passage “being subject to their own husbands.” This is God’s order for maintaining precise operational efficiency in the home along with appropriate peace and harmony.



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

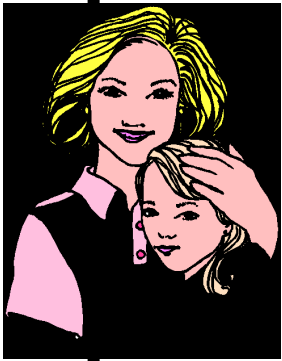


- For the husband to maintain this role, it can be placed under great stress in an environment where husband & wife are both working outside the home. It can even sometimes generate unhealthy competition, and where the wife is additionally answering under the headship of a boss through the work place, diminish the role of the husband. Often the wife will find herself more diligent under the headship of her boss than her husband. At other times **she may find herself at odds with the wishes of her husband because of her outside job.** This kind of duel headship relationship over the wife interferes with the family function and often leads to serious problems.
- The necessary commitment and focus required in working outside the home also acts more often than not diametrically in opposition to the fostering of the relationships needed in the home environment. **It also exposes the wife to other people who may tempt her to inappropriate behavior,** or lead her astray from the headship of her husband.

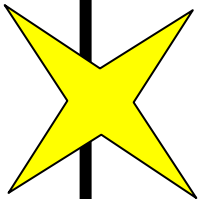


## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?



- A third issue is the demanding attention of children in the home. Going back to Proverbs 31:15 – she provides food. She is caring for the clothing of the children in verse 31:21. She is involved in instruction of her children in verse 31:26. In verse 27 she is on top of everything going on with her household, and as a result “her children rise up and bless her” (31:28). **A full-time mother working outside the home cannot give the energy and attention to her children as described in Proverbs 31.** At best she must scramble to make up for lost time, and will be in a position of having to make many compromises because of her divided attention and personal exhaustion.
- In many if not most cases the children are placed with daycare workers who spend prime time with the children. This is obviously **not equal to the influence, love, or commitment of the mother.**
- Finally, the energy, emphasis, time, and dynamics of a wife **working outside the home can place a great strain on the relationship between a husband and wife.** As her focus is to be on her husband this is virtually impossible in most working outside settings.





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❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

**Considerations:**

- The honest question that must be answered is, **can the wife maintain the headship of the husband in the home, an appropriate focus on her relationship with him, keep the home properly functioning & maintained, and foster proper care of children with the obligation of working outside the home?** The maintaining of order in the home, rearing children, and allegiance to the husband is Scriptures first priority. To neglect these priorities is neglecting God's clearly established pattern. Just as it is impossible to serve God and mammon, work can become an adversary for the home. This can dishonor God.
- Even though there is no direct command specifically not to work outside the home, **there is an issue of focus, priorities of responsibility, and Godly design.**
- Interestingly, many wives and mothers who have once worked outside the home **have found they can live economically working at home** just on their husbands income as well, almost as well, or in some cases better than with two salaries. This is because with the value of the second salary must also be deducted all the accompanying additional expenses (transportation, clothing, hair

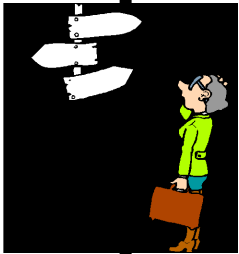
## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

#### Considerations continued:

care, daycare, and extra taxes). **Also, the family must trust God – is God able to meet the families needs?**

- Many circumstances play a role in all of the decisions about the correctness of a wife working: severe economic problems, health issues, the degree of home responsibilities, whether children are present and their ages, the strength of the marriage relationship, and the attitude of the husband who is head of the home.
  - For example, there can be: illness of the husband, disability that causes the husband to be unable to work, extreme family hardship, and of course separation in a marriage will likely cause the wife to work out of necessity. **These are matters of necessity, not choice.** All options should be carefully considered.
  - In new marriages, young couples often both work because the home may be a simple apartment that requires little attention, there are no children yet, and starter jobs are normally lower paying. Both working seems reasonable, but even in this there are stresses on the marriage as described above. These matters should be addressed by the couple and discussed





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❑ Should Wives and Mothers work outside the Home?

**Considerations continued:**

candidly. Recognizing that these may place stress on the marriage, and being on guard for them can help the couple react by changing course when problems are identified.

- In a family where God has not provided children, or where an older couple has grown children, the husband may agree to the wife working outside the home. This should only be considered where the wife's home focus, marriage relationship, and home responsibilities as the higher priority are maintained in some agreed manner where they do not become a factor.

**Conclusion:** The Bible doesn't directly address or state that a wife should never be employed outside the home. However, the Bible places a priority on the woman's responsibility of focus on the marriage relationship as a helper, as a homemaker, under the one headship of the husband, and the high calling of rearing the children. It is difficult to justify how these top priorities cannot be negatively impacted when the wife is employed outside the home. The families making these difficult decisions should carefully consider, and of course seek first of all to honor the Lord.





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Questions or  
Comments!



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

**The society that we live in (21st century America) has wandered far from the path of Biblical understanding, and this has taken its toll on how children are raised. Children are considered a burden by many, and therefore scores of married couples are purposely not having children. Such attitudes prevailing in this way also affect those families that do have children. There are also many children being reared in a one parent home, or in some cases a home with two mom's or two dad's. Those that are being reared in traditional homes, that is with a mother and father, are in most cases in a home where both parents are working, and children are thereby receiving less attention from their parents. Most children attend public schools, where the curriculum is based in secular humanism. Many false ideas are taught as fact, the focus is contrary to God, there are continuous assaults on truth, behavior is vain, and Christian philosophy is not present except generally to be ridiculed.**



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

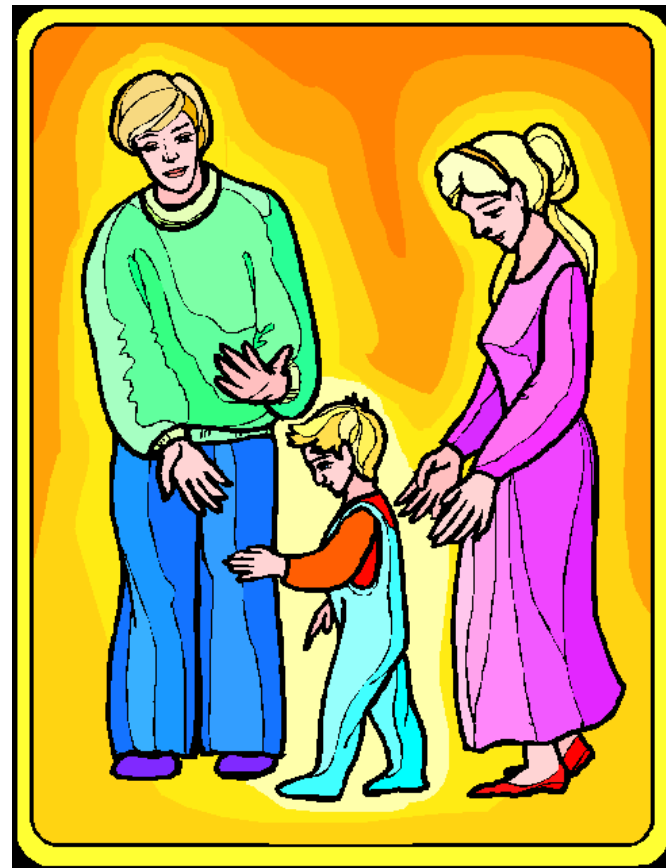
### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

**Temptations and worldly allurements are everywhere. To add further chaos to the environment is the sophistication of the modern internet with unlimited amounts of information, including the deepest conceivable degrees of wickedness. Cell phones and high end mobile devices make it easy for youth to be constantly interconnected with each other, and other media of distracting influence. Most youth receive much of their philosophy for living from the television and movies which are pumping out heathenism. Peer pressure acceptance, sports, and political correctness rule the world of our youth. Climate change (a false conception taught as fact) has taken the place of organized religion for most, and is taught as the greatest concern facing the world. Most churches that could have influence on youth have watered their messages, brought in the world's music to the church to entertain, and provide such a poor testimony they do more harm than good. The concept of people as products of evolution has brought about an animalistic mindset of non-accountability. Children are not understood to be sinners, in need of correction / discipline, and ultimately a work of God in the heart, but instead are creatures that require more education and self-esteem. In all these things and more we can see that the challenge**

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

- What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

for parents rearing their children in such an environment is indeed high, if not off-the-chart. However, what is righteously needed is a commitment to the Word of God, to do what it says, not mixing the world's child rearing philosophies with it, but wholly leaning on the wisdom of God, trusting His commands and Word. It is the Word of God that is alive and powerful, and dedication to following it in the enormously important matter of child rearing is the essential difference.

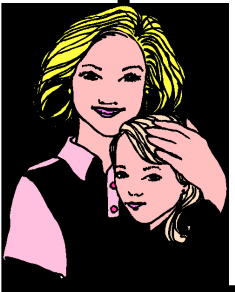


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### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

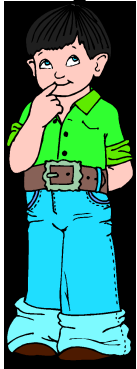
#### The value of children (Ps 127:3-5; 139:13-16):

- The context of this Psalm is dependence on God for the building and protection of the home (Ps 127:1-3). The home would not be adequately complete without the addition of children. The Psalmist makes it emphatic that children are not mechanically born, they are a gift of the Lord. There are many passages, and situations within Scripture (1 Sam 1) when Hannah so desperately wanted a child, or Sarah (Gen 16) as examples, showing the absolute dependence on God to bless by providing children. It is not merely the mechanics, but God that alone can create a new life. The preciousness of children is then here defined by God in this “gift.” There is no greater gift, outside of salvation, than a child.
- The idea of “reward” is they should be seen as special from God Himself, and a blessing to those who have invested themselves in confidence in God for the building of their home (Ps 127:1-2). The children God gives should be considered a blessing with which he rewards or favors his people. This concept is again repeated in the history of the lives of God’s own beginning with Adam and Eve, and even leading up to the birth of the greatest gift – the Lord



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### □ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?



**The value of children (Ps 127:3-5; 139:13-16) ...continued.**

Jesus. This means to abuse or neglect God's gift (a child) is considered at the top of the chart of evil and hideous activity. The most grievous sins listed in the Word of God are sacrifices of children (**Lev 20:2; Jer 19:5; Ez 16:20-21**).

- **“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth” (Ps 127:4).** This depicts a time when men had to physically defend themselves from immediate enemies. Having a home full of strong sons, as Jacob (**Gen 35:5**), was a benefit and blessing. They were his special strength in the same way as a man with an arsenal (arrows). Although there is not the threat of immediate physical battles today, the blessing of the closeness of children, their support, strength, help, and encouragement is of the greatest magnitude of blessing in this life. That is why it is stated **“blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.”**
- It should be noted that in Scripture, one of the marks of severest judgment of God was always associated with offspring (**Ps 21:10; Is 14:20; Ex 34:7**). This means there should be no more significant matter in this life than the development and well-being of our children. As our most valuable asset – nothing else compares.



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

**The value of children (Ps 127:3-5; 139:13-16) ...continued.**

- Children are also seen in Scripture (because of their importance) as a source of great grief. They can be the source of the greatest joy (Ps 113:9; Prov 23:24), or the greatest heartache (Prov 17:25; 10:1; 19:13). What makes the difference (3 John 4; Prov 23:15-19) between being a grief or being a blessing is the work of God in the heart of the children. This is why there is so much in Scripture concerning the rearing of children for the glory of God.
- **Ps 139:13-16** teaches us that God takes particular care in the physical development of every baby. This knowledge should drive God's parents to cherish what God has so meticulously made and provided as a gift. It should further serve as an admonition – for if God spent such elaborate energy designing each person, then should not parents as stewards of God's great gift take exorbitant care over the development of the same child!



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

#### The nature of children.

- A very important aspect associated with child training is to understand what we are dealing with, or who our children are! If this is not understood, and believed so that our actions toward them do not take their reality into account, then our rearing will be faulty.



- All children are sinners (**Ps 51:5**). This Psalm teaches us that sin in any child is inbred in them from the moment of conception. We all sin because we are sinners by nature. It is passed on from our parents, and begun with Adam & Eve. The cute baby is a sinner.



- **“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child” (Prov 22:15).** The foolishness here is not mere silliness, it is as a result of the child’s fouled spirit in sin. The clarity for this is found in **Prov 19:3**, this is the same word in Hebrew. In this passage it cannot mean silliness for the child’s way is ruined –sin has foiled his direction, but more **“his heart rages against the Lord.”** The same concept is in **Prov 22:15** – it is the same as saying the heart of the child rages against the Lord. Secondly, it is **“bound”** – means fastened within the heart.



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

#### The nature of children...continued.

The heart is that intangible us, that addresses who we are. **Gen 8:21** says that the “**intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.**” That cute little baby we love is a little sinner. Every person fits under the realm of sin discussed in **Roman’s 3**. Babies don’t enter the world on neutral ground, all are totally depraved – sinners by nature in rebellion against God, and wanting to be our own god. Understanding the condition, and natural proclivity of the child to be disobedient, selfish, do wrong is the key to understanding how each child must be trained, and disciplined.

- As all are sinners by nature, a child cannot be allowed to grow up the way he would naturally go. The way he will naturally go is always toward evil (**Gen 8:21**). This is what is meant in the later part of **Prov 29:15** “**a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.**” A mother to any child is the most forgiving, and overlooking of all people, but even with her a child who is not driven away from sin brings shame.



## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

#### The nature of children...continued.

- Sin is so severe, and so debilitating the baby cannot change his fundamental preference for sin and self to do what is right, nor have a desire to such a change. The curse of which all are under has so ruined them that even though they have a will, with a body, soul, & spirit, made in the image of God to rule, and have creativity; and they are moral beings with reasoning, and have been given a conscience, they are none-the-less by nature all the things the Bible describes concerning them (lovers of darkness, truth suppressors, enemies of God, unrighteous, full of deception and lies, etc...).
- They are also in an environment of growing that is equally under the curse where their experience, motivation, and education are all tainted by a mixture of good and evil. They are also constantly tempted, and held captive by the temptation. They are to a degree held from complete ruin by the common grace of God (**Gen 20:6; 2 Thess 2:7; Rom 1:18-28**). In these conditions they begin making their journey which is made up of life's decisions. These decisions as a baby begin



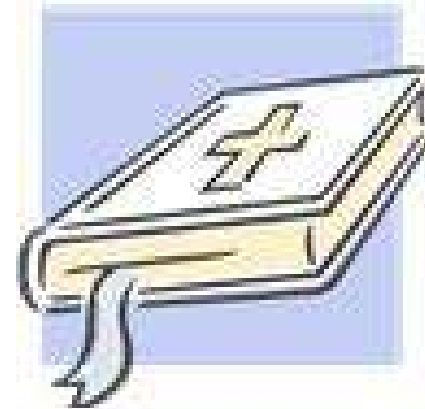
## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

### ❑ What is the responsibility of parents to their children?

#### **The nature of children...continued.**

with the most rudimentary things, crying for attention, making messes, and they continue graduating into wanting things that are dangerous, or things belonging to others, and having temper tantrums. This behavior left to flourish on its own grows worse as the child grows into adolescence and beyond.

- It is essential the parent understand the nature of their children. That beautiful, cute little baby, could grow up to be a serial killer (some do), or a thief, a pervert, or merely a vile person characterized by wicked behavior. The question is – what makes the difference, and the answer is found in the Word of God.





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Questions or  
Comments!