

The early buds of the infant mind, under the influence of the smiles of the parent, soon unfold into the sweet blossom of *love*. Love in every child, if it were not blighted by evil influences, would lead to a fruitful life; and, by the generating power of the Spirit of God, enable him to enjoy companionship with Christ in the service and interests of His church. Let us bear in mind that the Divine Spirit works by instrumentality. While pious parents are developing the affection of their children, and directing it to proper objects of esteem, they may be training those young hearts for the exercise of that love which is so indispensable in the christian character. Love is the sum of the divine attributes, for "God is love," and perfect love lifts man into companionship with his Maker. Love is the substance of the joys of heaven; and all the heaven experienced here on earth may be expressed in this one word, *love*; but, when love is absent, there can be nothing but unhappiness, especially among professors of religion. It is to be feared that our churches are more deficient in this matter than in any other. The adversary has not altogether quenched the sparks; and in some hearts the sacred flame burns purely; but, after all, there is a sad lack of the disposition to love one another fervently and constantly. A happier state of things will hereafter be enjoyed if those who have the care of the rising generation, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, do all they can to cultivate a disposition of heart necessary to exert this heavenly influence. If you would have your children useful and happy, O think much of the power that throbs in their young hearts. Help them to control it and direct it, first to every member of the family, then, expanding according to its nature, let their love embrace your relatives, your country, and mankind of every clime. In dependence upon the promises of God's Word, the help of His Spirit, and His converting grace, bring up your children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Sow the seeds of Divine Truth in their hearts, then train their minds in the love of the Bible, the Sabbath, the sanctuary, God's servants, and all his people.

Many other of the qualifications of christian fellowship may be impressed upon the minds of children. We have given more prominence to love, because it actuates all the rest.

When Jesus gave the invitation to sinners to come to him for rest he said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." This implies that christianity consists very much in *subjection* to Christ. The prophet Jeremiah began his religious career when very young, and, after a long life of hard service amid much suffering, he leaves us the testimony that it "is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." Christian parents have great power to bring their children under subjection; and this work is as necessary as it is difficult. Ever since Adam broke loose from the easy restraint of the first command, man has inherited the disposition to do as he likes at all consequences, and in spite of every law, human or divine. This disposition, growing up with an individual, will disturb the