

peace of all by whom he is surrounded; and it will be most destructive to his own happiness and comfort, inasmuch as there are a thousand influences at work, many of which will crush the spirit which has not learned submission. All parents are responsible for the exercise of the power which God has given them to control their children; and while they are faithfully discharging this obligation in the fear of God, and in hope of His mercy, they may be forming an inclination of mind which will render it delightful to submit to the ordinances and requirements of the church of Christ. Submission to proper authority may go hand in hand with true manliness, in the family, in the church, and in the world at large.

Here we come to another essential of the christian character, *manliness*; reminding us of the admonition of the great Apostle, "Stand fast in the faith; quit ye like men, be strong." We are all acquainted with the interest the parent takes in the infant, when, for the first time, it is able to stand alone. There is a far more important period than this. It is when the young man can stand alone in his own moral strength, through the training he has received and the grace of God. We can conceive no higher ambition in a parent than to send young men and women into the world who can thus stand alone. The future prosperity of our Baptist churches will depend instrumentally upon our having men and women who can stand firmly in the faith and order of our common cause. Where all alike have a voice and a vote in all matters of decision we must have men who can do right and fear not, and who value their conscience above rubies. Where so much depends on individual effort we need men who can labour, though none applaud, and proceed in their christian course, though all the world oppose. Thank God, we have many such in our churches to-day; and by their example and efforts to train the young to exercise the same noble qualities our churches will grow stronger and stronger.

The limits of this letter will permit us to direct attention only to one other matter in connection with our subject. Let this be *christian service*. We cannot begin too soon to impress upon the minds of the young that it is their duty to do something for God. Under the direction of the christian parent a child soon catches the idea that he can do something, he soon finds something to do, and takes great pleasure in doing it. It is true that this activity has sometimes disappointed the highest expectation; but, frequently, as in the case of Samuel, it has led to a useful life. In the various engagements and enterprises of religion there will be found much to be done suiting the capacity of children. Both their activity and their benevolence may be kept in exercise until the Holy Spirit supplies the motive and the power of a useful christian life.

In conclusion, we do not lose sight of the fact that our children must be converted by Divine grace before they can serve God aright, or become members of our churches. On the other hand we must be careful that we do not abuse this truth by neglecting our