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About All Glorious Within

All Glorious Within is a publication for Christian young ladies that began in January 2006. It is compiled, edited, and published three times per year by Karissa Hiebert. Co-editors are Abe and Bernice Hiebert, who approve and improve each issue, giving many suggestions and much valued advice.

We welcome new subscribers! If you have friends or relatives that might be interested in receiving All Glorious Within, you may request brochures or sample issues for them.

All Glorious Within is non-profit; subscription rates are minimal just to help cover costs of postage and copying. Free brochures available upon request. Gift certificates also available.

Our Mission

Our goal is to provide conservative, wholesome reading material to inspire girls in their Christian walk, with an endeavor to maintain the centrality of Jesus Christ. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know personally about them. Suggestions are appreciated!

If you come across anything in All Glorious Within that is unbiblical, opinionated, or does not pass the tests of Philippians 4:8 and Colossians 2:8, please let us know about it. (Note that we do not necessarily endorse every word of each article.)

This issue of this publication has been approved by the co-editors, my parents (Abe and Bernice Hiebert).

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Submissions

We gladly welcome submissions . . . please send articles, poetry, testimonies, reviews, and other such contributions! We do not publish advertisements.

All submissions must be approved by the co-editors (editor’s parents), and we ask that everything submitted be honoring to the Lord, based on the Word of God, and corresponding to Philippians 4:8. Please include information such as titles, authors, and publishers’ information, where applicable. Thank you.

Back Issues Available

To help cover costs of printing and postage, please include a small donation with your order if possible. Thank you! Note – some issues may not be available.

Christian Chronicle (previous publication, 3 column format):
Volume 2, Issue 3: Infatuation vs. Integrity
Volume 2, Issue 4: Home Life
Volume 2, Issue 5: Humility

All Glorious Within
Volume 1, Issue 1: Speech
MAGAZINE FORMAT:

All Glorious Within
Volume 1, Issue 2: Hospitality, Thriftiness, Creativity
Volume 1, Issue 3: Boldness, Enthusiasm, Initiative
Volume 1, Issue 4: Sensitivity, Sincerity
Volume 2, Issue 1: Discretion, Discernment
Volume 2, Issue 2: Reverence, Deference, Tolerance
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Volume 4, Issue 2: Determination, Purpose, Courage
Volume 5, Issue 1: Gratefulness, Appreciation
Volume 5, Issue 2: His Strength
Volume 5, Issue 3: Trials, Afflictions (Special Issue)
Volume 6, Issue 1: Compassion, Care, Mercy

Submission Deadline for Next Issue:
November 17, 2011

For contact information, please see inside cover. For subscription rates, please see back cover (page 28).
Features

From "Submission" by William Cowper

Why would I shrink
at Thy command,
Whose love
forbids my fears?
Or tremble at
the gracious hand
That wipes away my tears?

No, rather
let me freely yield
What most I prize to Thee;
Who never hast
a good withheld,
Or wilt withhold,
from me.

Why Should I Be Under Authority?
Understanding the Purpose for Parents
(Abigail Burnett & Lisa Bode)

Excerpt from: Abiding in the Lord
(Sharon Leskowat, with Lisa Bode)

Dad’s Thoughts (Abe Hiebert)

Our Parents’ Joy and Other Excerpts
from The Family Daughter (Sarah Bryant)

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at Thy command,
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Subscriptions, Next Issue’s Theme, Etc.

~ Definitions ~
from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

Submission
“The act of submitting; the act of yielding to power or authority; surrender of the person and power to the control or government of another.”

“Obedience; compliance with the commands or laws of a superior. Submission of children to their parents is an indispensable duty.”

“Resignation; a yielding of one’s will to the will or appointment of a superior without murmuring. Entire and cheerful submission to the will of God is a Christian duty of prime excellence.”

[Submit]: “To be submissive; to yield without murmuring.”

Honor
“To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission, and perform relative duties to.”

“The esteem due or paid to worth; high estimation.”

Respect
“To view or consider with some degree of reverence; to esteem as possessed of real worth.”

“That deportment or course of action which proceeds from esteem; regard; due attention; as, to treat a person with respect.”
Greetings in the name of our King and welcome to the 19th issue of All Glorious Within! May this issue bless you and inspire you as you seek to honor the Lord in your life.

This issue’s theme is essentially all about relationships. Our relationship with God, with our parents, with our siblings, with our friends, with brothers and sisters in Christ, with strangers, with brothers and sisters in Christ, with strangers, with all others will be greatly determined by whether our hearts are in true submission, whether our life is one of honor and one that honors, how much we respect others, and also how much humility and how much of a servant’s heart we have.

One verse that really stood out to me as I compiled this issue was Genesis 16:9 – “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.” This is talking about Hagar and Sarai. In verse 6, we read that “Sarai dealt hardly with her” or 'afflicted her,' and Hagar fled. In verse 9 the angel of the Lord tells Hagar to return to Sarai, the very one that is afflicting her. She is told to submit herself to Sarai. But it’s not some harsh command given to Hagar; there are blessings with it. Continuing on in the chapter, we see that God had not forgotten Hagar and was going to bless her through her future generations. Hagar did return to Sarai.

What about us? How often do we excuse the need for submission in our lives? If there was anyone who would have been able to justify not submitting to her authority, it was Hagar. She was treated very unfairly. The very reason she was dealt with so 'hardly' was Sarai’s own fault in the first place, when Sarai stepped out of the will of God and tried to make God’s promise come about in her own way and timing, not trusting and believing. Sarai was turning on Hagar for something that was all her fault; Hagar didn’t deserve any of that unfair treatment. Why did God want her to go back? Wasn’t it perfectly justifiable for Hagar to flee?

We don’t know what all God’s purposes were in Hagar’s life through everything; they may have been multi-faceted. We don’t know what trials she faced back under the rule of her mistress, until we get a little later on in the story when she and Ishmael are sent away. But the important thing here is that Hagar submitted without question, without murmur, without bitterness, without complaint.

If Hagar could do that, in the midst of unjust and miserable circumstances, how much more can we submit ourselves with a joyful heart in everything? To God, to our parents, to others in authority over us, to others in the body of Christ, even to those younger than we? May the Lord grant us a joyful heart of submission!

♥ ~ Karissa

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”
Romans 12:10

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
Philippians 2:3

“Honor is to place high value, worth, and importance on another.”
~ from Paul Lloyd’s message (see p. 22) ~
Why Should I Be Under Authority?  
Understanding the Purpose for Parents

Lisa:

If you were to describe your relationship with your parents, what would you say?

I think many of us would have to say that it isn’t what the Lord wants it to be. He never intended our relationship with our parents to be a major source of frustration, conflict, or strain. Yet so often, that’s what it becomes, and our failure in this one area keeps us from happiness, from success, from maintaining a close relationship with the Lord.

Whether or not I am under authority will impact every area of my life. It makes a world of difference.

Being under authority is one of the most important topics we could ever address – and also one of the most difficult. This article has been a tough one for me to write. I am far from perfect in this area, so please do not feel defensive or think I am a self-righteous snob here to lecture you into submission☺. I simply need to share with you what the Lord has taught me – and what I am still learning.

* * *

I think every little girl thinks at one time that her parents are perfect – her daddy is the strongest man on earth and her mommy by far the most beautiful. Then she grows up a little more and realizes that parents aren’t perfect. They make good decisions, and they also make mistakes. They have wonderful strengths, and they also have weaknesses.

When I grew up enough to realize this, I decided I was just as good as Mom and Dad were, old enough to rule my own life, and no longer needed their direction. The result of this kind of thinking was, of course, conflict. My mom and dad didn’t take a hands-off approach to my life (and I’m now glad they didn’t!), and they frequently made decisions I didn’t agree with.

Then I would argue about it. And after arguing there would be a strained uncomfortable kind of silence because everyone knew I still didn’t agree. From my perspective I was 100% right and Mom and Dad were 100% wrong. I would magnify and criticize their weaknesses and never stop to show gratefulness for their strengths.

At the same time, as a new Christian, I wanted to grow closer to God and to do what I thought was His will. I wanted ministry opportunities and ways to glorify Him in my life. But that didn't happen. Instead my life was being eaten up in frustration and rebellion. I put myself through miserable days and continual strain because I refused to be under authority. Rather than experiencing any kind of freedom, I felt like I was constantly in chains.

I did not understand how God works. I never stopped to ask myself, “Why did God give me parents, anyway? Is this situation really what He intended?” I thought God worked independent of authority, showing me His will and then requiring me to convince them and rebel against them if they didn’t agree.
But that system wasn’t working. In getting out from under my parents’ authority, I’d gotten out from under God’s authority. God in His mercy gave me several sledge-hammer-like hints until I realized the sad results of my bad decisions and how far off track I’d become. He gave me a new perspective. He showed me how He really works. He healed my relationship with my parents.

Perhaps you are right now in the same place I was. I pray that the Lord will use this article to bring you back under authority and into the sweetness of living life His way.

* * *

Abigail:

Growing up I was a pretty good kid. By nature I was a “people pleaser”, so I always tried to do what my parents wanted. I wanted them to be proud of me and pleased that they had such a good daughter.

When I reached the age of sixteen, though, I decided I had had enough of being “Miss Goody Two Shoes”. I loved being noticed and at my youth group at church it seemed only the “bad” kids got the attention. The youth sponsors seemed to be more interested in reaching out to them, talking with them, joking with them, getting together with them.

(I am not putting down the importance of reaching out to those with broken homes and lives. This is a vital ministry, but at the same time it is important not to forget that even people who look like they have perfect lives still need help. They still want to be noticed and listened to.)

I got the very clear message that in order to be noticed, I would have to rebel and become a trouble kid. For the next little while, life was pretty miserable. My mom and dad were deeply hurt and confused at the sudden change in me. I was full of guilt for going in a direction I knew was wrong. When mom and I would argue, it made me feel even worse. I really did love my family and I didn’t want to hurt them, but I wanted to be accepted and noticed by my peers.

I felt frustrated and trapped, because I was trying to fulfill basic God-given desires in a way God never intended me to. The Lord was gracious to me during that time, and I am eternally grateful to Him for opening my eyes to the foolishness of what I was choosing, before I really did something bad that could have harmed me for life.

There are a lot of voices out there we can choose to listen to, both good and bad. We have to decide now who we’re going to listen to, who we’re going to follow and obey. God and our parents are the authorities we must follow in our lives.

Are we listening to the right authorities in our lives? It is possible for us to make our teachers, youth pastors, or friends the authority we listen to. There are times when God does speak to us through people like these. But if we don’t listen to our parents, and accept their final leadership, these other influences might be a bad influence. We need to take what other people have told us back to our parents, and ask them to help us evaluate the wisdom or folly in others’ advice.

We must know whose authority we are under. Is it a good and proper authority? Is it a Godly authority? Do these other influences in my life encourage me to obey God and my parents, or do they tell me to do what I want?

* * *

For contact information, please see inside cover. For subscription rates, please see back cover (page 28).
Lisa:

The first step toward getting back under authority came in the form of questions like these: Do I trust God’s character (Heb. 11:11)? Do I believe that He is sovereign and in ultimate authority over every person and every circumstance in my life (Rom. 13:1)? Do I believe He loves me and works everything for my good (Rom. 8:28)? Do I believe He has a plan for my life far superior to my own (Isaiah 55:8-9)?

As I answered “yes” to each of these questions, I realized something. My parents did not choose me and I did not choose my parents. God gave me to them and them to me. He didn’t flip a coin or draw a name out of a hat. He has a purpose! Rejecting my parents’ authority is the equivalent of throwing God’s gift back in His face.

The next question then was, Why did God give me my parents?

“The king’s [or Mom’s or Dad’s or any authority’s] heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” – Prov. 21:1. My parents are God’s tools, like a hammer and chisel He holds in His hands to make me into His jewel. This is why He gave my parents to me, not to hurt me but to help me.

God works through my parents (not despite my parents) to:

1. **Sharpen/correct me.** God sees weaknesses in my character, and rather than coming to me in Person and correcting me, He often speaks to me through Mom and Dad. But too often, instead of seeing a loving God at work through them, I just see them. I see things they may misunderstand, situations they may not be aware of, traits that may irritate me, and I become defensive and upset. Instead I should rejoice that God is at work and listen to them.

2. **Teach/prepare me.** The Lord knows what I need to learn – both practically and spiritually – to prepare for the future, and He gives my parents ideas like, “Lisa, you should learn how to type fast.” (Now when would I ever use that skill 😊?) I am only able to learn, however, when I have a teachable spirit.

3. **Provide for me.** God gave me parents to make sure I would have food, shelter, clothing – basic necessities and multiple blessings.

4. **Protect me.** Being under my parents’ authority gives me not only physical protection, but also emotional and spiritual protection. When I obey their rules – even those rules I don’t like – the Lord supernaturally protects me. When I step out from under authority, even though I think I have a justifiable reason, I get out from under that protection and temptations overwhelm me.

5. **Direct me.** God does not leave me groping around in life on my own, desperately trying to figure out what to do, and I am sure glad! He’s given me an incredibly easy way to answer the question, “Is this God’s will?”, and that is, “What does Dad think?” To be perfectly honest, his opinion sometimes seems very strange or surprising. But to this day I have looked back on every single decision Dad’s made for me and thought, “God really did work through that!”

Perhaps you are thinking, But my parents aren’t perfect! Of course they’re not! [Dad’s note: neither are Lisa’s!] But does that mean that God cannot control them and work through their mistakes? The Lord has blessed me with wonderful Christian parents. But I
know that no matter who your parents are, the Lord is able to use them for good in your life when you are under their authority.

* * *

**Abigail:**

There was once a wealthy merchant whose prize possession was a beautiful Arabian stallion. The merchant was afraid someone might harm or steal his precious stallion. So he carefully chose from among his many workers and assigned two of his most trusted and skilled groomsmen to watch over and care for his treasure. They brushed his coat until it shone, oiled and cleaned his hooves, and fed him the best food. Even with the stallion in good hands, the merchant never failed to keep an eye on it.

I'm not sure what got into that stallion's head, but one afternoon when he was let out to run in the meadow, he took off like a lightning bolt across the field, over the fence, and into the great world beyond. The trusted groomsmen did their best to chase after him, but to no avail.

The merchant was extremely sad – not at the financial loss – but that his beloved stallion had so little love for his master and would run off like that after everything his master had done for him. The merchant mourned for days, continually looking out the window, searching the fields, hoping the stallion would come back.

The stallion had a great time kicking up his heels, going wherever he wanted, wading in rivers, rolling in mud, eating his fill of grass and clovers. For three days he kept on the move, wandering farther and farther from his home.

On the fourth day he came to a rocky road. A large stone caught in his right front hoof. He rolled on the grass beside the road and kicked his legs, trying to lose it, but it wouldn't come out. He had no choice but to limp along, and every step hurt. His beautiful glossy coat was no longer lovely, but covered in mud and bits of grass. His mane and tail were tangled.

The next day he was caught by a mean and greedy man and put to work like a common workhorse. He was fed terrible food. The man never bothered to brush and comb him, nor did he even care to remove the stone from the poor stallion's hoof. The stallion began to dream of getting back home and wondered why he had ever run away.

Finally the day came when the man failed to lock the barn door and the stallion was able to escape. He moved off as quietly and quickly as his poor leg would let him and began to walk towards home. It took him twice as long to get back as it had to run away. Not only did his leg hurt, but also his whole body from the bruises and beatings he had received while slaving for the evil man.

The merchant saw him slowly making his way up the lane. Racing out the front door, he ran to him and threw his arms around his neck. He sent for the two trusted groomsmen and placed him back in their hands. He gave careful instructions for how to care for him. They were to be as gentle as possible in putting salve on the bruises and removing the stone. It would hurt the stallion, but in the end it would make him much better.

Soon the stallion had recovered the weight he had lost. His coat shone, and his mane and tail were brushed and braided. He was still a bit stiff, and he did have a limp, but his bruises and sores were healing. He never ran away again. From experience he had learned that being under authority is the best way to live.
This fictional story has important truths in it. God is our Master, and He has given us parents to carefully raise us up in the ways He would have us go. It is dangerous to get out from under their protective authority.

The evil man waiting to capture the stallion is like Satan waiting to ensnare us when we rebel and run our own way. If we reject God’s way, there is only one other way to go—Satan’s.

For awhile being out from under authority might feel great, like it did for the stallion. He thought he finally had found what freedom was all about—doing whatever you want whenever you want. But before long he paid the price for his foolishness and walked with a slight limp for the rest of his life. All his pain and suffering could have been prevented. If only he hadn’t taken his eyes off his master, he wouldn’t have begun to desire what he shouldn’t have.

For each of us God has a specific, unique, and special plan in mind. His plan for me is different than His plan for you. Am I—are you—willing to trust Him to reveal His plan through our parents?

Lisa:

God has intended my parents to be a gift to benefit my life and a tool to perfect my character. He wants me to benefit from our relationship by obeying Biblical commands such as the following:

1. **Obey them** (Heb. 13:17). Many times I have been out from under authority while deceiving myself into thinking I’m obeying my parents. How? I would connive a way to obey the *letter* of what they told me while completely going against the *spirit* of what they wanted. That isn’t obedience. Being under authority isn’t based in my actions—it’s based in my *attitude*. Quiet rebellion with an obedient exterior may deceive my parents, but it will ruin my life. An obedient attitude is one that discerns my parents’ true desires and cheerfully obeys or respectfully appeals.

2. **Thank them** (Col. 3:12-15). Gratefulness goes a long way in healing a broken relationship and maintaining a good one. It means noticing the good in my parents and thanking them for it, instead of complaining when they fail to meet my expectations.

3. **Pray for them** (1 Tim. 2:1-3). I don’t have to worry and argue and cry and rebel when my parents do things I don’t like or understand. It is God I am dealing with, through my parents. My first response to any difficulty in our relationship should be prayer, a direct appeal to the One who controls and works through my parents for my good. Beyond this, I should daily pray for my parents’ physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

4. **Be open with them** (Luke 8:17). Hiding things from my parents is a signal that I’m not under their authority. Secrecy strains a relationship like almost nothing else. The Word says that my hidden secrets will one day be revealed.
5. **Honor them (Eph. 6:1-3).** Honoring my parents is an essential attitude that will reveal itself in my actions. Do I show respect when I talk to them? Do I honor their desires? Am I concerned about their feelings? Do I build them up when I talk to others about them?

6. **Listen to them (Prov. 12:15).** Very basic, very important, and also – very hard to remember (for me at least ☺).

7. **Resolve conflicts with them.** Two practical tips I have found to work very well in getting over inevitable bumps in the road: 1 – focus on what I did wrong and ask forgiveness; 2 – wait to resolve differences and discuss misunderstandings until I’m no longer angry and have had time to pray.

8. **Support them (Eph. 4:1-3).** Supporting my parents goes beyond obeying and honoring – it means being a team with them. I need to be helping my parents reach their goals, encouraging them, enjoying their company, getting to know them as people. I need to be a daughter they can not only trust and rely on, but also confide in and appreciate.

The Lord will hold me accountable for my response to my parents. I am not responsible for what they do and don’t do, but for what I do and don’t do. These are Biblical commands I must obey in order to be happy and blessed.

* * *

**Abigail:**

One day my sisters and I helped our dad carry firewood from the front yard to the back. I filled my wheelbarrow with wood as full as I thought I could handle and set off across the yard. At first it felt fine and I was sure I could do it. Then it began to feel heavier and I noticed how far I actually had to push the crazy thing!

Honoring my parents is an essential attitude that will reveal itself in my actions.

On my second trip across the yard, my dad filled his own wheelbarrow with wood and we walked side by side. Amazingly, his very presence made the job easier for me to handle. Suddenly I didn’t notice the weight of my own wheelbarrow or the distance we had to go. Teamwork, going in the same direction with a common goal, made a big difference. We were both pushing together, and seeing the bigger load my dad had to push made me realize I was barely doing anything.

It’s like that with family. I can be going in the direction my parents want me to, wearing the clothes they think are appropriate, doing the school program of their choice, etc. But if my heart isn’t in it, if my actions are just actions and have nothing to do with my attitude, I am not fully under their authority.

Sometimes it’s just plain tough believing our parents really know what’s best for us. They’re human after all, and humans do make mistakes. But God never makes mistakes. He knows every day of my life and just exactly what is going to happen. Before the world was created He had my entire life plan marked out. The closer we grow to the Lord, the easier it is to trust Him to work through our parents – to even work through the mistakes they may make.

Do I want real peace in my life? Do you want real peace? Then together we need to learn to do as the song says, “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way, to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.”

* * *

**Lisa:**

Staying under authority yields huge rewards. Let me share with you a few I personally have experienced:

1. **Greater faith in God.** It’s no longer me trying to persuade my parents a certain way – it’s me trusting God to guide me through their decisions.
2. **Certainty I’m in God’s will.** When God gives me a vision and confirms it through His Word and my parents, I know with unshakable confidence that I am doing the right thing.

3. **Deliverance from wrong paths.** I’ve wanted to do things and go places I later realized wouldn’t have been God’s will for me – and He kept me from it through my parents.

4. **Protection from evil.** God warns me through my parents’ cautions and uses their rules to keep me out of trouble.

5. **A peaceful home.** Having a good relationship with my parents makes home life a lot more fun!

6. **Lasting friendship.** My parents and I have fun together! We enjoy each other’s company and encourage each other spiritually.

7. **Countless other blessings!** Blessings I want you to be able to experience as well. ♥

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**Excerpt from:**

**Abiding in the Lord**

By Sharon Leskowat, with Lisa Bode

**When abiding is interrupted**

. . . Check if you are honoring [y]our parents and others in authority. The Lord says that through obedience and honor of our parents, it will be well with us (Ephesians 6:1-3). In my heart, as well as in my actions, am I cheerfully obedient to even hints of their wishes? Do I pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-2)? Am I harboring a grudge of bitterness against their decisions or discipline or direction? Am I looking for ways to honor and encourage them, in little things as well as in big things? Do I have a grateful and loyal spirit toward my family? ♥

For the full text of this article, please visit http://thekingsdaughtermag.com/v6n6.htm#article1

parents' advice. Tragic, and yet the Bible never promises blessings for disobedience. I have two 20+ yr. old children living in my home and what a blessing they are as they show complete submission to their parents. It is a joy which is unspeakable.

If you are reading this issue and considering leaving against your parents’ wishes, can I give you a little advice: DON’T DO IT. YOU WILL PAY A PRICE. Maybe not in 1 or 2 or 5 years, but the consequences will come. Be wise, obey the Scriptures, and you will be a blessing and be blessed. ♥

God bless you all,

*Abe Hiebert*
Following are portions from Sarah Bryant’s book for young ladies, *The Family Daughter: Becoming Pillars of Strength in our Father’s House*. These excerpts have been reprinted with permission. Please see the information at the end of the excerpts to find out more about the book and how to order it.

Excerpts from Chapter 2, *In My Father’s House*:

The most important aspect of honoring our father is that we have committed our hearts to his keeping, and are resting in his protection. This can be difficult to do, so if we are not joyful in the authority of our father, we must seek the Lord for a change of heart: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts” (Psalm 139:23). Are we resting in the decisions our dad makes? Are we joyfully supporting his wishes in all areas? Sister, it is very important we learn this lesson now, because we will face it throughout life. We will continually have to learn to more joyfully submit to the authority God has ordained over us, whether it be our father now, or our husband in future marriage. Do not be discouraged if this is a struggle for you. I encourage you to start by honoring your father today – while you are young. I know at times it can be difficult to accept the decisions our fathers make; many girls have told me, “I don’t understand why he made that choice!” We do not have to know the reasons behind the decisions our parents make. Our role is to trust them with these areas. These responsibilities weigh more heavily on their shoulders than we understand, and if we do not support them, we will add to their burden.

. . . The attitude we show toward our father is incredibly important. Do we show our father love, care, concern, and respect? . . . How we choose to use our influence as daughters has great consequences – it can impact the very Kingdom of God. Never think your attitude is of little importance or the way you treat your father does not matter.

Excerpts from Chapter 3, *Our Parents’ Joy*:

We are commanded to honor the position our parents have been given by God. It is important that we notice this command is not hinged upon what kind of parents we have – “If your dad and mom are nice, or if they are godly, then you should honor them.” It is a command. Some girls have said, “But you don’t know my dad [or mom]. He is so insensitive and does not understand my feelings. He doesn’t know how to relate to me! I do not feel honor toward him.” Our feelings or opinions do not have a vote. If a daughter is struggling to show her father or mother honor which she does not feel, she needs to make the choice to honor them anyway. I would challenge her to set a goal to show honor in their strained relationship for a week – to go out of her way to show her father and mother appreciation, to talk with them, to thank them, to do whatever she can to honor them – and see the change her honor made in their relationship. This honor should be shown all the time. Our repentance of heart is a key – we cannot wait for our parents to come to us to heal a strained relationship if we are not ready to go to them in repentance, ready to
honor them just as they are. Every daughter must make the choice to honor her parents, though she clearly sees their faults. Parents are not perfect, just as no daughter is perfect. We need to learn to be graceful toward their weaknesses, and instead of criticizing them for these areas, pray for them and focus on their strengths.

. . . God-honoring love chooses to honor, regardless of circumstances, faults, or feelings. . . True, Christ-like, selfless love gives – not takes.

Honor means “to revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission.” When we show respect for our parents, we please God.

The attitude we have toward our parents is very important. Our honor should be such that we always respect them – especially when their backs are turned. “Let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God” (I Timothy 5:4). God sees our heart even if our parents do not, and this also sets an example for our siblings, who watch us closely. . . . We may not realize how much the way we regard our parents affects our siblings’ attitudes as well. . . .

When we speak of our parents, our tone of voice and words communicate a lot about our attitude toward them. Praise your mom and dad. Also, do not interrupt them when they are talking to someone, and be careful not to correct them during their conversations unless it is very important. No matter how well-intentioned, this can be disrespectful, and 1 Peter 5:5 commands the younger to “submit yourselves unto the elder...and be clothed with humility.”

Prayer is a wonderful way to support and bless our parents. . . . Another way to display honor is by accepting our parents’ correction and advice. . . .

. . . I have learned that showing my parents honor goes farther than just obeying their “commands” – it is also respecting their wishes and intent. We probably know what our parents’ preferences are, so we must not only obey their requests, but also honor their preferences and desire.

\[^1\]Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828
\[^2\]Proverbs 23:25

Sarah L. Bryant is eighteen and the oldest daughter in her family of eight. Her desire is to encourage young ladies to embrace their role as daughters. She is editor of The King’s Blooming Rose, a magazine for girls which she has published for over five years. (From the back cover)

Review from http://book.kingsbloomingrose.com/the familydaughter.html:

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And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. “Genesis 16:9

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12

“Ye shall fear every man his mother, and father…” Leviticus 19:3

“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:32

“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Deuteronomy 5:16

“. . . them that honour Me I will honour, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.” 1 Samuel 2:30

“Sing forth the honour of His name: make His praise glorious.” Psalm 66:2

“Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise and with Thy honour all the day.” Psalm 71:8

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.” Psalm 89:7

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.” Proverbs 3:1-2

“Honour the Lord with thy substance…” Proverbs 3:9

“A gracious woman retaineth honour…” Proverbs 11:16

“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.” Proverbs 15:5

“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.” Proverbs 15:20

“Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice. My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” Proverbs 23:22-26

“A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.” Proverbs 29:23

“There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.” Proverbs 30:11

“The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.” Proverbs 30:17

“Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.” Proverbs 31:25

“For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.” Matthew 15:4

“And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” Matthew 26:39

“That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him.” John 5:23
“. . . I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me.”  John 5:30

“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”  John 5:44

“Jesus answered . . . I honour My Father, and ye do dishonour Me.”  John 8:49

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”  Romans 12:10

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For as many are under the yoke, let them be subjected: for to whom God gave the yoke to bear, to him give they the cause of the yoke; and render to him that laboureth in the word and doctrine, double honour. Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.”  I Timothy 6:1-2

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and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17

“Submit yourselves therefore to God . . .” James 4:7

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” 1 Peter 2:13-15

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” 1 Peter 2:17

“I (Christen) was feeling tired and didn’t want to do much of anything. My mother came to me and asked me to do something for her. “Yes, Mother,” I politely replied, but I still sat there thinking of all the work it would be to help her. Seeing that I had not yet begun the job, my mother came by again and asked me to do it. “Yes, Mother,” I said again, but still did nothing; it tired me just to think of all the work she was asking me to do! Eventually, I did get up and help her. Yet, why did I wait so long to obey her? How often we put our wants above what the Lord wants us to do! The Bible says we are to show reverence to our parents (“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father...” - Leviticus 19:3). Reverence toward our parents can be displayed by a cheerful, obedient attitude.

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:7-8

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.” Revelation 4:11

Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines reverence as “fear mingled with respect and esteem; an act of respect or obedience”. The Bible also says that we are to show reverence to God. (“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him.” - Psalm 89:7) If we have a proper view of our Holy God, and realize that He is watching all our actions, thoughts, and words – then we will be motivated to demonstrate our reverence for Him by obeying His commands and living in a way that will glorify Him.

Using the operational definition, “awareness of how God is working through the people and events in my life to produce the character of Christ in me” [IBLP definition], adds an entirely new dimension to reverence. Though some Christian young women have
conflicts with their parents, most relationships can be transformed by a reverent attitude on our part! It’s so easy to be outwardly obedient, while harboring thoughts like, “Nobody else’s parents are like mine!” or “They never understand me!”

It’s great when you think your parents are wonderful and understand you, but that shouldn’t affect whether or not you have a reverent attitude. Parents are, after all, God’s number one character-builders to hammer out our faults while they can. God is working through them “to produce the character of Christ in me”. They are special tools in God’s hand designed to work on our character. Rejecting them, resenting what they do, or rebelling against their authority is telling God that He doesn’t know best and made a mistake when He chose them for you. This is not an attitude of reverence and shows a rejection of God’s will.

In addition to God and our parents, the way we treat others should also show a reverent attitude. A person with an underlying reverence for other people will not degrade or humiliate others; instead, a reverent person will see others as important, because God cares for each of us – so much that He sent His own Son to die for us. We should thank the Lord for the way He has used other people to build our character! Thus, we can have a Christ-like, loving, and humble attitude that shows a proper reverence even for people who are difficult to deal with.

There are many ways that we can demonstrate honor for others. We can spend time talking with the little children at church, and treat guests to our home or our church with kindness and hospitality. We can answer angry words with gentleness and love. If we keep in mind the significance of each undying soul, we can be to others a picture of the honor, acceptance, and love that Jesus shows us (both by giving His life for us and by listening to and caring for us throughout our lives).

A truly reverent attitude toward God, our parents, and others requires a great deal of humility. But our mighty God will help and guide us as we try to imitate His character.

Excerpt from:

How to Develop a Humble Spirit
Compiled by Lara Bode

1) Submit to Authorities
Placing yourself willingly under the authority of your parents (or husband, for those of you who are married), as well as your other authorities, is not only a great way to humble yourself, but it is also commanded by Scripture! “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” - Romans 13:1.

Have you noticed how few teenagers willingly submit to their parents, and how few wives willingly submit to their husbands? The attitude of most people who do not submit to authority is “I know better than you do” or “you have no right to be over me”! This is clearly pride. Cheerfully submitting to your authorities, out of honor and obedience to the Lord, is an essential attribute if you wish to acquire a humble spirit.
Wives are exhorted in Scripture to be like Sara who called her husband, “Lord.” [1 Peter 3:6] But what about when you think your ways are more godly or righteous? It is still better to put the reign in your husband’s [or father’s] hands and be content with what he decides. I say this after laying down a few of my own wishes so that God could do His work in me.

Here is my story:

Once I became engaged, I thought it would be quite simple to follow my soon-to-be husband after marriage. We had talked about everything, it seemed, and agreed on so much. What was there to worry about? We planned to raise a family together and were both open to serving God on the mission field if that way was made clear. Once married, though, I longed to still dream and plan my life as if I were still single. I let my mind wander into making plans of doing foreign mission work, knowing full well that my husband’s heart was to stay here in Wisconsin and serve God by raising a family and being a witness at work. At first, it was just a bit of discontentment I harbored in my heart . . . I failed to see the loving husband God had given me and wanted only my way. Then that seed of discontentment grew into bitterness and I felt the only way I could enjoy life was if my husband saw things the way I did and agreed to become a missionary. As I expressed my desires with tears to my husband, he knew I had to get this ungodly attitude out of my life before it really hurt our relationship. I agreed and we turned to God in prayer about it. I could not see beyond my wishes and desires, but God shed His light on it and showed me something I will never forget. He showed me that the path was clear. He wanted to lead me through my husband. Before, I had thought God would inspire me separately from my husband and if my husband did not see things the same, God still wanted me to try to do what I thought was the most “godly” thing. Now that I was married, though, God was showing me that after I voice my thoughts, I must lay my desires down and trust God to tell my husband the right thing to do.

As I stopped complaining and began to thank God for placing me in Wisconsin to love and serve Him, my eyes are being opened to all the needs right around us. There are opportunities to witness for God every day if you look for them. Also, my husband’s construction job gives him many chances to be an ambassador for Christ where there are hurting souls.

How beautiful it is to be under God’s authority, to be content to be the woman and not desire the man’s position. Is “Lord” too strong of a term to apply to my husband? God doesn’t think so. And so I am asking God daily to help me learn what submission and honor and respect look like for my situation.

You can pray for that too! Where are you in your walk of life? Are you a young woman still in your father’s house? Ask God to show you how to honor and submit to your
parents better and to prepare you for the man you may marry someday. Are you only just dreaming of getting married someday, or are you courting, or engaged? There is no need to be saddened when you think of the realities of submission in your future. Anticipate it with joy! Look for opportunities to honor those above you! It brings peace. Marriage can be a wonderful school of submission if you let it be, but you need not wait till you are wed to practice these things.

I’d like to close with this thought: As my husband and I were reading in Esther a few days ago, we came across a verse that really stuck out to me. It said, “Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him” – (Esther 2:20b). This was after she had been made queen! In her eyes, Mordecai deserved her respect and attention just as much when she was queen as when she was a little girl under his roof. What an example she has set for us to follow!

I pray that God will impress upon any willing heart that reads this how important our job is to honor and respect authority. This should not be a one-time occurrence for you to show it, but a way of life for you to live and breathe it. May it be a sweet-smelling aroma to our Heavenly Father!

A fellow sister in Christ,
Laura Holbrook

Michael ♥ Laura Holbrook live in Wisconsin with their son Jireh (1) and another blessing due to join their family in September. Editor’s note: Laura was in my prayer group in 2006 at a youth Bible school before she was married, and her sweet spirit has been a great blessing to me.

Honor
A Story by Chasitee Hiebert

It was a warm day and Sarah was reading the new book that she had gotten for a graduation gift. Just then she thought, I’m sure Dad and Mom would want me to plant those flowers that have been sitting there for 5 days, because they are too busy, and I’m sure they would want me to mow the grass. Anyhow, Mom is busy with inside work and Dad is busy with the fields. They never asked me but I’m pretty – I mean VERY – sure that they would want me to do those things, and later I can come read more. She remembered the verse, “Honor thy father and thy mother.”

And so, she went and planted those 12 flowers, and then she mowed the 4 acres of grass, singing all the while. She was happier doing it now than she would have been if her parents would have told her to. She was honoring them!

At supper time Mom sighed a weary sigh and said, “Oh, this is crazy! I have to yet find time to plant those 12 flowers and mow lawn.”

“Mom, I already did both of those!” Sarah answered with a smile. It made her feel happy that she had put aside her reading to honor her parents.

Chasitee (10) is the editor’s sister who enjoys writing stories, reading, sewing, singing, playing the piano, and more.
Whenever there is a difference of opinion, either one person must yield or an argument erupts. Deference is the character quality that will enable us to yield, to put others first, to deny ourselves in order to serve better. One definition of deference is “limiting my freedom in order not to offend the tastes of those God has called me to serve” [IBLP definition]. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary adds further insight – “deference is a yielding in opinion; submission of judgment to the judgment of another.” Deference is essential to experiencing peace in our everyday relationships!

Deference should be the outward action which accompanies the Christ-like humility in my heart. I should joyfully yield my right to have things go my way and focus on making others successful. I need to put the ideas and concerns of others before my own. We need to pray that God would give us each a servant’s heart and teach us to defer to others. He will do this if we are truly open to His work in us.

Deference requires an attitude of servant-hood and selflessness. Many people I know do not know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Practicing deference is a tool which can allow us to share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even if I am not actually able to share the Gospel, deference will enable others to see the love of God in me.

Abram demonstrated the character quality of deference when he gave Lot the first choice of where to live (Genesis 13). Abram’s actions and words show that he was not as concerned about his land as he was about his relationship with Lot. Lot selfishly chose the best land, and later lost it all, while Abram, having shown deference, gained greater blessing.

Another aspect of deference is being open to the thoughts and comments of others. We should be willing to listen to the opinions of other people, especially our family. I used to have a warm flannel shirt I loved to wear during the winter. My mom, however, didn’t especially like it. I kept wearing it for awhile (it was so comfortable! ☺️) until I finally realized that even though I had never been told not to wear it, I needed to show deference and “limit my freedom” in order to not offend my mom’s personal tastes.

It is important, though, that even as we learn to yield our personal rights and opinions to others, we must never compromise our spiritual convictions. As with every character quality, deference has its wrong extreme. Never lower your standards or do something that the Bible says is wrong in order to get along with someone.

Another important aspect of deference is going out of our way to keep others from stumbling. 1 Corinthians 8:9 cautions us against taking part in anything that will cause a brother or sister to stumble – “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak”. Romans 14:22 warns us to not condemn ourselves by what we approve. Paul demonstrated deference when he refused to eat meat that had been offered to idols (1 Corinthians 8). His reason for doing so was not because he thought it was wrong, but because he did not want to offend a weaker brother. Be willing to deny yourself in order to serve others better, and purpose to be deliberately inoffensive in the way you live. You may think something is perfectly okay, but if it will offend and even weaken someone around you, show deference, and don’t do it.
One good example of this is the area of music. Another area is clothing – often just our thoughtlessness in not realizing how something is a problem can offend and tempt others. Go to your father for advice on how you should dress to show deference to others, so that you will never cause anyone to stumble because of your appearance.

We can demonstrate deference by desiring not earthly possessions, but those lasting treasures of heavenly value – not selfish pleasure, but peace with God and man.

Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” We can do all things through Christ – even showing deference. He will give us the strength to smile and say, “Okay, I’ll do it your way”, or cheerfully agree, “Yes, that is a better idea”.

Romans 15:3a says, “For even Christ pleased not Himself.” Let’s follow in His footsteps by yielding to one another, that we might experience the joy of showing deference.

 Submission, Honor, and Respect

Submission, honor, and respect – Each a challenge of its own!
They who strive after these traits
May yet feel themselves alone:
Uncommon in society,
Against the natural man;
Yet God Who ordered all things well
Includes them in His plan.

“Submit to ev’ry ordinance,”
The Bible doth command,
“Obey the ruler and the judge
That blameless you may stand.”
Submit to God, in ev’ry way,
To parents, elders, too;
Employers, teachers, others who
Have rule over you;

Others in the Body of Christ -
We never must neglect
To put their will before our own,
If Christ we would reflect.
Submission – beyond obedience;
It’s a matter of the heart!
And each one, in humility,
Must strive to do their part.

Honor, a high esteem for others
That says, “You’re worth a lot,
I value you and want to show
The importance that you’ve got.”
Honor is also doing things
Without being told to do,
And never doing what shouldn’t be
When no one else sees you.
Honor is giving what is due;
Integrity; esteem;
Upholds a Christian testimony –
They know you’re what you seem.

Respect includes words and actions,
Spirit, attitude;
It’s others placed before yourself
And shows your gratitude.
Respect those who deserve it not,
And also those who do,
“Honor all men,” is the word;
To old and young be true.

Let all we do be done with joy
And willingness to serve;
Let all our words be honoring
And from respect not swerve.
Submission, honor, and respect -
Oh to the Lord be true!
Would you this day become like Him?
He asks this all of you!
The richest blessings you will find
When submission is your theme,
When honor is a way of life
And respect a goal supreme! ♥

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The following messages can be ordered without charge from Charity Gospel Ministries, 400 W. Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522, www.charityministries.org, order@charityministries.org, 1-800-227-7902, 1-717-721-7775, or most can be downloaded directly from the website (links given). We have personally reviewed many of these messages, but not all of them. - Descriptions from the Charity Ministries website.

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The Spirit and Practice of Honoring Your Father
Denny Kenaston

As God shared with His people, to honor their father was one tenth of His heart. This is not a little thing! This message offers practical applications and right attitudes, as we obey this command: the first commandment with promise!

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=3146

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The Result of Submission
Dean Stump

Submission can be learned from the wonderful example of Jesus. Noah is also a great example. Submission is for each and every one of us. We need to live our lives as ones that are “given up.” God gives grace to the humble. If we can’t submit one to another, we are not submitted to God.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=3881

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Honor Is God’s Will for Your Life
Paul Lloyd

Honor is an integral part of who God is. Glory is honor shining out while praise is honor verbalized. Honor is a decision to place high value or worth on another. We are called to honor God, the government, our parents, our spouse, our friends, our children and even our enemies. Let us open the way for God’s blessing by expressing honor to those around us and to God.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=4415

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Relating to the Authority in Your Home
Leonard Martin

Citing numerous accounts of God’s instructions for rightly relating to one’s authorities, a plea is put forth to honor our parents always and to obey them in the Lord. Some Old Testament laws are reviewed to emphasize the importance God placed on honoring one’s parents.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=4456

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Submission and Humility
Paul Hershberger

It is essential that we learn to humble ourselves and submit to authority. Even Jesus was subject to authority. When we learn these things God pours grace into our lives and we are enabled to live a victorious life; one that brings honor to Christ.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=3205

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Beyond Obedience
Christine Lamicela

How can men help but be godly men when their wives and daughters are in their rightful place? This message encourages women to honor, defer to, reverence, prefer, esteem, respect, and value their husbands; to go beyond obedience.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=2933

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Teaching Our Children Honor and Respect
Aaron Hurst

We live in an age when the young act proudly against the older ones, but in God’s order it is not so. It is your responsibility to teach your children to honor and respect others, especially you, as their parents, and the other authorities in their lives. This message is full of good, practical advice about how to teach your children to honor others – and the best way is to show them how by honoring others yourself.

http://charityministries.org/msg_detail.a5w?vlast_index=4303

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Getting along with people isn’t easy. All of us share the frustration of faltering in our relationships with others – experiencing friction with this person here, not working well with that person there, and feeling often that we are not the kind of influence on others that we would like to be.

How can we learn to work well with all the people around us – people with all sorts of personalities and backgrounds and levels of maturity? How can we be a positive influence on everyone with whom we come in contact, cooperate even with those who are "difficult", and learn to be successful in all our relationships?

In this article we will outline four essential attitudes that will enable us to be the positive influence on others that the Lord wants us to be. If we can learn now the keys to success whenever we work with anyone, we will be better equipped to serve the Lord wherever He may call us in the future.

These four essential attitudes are a reverent spirit, a grateful spirit, a servant’s spirit, and a quiet spirit. In the next few pages we will take a look into each of these, learning how to apply them in our lives and discovering how they will change the way we relate to the people around us.

A Reverent Spirit

You enjoy working with children and have just been asked to help teach one of the children’s Sunday school classes at your church. At first it seems like a great opportunity to share the Lord with the students, but after the first day your enthusiasm has noticeably diminished. The lady in charge of teaching the Sunday school uses methods you think are ineffective and seems to pass up what you view as great opportunities to share with the children. As the weeks go by, you find it nearly impossible to work with her, experience lots of frustration, and wish you’d never volunteered to help.

A reverent spirit can be defined as "knowing how God works through authority". Our authorities – most often our parents but sometimes other people, as in the situation mentioned above – are specially placed in our lives by God, so that He can work on our character through them. Rebellion against our authorities is really rebellion against God. In the same way, respect for the Lord will result in respect for our authorities!

Even when we think our authorities seem to be taking the wrong route or doing something entirely unexplainable, we need to realize that the Lord is working in their hearts to reveal His perfect plan to us. Often He shows us His will through our authorities!

Have you ever wanted to do something that your parents decided against? The natural response is to worry and struggle against their decision, instead of trusting that...
the Lord is working through them for our good! How can we possibly worry when we know that God is directing everything that happens to us? Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden...."

Showing a reverent spirit to the Lord and our human authorities can also be translated practically to accepting instruction and obeying happily. Blessings will come when we fear God by showing reverence to and obeying our authorities. "The fear of the Lord leads to life...." – Proverbs 19:23.

Growing up, I (Emily) have witnessed numerous examples of young people who have rebelled against authority. I have watched acquaintances go the way of the world, run away from home, and get bogged down in sin. Sometimes I think to myself, "Oh, I’m glad I’m not rebellious like her" or "I would never do that!"

Although I may not outwardly rebel, do I inwardly in my heart? Isn’t this inward rebellion just as dishonoring to God, who knows our hearts? I must daily ask for help – I cannot overcome any inward rebellion on my own. I want my Lord to cultivate a reverent spirit in me. This is a very important lesson to learn while we are young. It is only in this position of showing a reverent spirit to our authorities that we will find true peace and joy.

Study the reverent spirits of people in the Bible. How did Paul respond to government authority during his stay in prison? How did Esther approach her authority, the king? How did God use their attitudes to influence those around them?

As you realize that the Lord has placed this situation with the Sunday school in your life for a distinct purpose, you see how by responding in frustration to the head teacher’s methods, you have actually been resisting God’s work in your life. Instead of continuing to be upset, you try to show a reverent spirit by looking for ways to serve this teacher and trusting the Lord when things don’t go the way you want. Within a few weeks you can see how your relationship with her has deepened; she has become more appreciative of your help; and the Lord has opened opportunities to share your ideas with her and minister to the children in the class in ways you hadn’t been able to before.

A Grateful Spirit

You and your younger sister have a "personality clash" – you can’t seem to get along. Nearly everything she does irritates you, and you wonder why things have to be so hard with her when you don’t have any problem with other members of your family. Though you start off each day wanting things to go well, before long you find yourself angry and upset, and the situation looks impossible. You want her to think of you as a Godly older sister and positive example, but you know that she doesn’t, and wonder why you have failed.

A grateful spirit can be defined as "seeing God’s purposes in everything". Even when we can find nothing positive about a situation, just knowing that the Lord has a purpose for everything that happens is enough to inspire in us a thankful heart toward Him and toward those around us. When we have a grateful spirit, we accept all things, even extreme suffering, as God’s tool for refining us and shaping our character.
God strategically places people into our lives for our spiritual benefit. Be especially grateful for the people in your life who are problems! The Lord is constantly working everything out in the way that will benefit us. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

I (Susan) have personally experienced suffering (sometimes accepting it and sometimes not responding correctly at all!) and have realized that when I accept it as "refining fire", it draws me much closer to God. When I simply reject it and start feeling sorry for myself, it just hurts more as I drown myself in self-pity. We should learn to greet everything that comes our way as a "character-builder". A person with a grateful spirit is always willing to accept difficult situations and is quick to show others the good. "Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." – James 1:2-3.

Communicating a grateful spirit to "character-building" people can be difficult. The first step is to give all our expectations of what they are supposed to be to God. We need to pray that the Lord will show us the positives of difficult people and give us ways to communicate our gratefulness to them. Thank the Lord for each difficult person in your life, and for the lessons He is teaching you through the irritations they bring. Look for and praise positive character traits. Visualize achievement for your younger brothers and sisters especially – how can you help them be successful? We need to reach out to everyone we know with the attitude, "I am glad you are here; I am privileged to know you." Learn to show a grateful spirit to everyone you meet!

We should realize that serving others is a representation of how we serve the Lord.

Study the grateful spirits of people in the Bible. How did David respond when God placed the problem with Saul in his life? What about Abraham with Lot?

You realize that many of the conflicts between you and your sister occur because you have not shown a grateful spirit to her, but have instead responded in anger because she does not live up to your expectations. Though the things she does continue to irritate you, you begin each day by thanking the Lord for placing her in your life, and looking for things in her that you can praise. You are soon surprised by the many positives in her life that you entirely missed before; now it seems obvious what a blessing it is to have her in your family, and your relationship has become much closer.

A Servant’s Spirit

In your work at home each day, you find that conflicts and frustrations with your brothers and sisters seem to abound. The things you want to accomplish don’t get done; other things get in the way; your siblings get upset because you’re too busy to help them; or you get upset because you have to help and don’t want to. Little disagreements over "whose job it is" lead to breaches in relationships that you know are not what the Lord intended for you.

A person with a servant’s spirit is one who is excited to make other people successful. We should realize that serving others is a representation of how we serve the Lord. His will for us is that we might pour our entire lives into service for others. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." – 1 John 3:16.

Conflicts begin when we are simply trying to accomplish our own agenda and view other people as "in the way". In order to work well with others, we need to develop Christ’s
humility in our lives and become willing to serve them in any way He brings us. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus… [who] made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant… He humbled himself." – Philippians 2:5-7-8. Look for ways to make the people you are with each day successful! The key to harmony in a relationship is a meek attitude that is willing to put others first.

When my (Susan’s) grandmother was sick this past winter, someone had to cook, clean, and wash the clothes in my home while someone else cared for her. When faced with situations like this, I have two choices – either do what is needed cheerfully because God wants me to, or do it just because there’s no one else available. One choice exemplifies a servant’s spirit, and the other an unwilling spirit that is not fitting for a daughter of the King.

Regrettably, I must admit that often I have been guilty of the latter choice. It is very deceptive – we think that just because we are doing what is required of us, we are pleasing God. But when we are striving to please God, we do everything willingly, cheerfully, with a humble attitude. It takes more than a servant’s actions to improve our relationships with others – it takes a servant’s spirit.

We need to be willing to take the back seat and do behind-the-scenes work that people do not always notice and praise. The Lord uses these times to test our true character. Whenever we serve "the least of these", we are actually serving Christ. Often, once we prove ourselves to be faithful servants in little things, the Lord "promotes" us to higher areas of service. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

You may wonder what doing little things – like washing the dishes late at night after your siblings are in bed – has to do with influence. The truth is that a person with a servant’s spirit has a great deal of influence over the people around her. The greatest in God’s kingdom is truly the servant of all! When people realize that you are trying to serve them, they will appreciate and admire your attitude and your relationship with them will definitely improve. The people who positively influence others the most are those who have committed themselves to serve.

Study the servant’s spirits of people in the Bible. How did the Lord honor the servant’s spirit of Joseph as he worked under Potiphar and later the prison warden? What were the results of Ruth’s servant’s spirit as she worked in the fields for her mother-in-law?

As you look back on the work you’ve been doing, you realize that many of the conflicts you experience with your brothers and sisters can be traced to your lack of a servant’s spirit. You’ve been putting your own agenda above the service to which the Lord has really called you. As you pray for a humble, willing attitude and search for ways to make your brothers and sisters successful, you notice that many of your old conflicts have dissolved and that instead of resenting your ideas, your siblings are now open to your guidance and sometimes even come to you for advice.

A Quiet Spirit

Your father is facing a major decision with his work that will affect your entire family, and you aren’t sure what is going to happen. Upset over the possibility of change, you worry over the future and become defensive when people suggest things that you do not want to have happen. Your anxious spirit begins to affect others and weighs your entire family down.
A quiet spirit involves remembering that God is in control. We have a quiet spirit when we experience the "peace of God which surpasses all comprehension" and accept what He is doing in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Philippians 4:6 warns us to be anxious for nothing; how could we worry over anything with a God like ours? We must only make our troubles known to Him in prayer and trust His faithfulness and power. The mighty Creator of the universe is in control.

"Your beauty should... be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." – 1 Peter 3:3-4. It is important to realize that a quiet spirit does not mean that we should be shy and timid. A quiet spirit is resting in the Lord and in His plan for our lives. Our emotions have a powerful effect on the people around us. When we are trusting the Lord rather than worrying over a difficult situation, it will encourage others to do so as well.

I (Betsy) would like to share with you how God gave me "perfect peace" through a situation which He brought into my life by teaching me to commit my way to Him. A family we know recently rededicated their lives to the Lord and changed their lifestyle. They decided to home school their four children, but they knew nothing about home schooling, and asked our family and other families in our church for help. Daddy agreed that I could go to help them with their studies, and a week later, I was on my way to their house.

My anxious thoughts were tempted to multiply within me. But God gave me the calm peace that comes from trusting Jesus as I walked up and knocked on the door. Since I knew that I was in God’s will and right where He wanted me, I had nothing to worry about. God’s commandments are His enablements.

A young woman who worries over things that are not her responsibility, expresses anxiety over the decisions her authorities make, and gets upset over others' mistakes, will affect her entire family and cause many people to worry. No wonder the Lord so values a quiet spirit in a woman! He wants us to have a quiet trust in Him, to be at peace, to rest in His control. When we have this attitude, we will be able to overlook people’s mistakes, support our parents' decisions, and encourage our families to trust in the Lord during difficult circumstances. A quiet spirit expressed in the normal, every-day routine of life, will have an uplifting influence on everyone we meet.

Study the quiet spirits of people in the Bible. How did Nehemiah show a quiet spirit in response to the opposition he faced while rebuilding the wall? How did Mary respond when she learned God’s plan for her future?

As you realize that the Lord is in control of the situation your family is facing and will work through every circumstance to do His perfect will, you see that your anxiety is wrong. Instead of continuing to worry over the future, you begin to pray that your family will experience peace and that the Lord will direct your father’s upcoming decision. The new peace you experience not only gives you more joy, but inspires your entire family to look to the Lord for guidance.

You will find that no matter where the Lord leads you, and no matter whom you meet, these four attitudes can make the difference between a frustrating conflict and a successful relationship. As daughters of the King, striving to please Him, it is vital that we learn how to become a positive influence in every relationship of our lives.
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