

talks on the Bible all over the country, My what a wonderful background of Bible knowledge you must have! And he said== he answered, My father was always away on a trip speaking here and there, here and there. When he was home he was too tired to spend much time with us children. He said, Actually I learned nothing about the Bible from my father. Everything I've learned about it I've learned after I was grown from my own study!

How easy it is for us to be so interested in the Lord's work that we fail to take the time for our family, not merely for their physical welfare but for their spiritual welfare that we should. It is interesting to think of Jonathan Edwards who is by many said to be the greatest philosopher America has ever produced. Even some who are not Christians at all have said that about Jonathan Edwards. But it was over 200 years ago when Jonathan Edwards preached his great sermons, when he was writing his great books on philosophy, when he was corresponding with Christian leaders in all parts of the U.S. and Europe. The amount of time it would take for the ordinary things of life without any of the conveniences we have today, you can imagine it made it very difficult for this busy man to find much time for his wife and children.

But when we read in his biography that Jonathan Edwards made a regular practice of taking an hour every single day with his children, discussing things with them, trying to develop their spiritual life and the descendants of Jonathan Edwards are one of the classical illustrations in America of the influence of heredity as they have contributed as much to the U.S. not merely in spiritual lines but also in intellectual and other lines perhaps as much as any family in American history. I question whether those are right who simply make it a matter of genes. I believe that the care that Jonathan Edwards took with his many children with their development was an important part of it.

But loving children should not consist in letting them do anything they want. We notice that a father must discipline his sons. Nowadays Christian parents are all too lenient with their children. They let them run wild, and we are reaping the results of that in our society today. True love is not simply a matter of giving a person what they want. True love is looking out for others that which is good for others, not merely that which they desire.

Love to our neighbor must include those who are in our own family. Very definitely. The great emphasis in the NT is on love to other Christians. There are frequent exhortations: Little children love one another. Even in the day of Paul, even in that early time when Christianity had barely become started, and you can think of those wonderful new pure churches where people were so filled with enthusiasm for the new teachings they had received. Yet we find that even in those churches there were attitudes developing that made it necessary for the Apostle to stress this matter of love for other Christians.

We find it as early as the Book of Galatians that Paul said in