

This book is a  
Gift

From

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To

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On the occasion of

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Date

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# RESTORING

*Family*

# VALUES

*The Key to Nation Building*

Faruna Timothy



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## **RESTORING FAMILY VALUES: The Key to Nation Building**

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# DEDICATION

To parents and moulders of societal values.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Every accomplishment in life is a product of the combined efforts of many. This work is not an exception.

First and above all, my thanks to God the father of all fathers the creator and Sustainer of all life, and the Source of all knowledge giver. All the honour are His.

I am heavily indebted to all my partners whose contributions and resources made this work a success: Bar & Mrs J J Usman SAN, Mr & Mrs Gerald Okolie, The Akujuobis, Mr & Mrs Cozen Ufot, The Egbita's, Mr & Mrs Alex Adejoh Daikwo and Bar & Mrs Adah Philip.

Special thanks to the great men and women, who have inspired, encouraged and corrected me throughout my



## Acknowledgement

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My parents Mr Faruna Adaji and Mrs Kaka Faruna (late) for laying the foundation for my life. This book is not just a theory but a principle and a life lived out and taught me.

My beloved wife, Grace, and my precious children Peace, Prosper and Praise whose arrival in my life placed a demand on me to exemplify the principle of true family values. Thank you for all your patience with me as I learn and grow as a husband and father.

Thanks to all the spiritual fathers whose teachings, lives and character shaped mine. To name them would make a long list, but the most outstanding ones are Rev. Pita Momoh Edwards, Rev. David Faruna and Pastor. Joshua Tomosori: who has had a direct impact on my life.

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Restoring Family Values | Faruna Timothy

My editorial crew: Acheneje Ameh Mark, Abu Ugbede  
ThankGod and the Lasouch Publishing Team.

Much thanks to you all.

# INTRODUCTION

Family is one of the most important elements of society. The world is populated with different races, ethnicities, cultures and societies. At the cradle of all these is family. We can then say with all boldness that the state of the world we live in is determined by the family values that comprise it. Therefore, the contribution of families to a better or worse society should never be underestimated. It determines the happiness and fulfilment of any society. In other words, the family can be seen as the bedrock of our world.

It is in this light that we can state that the insecurity and misplaced priorities of our generation can be traced to the family values with which young ones are raised. It is, therefore, believed that if *family values are restored*, it will go far to correct many social ills in this generation

like girls with babies and boys with guns the two major social maladies.

One of the famous American leaders, Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to the teacher of his child *“teach my child that a dollar earned is better than five dollars found”*. This is a family environment that does not believe in found fortune like we celebrate today. A child that is raised in this kind of family environment cannot become a thief or robber. Someone who is taught not to celebrate finding a thing, how can such a person ever think of stealing or robbing?

It is high time we created a family environment that would make it hard (if not impossible) for our offspring to be involved in any form of crime and corruption. In those days as a child in my community, those who amassed wealth illegally were excommunicated. Our parents did not allow us to relate with them and their families. Ill-gotten wealth was a stigma back then.

Today the reverse is the case it doesn't matter how you made the wealth, whether through dishonest ways, you are celebrated which is wrong. I am sure that *“Restoring Family Values”* will do a lot in correcting most of our social nightmares rather than building more prisons or putting more corps on the street.

## Introduction

Many social scientists and behavioural experts will agree with me that *“Restoring Family Values”* is a better antidote to teen pregnancy, than handing out condoms and birth control pills-finding cures for ailments other than treating symptoms.

Research has also shown that over 60% of prison inmates are children from broken homes and/or have poor family values and/or poor parenting. I’m sure we all need a brand-new world. Like Dr. Myles Munroe would say *“if you want a brand-new world you’ve got to have brand-new people”* it means the solution we need to change the world, is the change of people. This is the passion and the drive that gave birth to this little piece; the change of the people and consequently, of the world.

**Faruna Timothy**

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*Suleja, Niger State*

**Nigeria.**





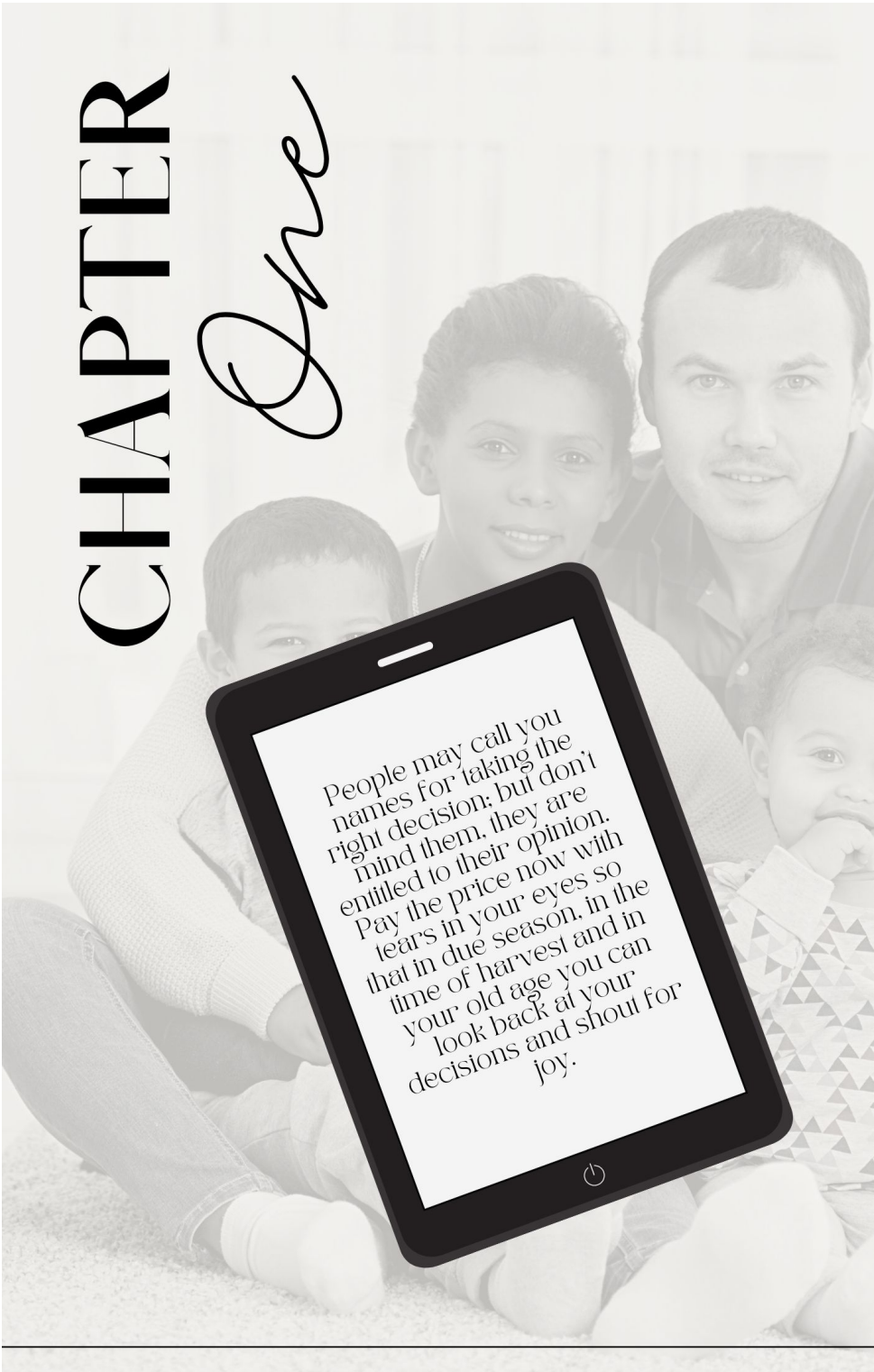
# CHAPTER ONE

FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

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# CHAPTER

## One

A grayscale photograph of a family of four—a father, a mother, and two young children—smiling and posing together. In the foreground, a tablet computer is tilted, displaying a quote. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

People may call you  
names for taking the  
right decision; but don't  
mind them, they are  
entitled to their opinion.  
Pay the price now with  
tears in your eyes so  
that in due season, in the  
time of harvest and in  
your old age you can  
look back at your  
decisions and shout for  
joy.



# CHAPTER ONE

## FAMILY FOUNDATION

Though this is not a marriage book; it is a family book and my experiences with cultures and societies over the years review that poor family foundation breeds poor family values. Therefore, we need to address family values from the foundation because the only way to stop a flowing stream is to block the source and the source of the family is marriage.

From the architectural world to the educational field and all other aspects of human endeavour it is generally

believed that foundation is very important and therefore should be given high priority.

*“If the foundation is wrong what can the righteous do?”* It is faulty foundations that are responsible for the sudden collapse of many buildings that have claimed lots of innocent lives and properties. Also in marriage, faulty foundations are responsible for the increased rate of divorce that has left many innocent children in psychological trauma, and several adults in pain and frustration. It is also responsible for poor family values. Therefore, in creating an environment for family success, proper attention must be given to the foundation in the area of choosing a life partner.

### **HOW CAN ONE CHOOSE?**

It is amazing how wrong and misplaced priorities have cheated our world; too much value and concentration are given to things of less importance and the most important things are ignored. Some of the important things that are ignored are; marriage, family values and lifestyle.

Can you imagine how we can spend years in pre-primary, primary, college and university studying just

to become a secretary in one company at the end of the study? The company which the management may wake up one morning and just serve you a letter *“dear staff, we are sorry to inform you that your service is no longer needed in this organization with effect from.....date”*

On the other hand, if the appointment is not terminated, we may spend the maximum period of thirty or thirty-five years in service and then retirement follows. However, we have ignored the study of marriage, family values and lifestyle that will take us for a lifetime and even beyond. Beyond, in the sense that what we know about the subject matter, affects our lives, the life of our children and children's children even to the fourth generation.

That is why any child that misbehaves will face a family panel where the elders will ask questions like, where did you learn this? Did you see anyone doing such in the family? These are reference questions reminding us that whatever values we practice in the family are passed on to the next generation. Not only in this world but it also affects us even unto eternity.

The first step to choosing a life partner is to study the working principles of marriage. I am not asking you to

just read marriage books. I said study because some people can carry a marriage book in their hands for one year and not know what is written in it. Not knowing about marriage and going into it is a disaster and gives birth to poor family values. It is like going to fly an aircraft without going through an aviation school.

The more we know about marriage the more successful we become in marriage. Unfortunately, most marriages in our generation are built on very faulty foundations where neither the husband nor the wife knows what the institution of marriage is meant to achieve.

In choosing a life partner, proper cognizance must be given to some sensitive areas of compatibility.

Our observations of the world around us and contact with members of the opposite sex reveal that males and females have different priorities, think differently, and have different desires in life. Research has also shown that compatibility has helped a great deal in the lives of couples whose families are void of troubles and quarrels.

Note that our differences do not indicate superiority or inferiority. Being different is part of our being, and we

must work, even so, to attain harmony. *"Can two walk together unless they agree?"*

How compatible are you with your spouse in the following areas;

- Social compatibility
- Spiritual compatibility
- Moral compatibility
- Class compatibility
- Intellectual compatibility
- Age compatibility
- Vision Compatibility

Being compatible does not mean being the same; it means sharing the same degree of commitment to ideas like marriage and having the same goals, dreams, and missions in life as a couple.

We must think alike with our spouses though two different people can't think the same way. There must be some degree of equilibrium in your thoughts and reasoning. God has designed men to think differently from women.

For instance, while the men think of the wedding as a day event and therefore are very mindful and careful in

spending because they believe that after the wedding life continues, women on the other hand think of the wedding as a once-in-a-life-time event and therefore ready to spend anything possible on that day.

Even though differences are inherent in us, they must be harnessed for mutual benefit. Friends, choose a partner that has the same beliefs as you otherwise you may lose your head for your partner's selfish desires. If you are not comfortable with the smell of cigarettes, can you cohabit with a smoker under the same roof, room and even bed? I can't wait to see the drama.

### **AN ACID TEST**

From the foregoing, therefore, I will like to give you the acid test before you and your partner proceed to the altar for the marriage rites. In case you discover any iota of a particularly negative character or behaviour in your partner; maybe he is a drunkard, a womanizer, a robber, a drug addict, a flirt, etc. It is good to be optimistic; that is, to have a positive spirit in all situations. In such situations some optimistic people make statements like; God will change him/her or when we finally get married, I will correct it.

Friends, we believe that God can and can change our spouse positively and if He does then we thank God and celebrate the repentance. However, the acid test is this; what if God does not change your spouse, can you stay with that deficiency for the rest of your life? A drunkard, a smoker, a womanizer, a robber, a drug addict, a flirt? If your answer is YES; then you can proceed to the altar for the marriage rite but if your answer is NO; my dear, quit the relationship.

Pastor Bimbo Odukoya of blessed memory always said *“a broken relationship is better than a broken marriage”*. It is also a psychologically proven fact that we heal faster from a broken relationship than from a broken marriage.

It takes months or a few years to heal from a broken relationship but it takes more years to heal from a broken marriage, if at all. One may not even recover for a whole lifetime from a broken marriage if there is a child or children from that marriage union. I know it is painful to experience a broken relationship and I also know that it is more painful to have a broken marriage but I have this to say when all options are evil what would you do? The majority will say; I will choose the lesser evil. The lesser evil is the broken relationship.

The theory of foundation states that *“once you get the foundation right you have won 50% of all your life battles.”* When you get the foundation right every other thing will fall in line. In marriage also, once you get the foundation right as a man, you have won 50% of all the marriage battles and as a woman, you have won 90%! Therefore, give your foundation the priority. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. Whatever price it takes to get the marriage foundation right, I think it’s worth it.

People may call you names for taking the right decision; but don’t mind them, they are entitled to their opinion. Pay the price now with tears in your eyes so that in due season, in the time of harvest and your old age you can look back at your decisions and shout for joy.





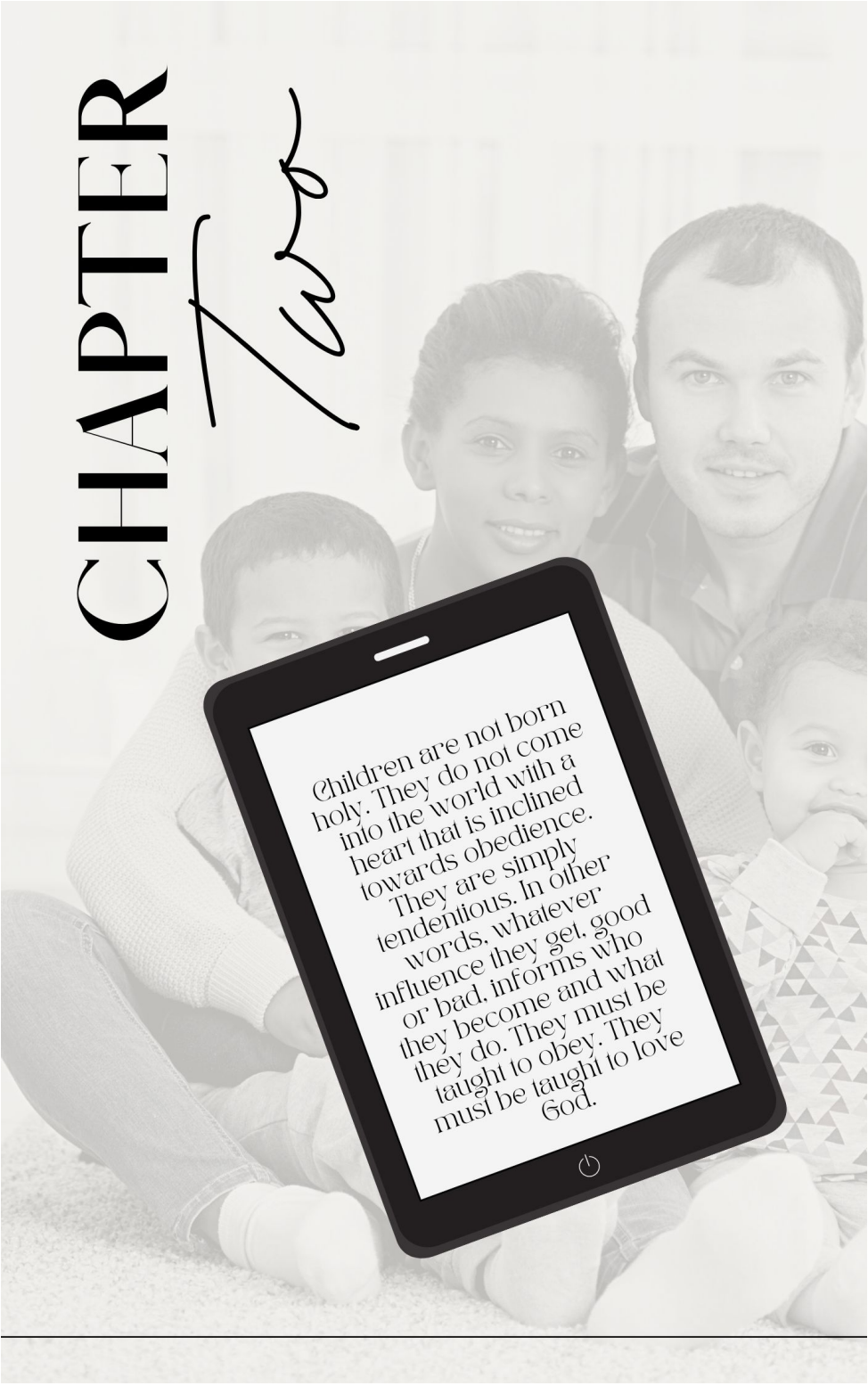
# CHAPTER TWO

## THE ROLE OF PARENTS

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# CHAPTER

## Two



Children are not born holy. They do not come into the world with a heart that is inclined towards obedience. They are simply tendentious. In other words, whatever influence they get, good or bad, informs who they become and what they do. They must be taught to obey. They must be taught to love God.

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The lives and well-being of future generations depend largely on how effective we live today as parents. More than anything else, you demonstrate your values in your behaviour. Your children watch you and strive to emulate the values that you not only teach and preach but also practise. And they are watching. A child psychologist said *“the vast majority of a child’s personality and character formation takes place in the first six years of their life”*

The parents have a great role to play in the lives of their children. No child is born with any value in them or possesses any knowledge; all children are born blank. Educationists call this stage “*tabula-rasa*” (empty brain). Two things form the values of a child; the gene and the environment and the two are passed onto children by their parents.

Make no mistake about it: the quality of our parenting today will be reflected not only in the lives, values and attitudes of our children but also in the lives of their children and their children’s children.

Men, your influence and example as a father are so important. Sometimes ago around the beginning of the twentieth century, Mr E.E. Winship published a survey about two American families of the nineteenth century: Jonathan Edwards, a godly man; and Max Jukes an atheist and a hard-living man.

**Note the result:**

JONATHAN EDWARDS had 1394 descendants-

- 13 were college presidents
- 65 were professors
- 100 were prominent lawyers

## The Role of Parents

- 30 were judges
- 75 were officers in the US army / navy
- 32 were notable authors
- 90 were physicians
- 3 were elected US senators
- 3 were mayors
- 1 was a controller of the US Treasury
- 1 was a vice-president of the United State
- 200 were ministers of the gospel
- 300 were good and notable farmers
- In all, none was a liability to the US government.

Max Jukes had 903 descendants:

- 145 were confirmed drunkards
- 300 were delinquents
- 90 were prostitutes
- 185 had evil diseases
- 150 were criminals and spent their lifetime in prison

From the above survey, we can see how important it is to live a godly life and set a good example for your children and descendants. A man passes on everything he does to the next generation - good or bad. Every one

of us is a living example to the young people around us. It is not a question of whether we are being watched or not. It is a question of what young people are seeing. That which they see, they reproduce.

If you are going to give away your example (which you most certainly will), make sure it's one you will be proud to claim years later when you see it reproduced in the lives of those young persons who watched you.

## LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

Children are gifts from the Lord (psalm 127:3). It is therefore, our responsibility to shower them with love so they can grow up thinking love is a natural part of life. The only way they can learn to be givers of love as an adult is if they have been recipients of unconditional love as children. They need love almost as they need oxygen. Brian Tracy said, *"The greatest need that a child has is an unbroken flow of unconditional love and acceptance from the parents"*.

One of the most devastating things that can happen to a child is feeling rejected. Feeling rejected by friends and colleagues, feeling rejected by family, and sometimes even feeling rejected by God; though God will never reject anyone. Feeling rejected brings out the

## The Role of Parents

worst in people while feeling loved and accepted brings out the best in people. That is why parents/guardians must make sure their children feel loved and accepted.

The feeling of rejection is responsible for most crimes that make headlines. A rejected child went to the mother's school and shot everyone teachers and students alike - and finally killed himself in Connecticut, USA, in November 2012 (BBC News). A rejected worker goes back to his former place of employment and shot his boss and co-workers.

A rejected husband buried his wife and children alive. A rejected boyfriend stabbed his fiancée to death in Lagos, Nigeria. Feeling loved goes beyond children alone even adults need to feel loved. Many may have missed this as a child, leaving a vacuum in the soul. Feeling loved will go a long way in reducing the crime rate in our world.

If you want the best out of your children, do everything within your reach to make them feel loved. You may not have the money to meet all their needs, as a matter of fact, you don't have to meet every need to show love - but you must convince them of your love for them. It is a proven fact that it is easier to take correction from

the person you know loves you than from the one you think hates you.

If your children think you hate them it will be difficult (if not impossible) for you to affect their lives. They will be hard and repugnant to your corrections. For this reason, it is important for your children to feel loved by you; it will make it easier for you to correct any area of their lives that needs correction. Love draws them closer, making them comfortable being with you.

## **DISCIPLINING IN LOVE**

It is expected that parents/guardians should correct and discipline their children but we must make sure that it is done in love. Most of the time correction and discipline are often misunderstood or misinterpreted by children.

That is why there is a need for parents to learn HOW to correct their children and also learn HOW to show them love. Parents must learn “HOW” to show love because in the name of showing love some parents have helped to birth in their children many character flaws. Why should parents withhold correction and discipline from a child all in the name of love?



## The Role of Parents

*“If you don’t punish your son, you don’t love him. If you do love him, you will correct him.”*

### **Proverbs 13:24 (Goodnews)**

The Bible also refers to this as the “*rod of correction*” or “*rod of discipline*” (Prov. 22:15)

Children are not born holy. They do not come into the world with a heart that is inclined towards obedience. They are simply tendentious. In other words, whatever influence they get, good or bad, informs who they become and what they do. They must be taught to obey. They must be taught to love God.

In correcting children, however, parents should select their words so that their children do not feel rejected. Parents must know that the devil is constantly suggesting to their children; “*you are not loved*”, “*you are not good enough*”, “*you are unattractive*”, “*you are too fat*”, “*too thin*”, “*too tall*”, “*too short*”, “*too smart*”, “*too quiet*”, “*too ambitious*”, “*too everything*” therefore, parents must carefully select their words because any careless statement can make the child accept any of the above lies of the enemy to be true.

Parents should be mindful of words like “*do not keep your hope high*”, “*look before you leap*”, “*...work within*

*your class". Some wicked ones can even go to the extent of telling their child that "I have studied you over the years and I don't think you have what it takes to make it to the top. So, just prepare yourself for the base". What a lie! Any moment the child accepts any of the above lies to be true, he/she already starts feeling rejected and dejected.*

## PROVISION AND PROTECTION

*"And God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

*And God said let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life.*

*So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them."*

**(Genesis 1:11, 20a, 27)**

Everything in this life is guided by laws and when the laws are broken there must be a consequence. Some laws are written, some are not but all creations are guided by laws. These laws are put in place by the almighty God and any earthly man or woman that breaks His laws must face the consequence.

## The Role of Parents

One of the laws of God we notice at creation is that all creatures survive and are sustained by the source from which they are created. For example, when God wanted to create the grass and the trees, He spoke to the earth to bring them forth therefore, all the grasses and trees must survive and be sustained by the earth the source from which they were created.

When God wanted to create the living creatures in the water (fish), He spoke to the water to bring them forth; therefore, all the fishes must survive and be sustained by water, the source from which they were created. And when God wanted to create man He spoke to the Godhead, therefore, man must survive and be sustained by God; the Source from which he was created.

That is why if you want to kill any grass or a tree all you need to do is simply remove it from the earth and suspend it in the air for some time it will just die. Why? Because nothing survives outside the source from which they were created. It is a law established by God. In the same order, if you want to kill a fish you don't need a gun, just take the fish out of the water to dry land and give it time.

It was in the same spirit that God told man; the day you lose your relationship with me, you shall die in Genesis 2:17. It may not result in instant physical death, but any disconnection with the life-giving Source is Spiritual death. And physical death is a natural follow-up.

In the light of this scenario, if you bring forth as parents, you must sustain them. Even when they do not live up to your expectations. Because they came through you, it is your responsibility to provide for them, care for them, protect them and show them love until they become whom God wants them to be. If we are disconnected from them, they will not survive it. It may not be physical death but moral decay.

The parents are the source, sustainers, nurturers, and protectors of the children because they came from them. We must be patient with their development (2 Peter 3:9) and let our care for them not depend on their behaviour.

*“If anyone does not provide for his relations, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”*

**(1 Timothy 5:8 NIV)**

## The Role of Parents

Friends, most of the problems we are facing today are rooted in parents not providing for their children. Then the children become hostile at the home front and violent in the quest to survive the harsh realities of existence, thereby venting their frustrations on the society they live in.

It is an undeniable fact that the church cannot fix our societal problems if the family is out of place. Hence, it is up to every parent to heed the wake-up call of holding their families together, instructing them in the right values and morals and ensuring peace and sanity in the world.





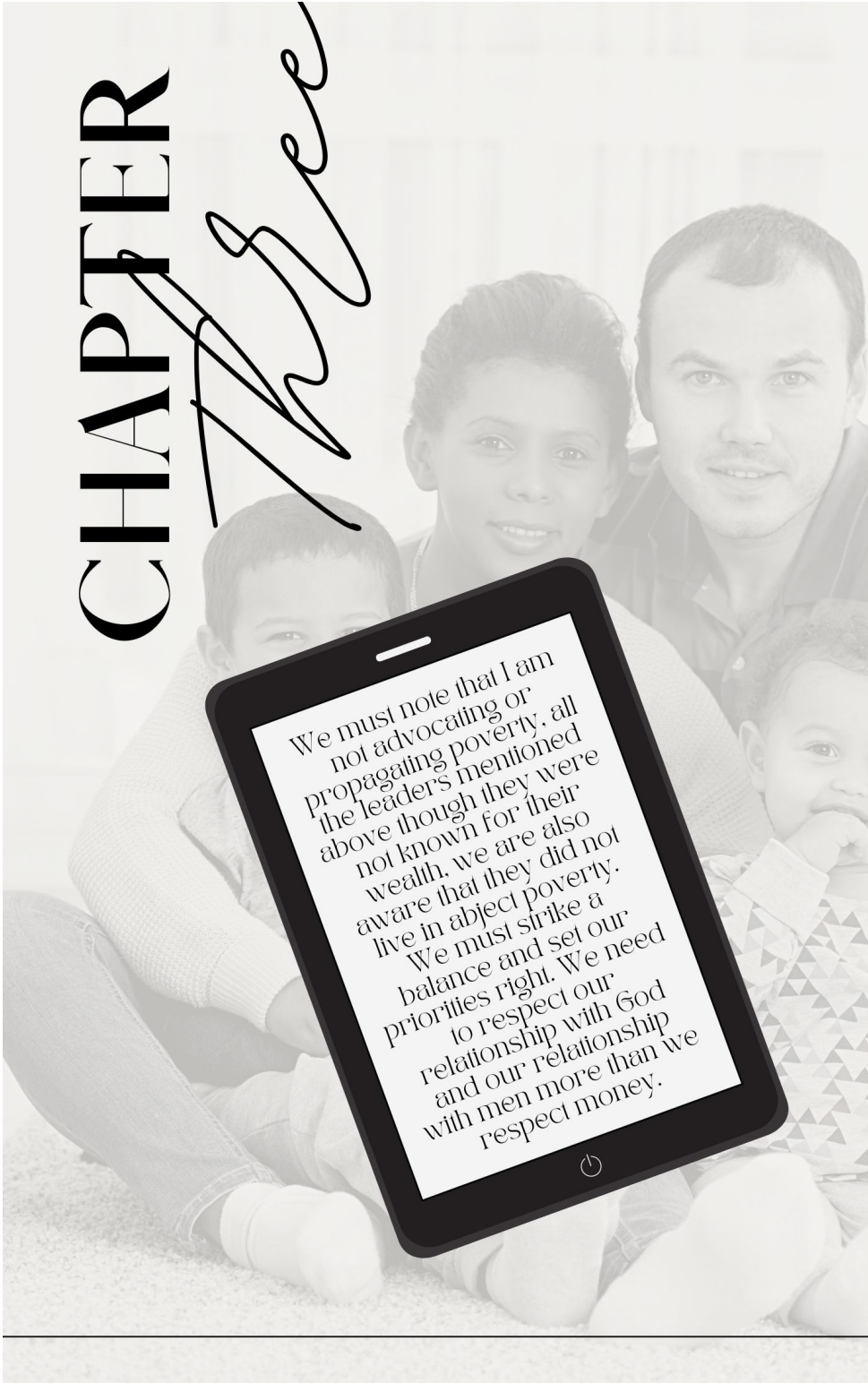
# CHAPTER THREE

THE VALUES TO BE  
TAUGHT

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# CHAPTER

Three



We must note that I am not advocating or propagating poverty, all the leader's mentioned above though they were not known for their wealth, we are also aware that they did not live in abject poverty. We must strike a balance and set our priorities right. We need to respect our relationship with God and our relationship with men more than we respect money.



## CHAPTER THREE

### THE VALUES TO BE TAUGHT

Parents and guardians must know that all children are born with a blank brain. Two things inform their values: the family and society. However, the family has a greater hold on the children than the larger society. The family is the first environment of the child and it is so impactful in determining whom the child becomes because the child is at a formative stage and can be easily influenced.

That is why the scripture says *“train up a child the way he should go and when he is old (in other words thrown into*

*the larger society) he will not depart (from what he has imbibed from home) [Proverbs 22:6 paraphrased]*

One of the chief roles of parenting is to teach children values. Brian Tracy said *“Children are very susceptible to the lessons they receive from the important people in their lives as they are growing up. They accept what you say as their parent as a fact, as absolute truth. They absorb what you say like a sponge. You write your description of values on their souls, which are like wet clay so that what you write becomes a permanent part of the way they see the world and relate to life”.*

Therefore, parents must be ready to teach the following values to their children before society influences them negatively.

- The Value of Prioritising
- The Value of Character/Integrity
- The Value of Self-Image/Self Esteem
- The Value of self-discipline
- The Value of Hard Work
- The Value of Time
- The Value of Flower stage (Girl child)

Why are we not speaking out loudly and forcefully about the deterioration of the values being taught in our

## The Values to be Taught

society today? Why are we not more outraged over child abuse, wife abuse, etc? Tolerating behaviour that flows from a sinful character establishes a precedence that leads to moral degeneration.

The primary responsibility of the older generation is to impact the one coming after by modelling integrity-to be there to teach and support and assist the rising generation to become all it can be.

### THE VALUE OF PRIORITISING

Parents, while your children are yet to know what priority is all about and set one for themselves, they need to observe you putting first things first. Without 'officially' instructing your kids, the normal day-to-day routine they observe you carrying out informs their habit formation and value orientation. Besides, you need to take time to study the friends they keep, the books they read, the movie they watch and the kind of outings they love and enjoy.

At this point, help them understand that the value of anyone's life, in the long run, is determined by the lifestyle they adopt. At this level parents must endeavour to shift the focus of their children from

money and material things to the core values of life; God and good conscience.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”*

**(Proverbs 22:6)**

*“And he went on to say to them all, “watch out and guard yourselves against every kind of greed; because a person’s true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.”*

**(Luke 12:15 GNB).**

Human beings are a “choosing organism”. We are constantly making choices, one way or the other. Every choice we make is a statement about our true values and priorities.

They must know that the value of people’s lives is not in the abundance of their possession but in the good name they leave behind and how many lives they have been able to affect positively while they live. None of the famous leaders of this world is remembered for their wealth but for their principles and the quality of lifestyle they lived.

## The Values to be Taught

When we talk about people like Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Bello, Obafemi Awolowo and Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King (Jn) of America, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Nelson Mandela of South Africa and the likes; these men were not known for their wealth but their life-styles and positive contributions made for humanity.

Nigeria, until our focus shifts from material things and money, we will not be able to fight corruption successfully. The love of money is the root of all evils (1 Timothy 6:10). When a man loves money, he can do anything (even kill) to get it. Parents, introduce God to your children at a young age and let God be first in their life. By doing this you have saved yourself from many troubles when they grow. The Bible says *“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6).

We must note that I am not advocating or propagating poverty, all the leaders mentioned above though they were not known for their wealth, we are also aware that they did not live in abject poverty. We must strike a balance and set our priorities right. We need to respect

our relationship with God and our relationship with men more than we respect money.

People say they prefer a good relationship with the people they love above a corporate position or money in the bank. When we come to the end of our lives, it won't be the material things we have accumulated that we will want to surround our bed. It will be the people we have loved and those who have loved us in return.

The last thing to bid you goodbye from mother earth is your relationship with men. The first thing to welcome you into eternity is your relationship with God. What relationship can do for you, money and materials can't. A man may lose all his possession to disaster; the only thing that can reinstate such a man is the relationship he/she had maintained with God and with men in the past.

Therefore, we must respect our relationship first with God, our generation, our nation and down the ladder. Self should not be the first thing to consider when it comes to decision making; self should be the last thing. It is only then we can get our priorities right. I came across this on the internet and I decided to share it in agreement with my assertion.

## The Values to be Taught

*“A study by Harvard University studied the lives of 724 men over four generations for over seventy-five years. The health and happiness of the participants were tracked with a series of questions about their home life, work-life and family life.*

*The director of the study concluded that it wasn’t wealth or fame or assets that made people healthier and happier, rather it was good relationships—embracing community—that actually kept us healthier and happier.*

*The study showed that those who had fulfilling relationships with their friends and family were happier and healthier than those who did not; however much wealth and fame they had.*

*Things are meant to be used and people are meant to be loved, but today the tendency is to love things and use people to get and use those things. We chase fame, money and recognition often forgetting to balance our time with what really matters: our relationships and our inner fulfilment.*

*You can tell how rich you are by counting the number of things that you have that money cannot buy.”*

## THE VALUE OF CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY

There are academic courses available on leadership principles, business management, medicine, engineering, and so forth. However, how many courses or training sessions do you see offered on this important topic of character formation and establishment of strong values?

Since the school doesn't offer us this vital aspect of human existence as a course, the family must not fail to teach us how to live according to our conscience and not compromise our standard. Aristotle said *"The ultimate end of life is the development of character"*

Character deficits always lead people to negative consequences such as going to prison, being fired from their job, losing their life savings and so on.

We must establish a solid foundation for living that will sustain our family and keep us on the right path in times of uncertainty, temptation and crises.

Wisdom can be developed in private through study and reflection but character can be developed ONLY in



## The Values to be Taught

the give and take of daily life when you are forced to choose and decide among alternatives and temptation.

The lack of good character has made a mess of our world. Our nations are experiencing turmoil and moral decay characterized by crime, religious conflicts, economic uncertainty, unequal distribution of resources, political corruption, civil unrest, the disintegration of families, cyber-crime, poverty, disease, famine, sexual abuse, greed, racial clashes, global terrorism, and war.

Many believed that what is needed to change our world is great vision, academic and intelligent superiority, dynamic oratory and other communication skills, management expertise, and the ability to control others. However, time and again, history has shown that the most important quality a true leader should and must possess is the moral force of a noble and stable character.

We have to ensure that only men and women of character thrive and prosper over the long term in our economic, political and social system. We also have to ensure that in most cases, only men and women of character rise to high positions in society. We must

undermine tribal, regional and religious differentiation and go for character. That's the only mindset that can put our nation on the progressive pedestal and live above corruption. Jail cannot stop corruption. Firing squad; cannot stop it. The only and true antidote for corruption is a good character.

A Greek philosopher said *"a man's character is his fate"* Proverbs 22:1 declares *"a good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold"*.

Good character is like a personal security system for our lives. We can instil good character in our lives. We do this by developing values and establishing a code of ethics that will alert us to, and protect us from, the negative effect of various outside influences such as life's pressures, difficulties and temptations.

Dr. Paul Enenche writes in DUNAMIS daily devotional - *"Seed of Destiny"*; *"Character is living in a consistent realm of positive action or behaviour. Therefore, someone is said to be a person of character if he/she consistently acts positively or correctly. To be a person of character therefore, means to exist in the realm of consistent positive lifestyle or consistent correct behaviour"*.

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When a person lives like this, you know what to expect from him. If he does not lie, then you expect him to be consistent in being honest and not lying. If he does not steal, then you can expect him to be consistent in not stealing. It is not what you do occasionally that defines your character but what you do consistently. Even wicked people do good things occasionally. Character and integrity insist on doing right when doing nothing or doing wrong would have been so much easier.

Billy Graham, a man of impeccable character once said *“if you lose money, you lose nothing, if you lose health, you lose something, but if you lose character, you lose everything”*. This is because character is the bedrock of everything in life. However, in this present generation, the reverse is the order of the day. People feel if you lose character, you lose something, if you lose health, you lose something, if you lose money, you lose everything- this is an error.

We must retrace our steps and get it right. Billy Graham was also asked in an interview to give the three keys to success in life. He said, *“the first key is character, the second key is character, and the third key is character”*. This also confirms that character means everything to us.

*“Character is more important than intelligence; character is more profitable, valuable and marketable than intelligence”.*

Finally, ladies, *“beauty without character is like a fine car without an engine”*. What is the use? Nobody goes for such a car.

Many have never really been trained character-wise; while others have a bad attitude towards ethical and moral values aware of them though but essentially disregard them, so they make unwise decisions that lead to their downfall.

## INTEGRITY AND RELATIVITY

Men and women of complete integrity are those who would never compromise their honesty or their character for anything, including the threat of financial loss, pain, or even death.

Removing relativity from your life is a great defence against character flaws. There is black and white in life, you are either white or black. As soon as you agree with that you have relieved yourself of the stress that comes along with trying to decide what is right or wrong every time a situation arises, it becomes automatic.

## The Values to be Taught

How many business owners would hire an accountant or a treasurer who admits that they are relatively honest? Or how many people would celebrate their spouse when they admit and say *“when you were out of town, I was relatively faithful?”*

Relativity and integrity travel on a parallel line-they don't meet. You are either black or white. Don't tolerate what you should confront. It has done great damage to many. Including myself.

### THE VALUE OF SELF-IMAGE

A person's self-image is the mental picture of oneself, generally of a kind that is quite resistant to change. This image could be based on height, weight, hair colour, complexion, gender, and IQ, either from personal experience or by internalizing the judgement of others.

Possessing little self-image can lead people to become depressed, fall short of their God-given potential and tolerate abusive situations and relationships. This is because they don't know who they really are. If you know who you are in God; the finished work of Christ you will not tolerate some abusive relationship.

Self-image may consist of three types

1. Self-image resulting from how the individual sees himself.
2. Self-image resulting from how others see the individual.
3. Self-image resulting from how the individual perceives that others see him or her.

These three may or may not be an accurate representation of the person. All, some or none of these may be true.

Poor self-image may be the result of criticisms that a person was subjected to as a child which has led to damaging their view of themselves. Children, in particular, are vulnerable to accepting negative judgements from authority figures like parents, teachers, religious leaders, etc, because they are yet to develop competency in evaluating such reports. Also, adolescents are highly targeted to suffer from poor body image issues.

Therefore, I seriously advise “*the authority figures*” to do a careful selection of words when dealing with children of this age bracket, teenage and below. Individuals that

## The Values to be Taught

already exhibit a low sense of self-worth may be vulnerable to developing the social disorder.

Fathers, please love your little girls, especially as they go through the identity seeking years of adolescence. As it is hard for a father who is kind, gentle, loving, thoughtful, affectionate, considerate, and patient to produce children of either gender that are dysfunctional.

As we saw earlier in chapter two, parents must know that the devil is constantly suggesting to their children, *“you are not loved”, “you are not good enough”, “you are unattractive”, “you are too fat”, “too thin”, “too tall”, “too short”, “too smart”, “too quiet”, “too ambitious”,* etc. Therefore, parents must carefully select their words because any careless statement can make the child accept any of the above lies of the enemy to be true. And when that happens to a child, it will run down their sense of self-worth.

Parents should be mindful of words like *“do not keep your hope high”, “look before you leap”, “...work within your class”,* some wicked parents can even go to the extent of telling their child that *“I have studied you over the years and I don’t think you have what it takes to make it*

*to the top. So, just prepare yourself for the base”* what a lie! How damaging such utterances can be. Any moment the child accepts any of these to be true the child already starts to feel rejected and dejected, ultimately developing a low self-image.

The key to a healthy self-image is looking at yourself the way God does, not the way this world does. You are the image of God. Do not look down on yourself and do not let anyone look down on you. Keep your hope high. You are not inferior to anybody; you are as good as any other person. There is no need to feel low before anybody.

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”*

**(I Timothy 4:12 NIV)**

Do not think of yourself as just another person and you must not allow anyone to tell you that you are ordinary, don’t get lost in the crowd and don’t exist only as a figure in statistics. You are unique, you are original and you are irreplaceable. The understanding and consciousness of your uniqueness will save you from image crisis.



## The Values to be Taught

When you choose the higher value over the less, the more difficult over the easy, the right over the wrong, you feel good about yourself. Your self-esteem increases. You like and respect yourself more. You have a greater sense of personal pride.

Note: there is a thin line between a correct self-image and pride. Correct self-image says *"I am as good as any other person"* while pride says *"I am better than every other person"*. Pride is boastful, arrogant and disrespectful while self-esteem is peaceful and respectful but values himself. As we noted earlier, there is a thin line between self-esteem and pride; in our effort to build self-esteem we must be careful not to cross the line.

## THE VALUE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE

It is the prayer and desire of every parent that their children should be successful (even more successful than they are) in their chosen career and much more in their purpose. However, you will agree with me that not everyone ends up being successful. Why are some people more successful than others? It all boils down to each person's level of discipline.

Since every parent desires to see their children successful, It is therefore, their responsibility to teach them self-discipline and put them on the path to success. That's why if a person exhibits any character flaw, society is quick to investigate the family he/she comes from. And if any child is doing well, the family is quick to take a claim; that's my boy or that's my girl.

Self-discipline has been defined as self-denial. This requires that you deny yourself the easy pleasures, the temptation that led so many people astray, and instead discipline yourself to do only those things that you know are right for the long term and appropriate for the moment.

Self-discipline is also defined as delayed gratification. The ability to hold back or suppress the desire of your flesh in the interest of your long-term goal (future). The lack of this act is the reason why over 80% of businesses fail within their first ten years of establishment. That's also responsible for the loss of Esau's birthright. You can delay gratifying your feelings towards the opposite gender in the interest of your success either in school or at your workplace.

Success is possible only when you can master the acts of controlling your emotions, appetites and

## The Values to be Taught

inclinations; people who cannot master their appetites become weak and unreliable in all things.

In the school of success DDC is enshrined (i.e Discipline, Dedication and Consistency). Parents must teach their children to imbibe this fact. If you desire success in any field, self-discipline is not an option it's the only way.

Every minute of every day, there is a battle going on inside of every man between doing what is right, hard, and necessary (like the angel on one shoulder), or doing what is fun, easy, and of little or no value (like the devil on your other shoulder). You need self-discipline to choose the right path because both options are available and most time the wrong options are more appealing.

Just as self-discipline is the key to success, the lack of self-discipline is the major cause of failure, frustration, underachievement, and unhappiness in life.

I discovered that you can achieve almost any goal you set for yourself if you have the discipline to pay the price, to do what you need to do, and never give up.

The development of self-discipline will change your life. By continually demanding more from yourself. It

is the key to a great life and, without it, no lasting success is possible. Discipline is what you must have to resist the lure of excuses.

## THE VALUE OF HARD WORK

One of the major factors militating against the economic growth and development of most African nations in this generation is corruption. There is only one idea that breeds corruption and it is called *“quick success syndrome”*. And the idea that can perfectly correct and replace this syndrome is *“great work ethics”* (hard work). It is only lazy generations that are not ready to work before getting rich. There is no shortcut in life. Real-life and real living is a process that requires diligence.

Our whole life is divided into two phases: the *“play phase”* and the *“pay phase”* and everyone under the sun must experience the two. You either pay now and pay later or play now and pay later. The choice is yours. However, I advise you to pay now and play later since you still have the time and energy because a time will come that you may not have the time to pay and if you do have the time, you may not have the energy. Henry ward Beecher Said *“Hold yourself responsible for a high standard than anyone else expects of you. Never excuse*

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*yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself and be lenient to everyone else."*

There is nothing on earth that does not have processes and procedures. There are processes to becoming a lawyer. There are also processes to becoming a doctor. Can anyone jump these processes and become a lawyer or a doctor? It is not possible. Their years in school aren't a waste. First thing first.

Note: I'm not implying that you must be a doctor or a lawyer before you can achieve your life's dream; I am not one. I will like to say this without any mixed feelings that *"Real life is a process"* every trade has its process-apprenticeship - and so is any other line of human endeavour. No one can change the order. The day of preparation is different from the day of manifestation and you cannot put the cart before the horse. Everyone must be ready to have a wilderness experience before experiencing the promised land.

Bishop David Abioye said; *"everybody wants to be identified with glamour but we must be ready to work before getting there. Everyone wants to identify with sweet but at the root of anything sweet, there is sweat. Everyman's glamour is tied to his work. It is better to be a labourer at a*

*construction site than to be on the street with good dress without work. It is expected that everyone should be working. Either as an employee or as a self-employed. Culturally speaking your true measure of responsibility is your work. That means people will not count you responsible or a respected person in society if you are not working. Every working nation is a dignified nation”.*

Note: idleness is the breeding ground for poverty. If you are idle, you can't escape poverty. Whosoever permits idleness in your life is introducing you to slavery because the portion of an idle man is slavery. There is no way an idle man will make it to the top. Nothing works without work. Our religious leaders should de-emphasize the idea of miracles and promote work ethics because the notion of waiting for a “miracle” has made many believers lazy; they sit and cross their legs waiting for the miracle, forgetting the fact that faith without work is dead.

There is no substitute to work. If you want to make it to the top, you must work. Study the lives of all the great men you know; you will discover that God blesses them through the works of their hands. The only way to the realisation of your dream is through the work of your

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hands. *“Seeth thou a man diligent in his work, he shall not stand before mere men”.*

### THE VALUE OF TIME

Time management is the process of planning and exercising conscious control of time spent on specific activities, especially to increase effectiveness, efficiency or productivity.

When working on an important task, against a deadline or planning out daily responsibilities, it is important to manage time wisely. If you often find yourself rundown by your daily workload or overwhelmed by the complexity of projects and tasks in your life, it is most likely because you have not fully mastered effective time management.

Good time management allows you to accomplish more in a shorter time, which leads to more free time, which lets you take advantage of learning opportunities, taking new opportunities, lower your stress level and help you stay focused. This is important for attaining career success. Every step taken towards improving time management improves other aspects of your life.

TIME IS LIFE

Time is life therefore there is every need for parents to cultivate in their children value for time so that they can make effective use of their time and by implication their life.

Time

60Sec = 1Min	60Min = 1Hr	24Hrs = 1Day	7Day = 1Wk	4Wks = 1Mth	12Mth = 1Yr
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Time & Life Analysis

YEARS	MONTHS	WEEKS	DAYS	HOURS	MINUTES
1	12	52	365	8,760	525,600
2	24	104	730	17,520	1,057,200
50	600	2,600	18,250	438,000	26,280,000

Henceforth, I will be using the word “time” and “life” alternatively because time = life and life = time.

God gives all of us (male, female, black, white, young, old, rich or poor) an equal amount of time-24hrs a day.



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Some can choose to watch home video 24hrs, others can watch CNN for 24hrs, yet certain others can achieve fifty unimaginable and important things within the same 24hrs-depending on what you choose to do with your time/life. In essence, no one can really manage time. You can only manage the activities of your life. Be careful where and how you use your time/life. You are either investing or wasting your time/life.

There is a popular saying that *“Don’t go to where you are tolerated, go to where you are celebrated”*. However, I will like to put it in a better perspective. *“Don’t go to where you are just celebrated; go to where you are appreciated”*. You will be wasting your life/time if you are only hanging around places where you are just accepted or celebrated.

Does your life appreciate or depreciate in the process? The value of life is in appreciation. That is why people buy properties and keep them to appreciate in value. Time adds value. A great number of persons have lived and died that we have no trace or memory of them because their lives, existence and contributions were not appreciated.

On the other hand, some others lived and are long gone but their names can never be wiped off the shores of time. Even generations yet unborn will come to know about them.

### 30 IS THE NEW 40

Lately, the statement “*30 is the new 40*” has suddenly become popular on electronic media. I was driving one fateful day when this issue of “*30 is the new 40*” came up on air for discussion and analysis. Here is their conclusion.

If you can remember many years ago there was a popular saying that “*a fool at forty is a fool forever*”. This statement means that at the age of forty you are expected to have had some level of achievements and also have some sort of experience that will make your contributions to society worthwhile. At the age of forty, society will hold you in high esteem.

The statement “*30 is the new 40*” simply means that in this jet age where things happen faster than in the time of our forefathers who made the philosophical statement “*a fool at forty is a fool forever*”, What was expected of a person at age forty in the past is expected

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of a person at age thirty in the present time. By implication, this statement has placed a higher demand and responsibility on us in this jet age where we have access to all sorts of information at our fingertips. We ought also to see this statement as a pointer to how we spend our time/life.

### **THE VALUE OF THE FLOWER STAGE (GIRL CHILD)**

Flower stage is a compound word. We have Flower and Stage. Flowers are beautiful plants used for the beautification of our environment. Some of them are just beautiful green leaves while others bud real flowers like a rose flower. Our emphasis is on the latter group. Those types bud and bring forth real, attractive and beautiful flowers.

I am a lover of flowers, and from my experience and relationship with flowers I observed there are two categories of people in the life of every flower; the first is the owner and the second is the passer-by and each of these categories of people perform certain roles in the life of the flower. Let's consider them:

**1) The Owner:** the activities of the owner in the life of the flower include the following;

a. Watering: the only food the flower cannot survive without is water. So, the owner makes water available to the flower, especially during the dry season. This is to sustain the life of the flower and also to enable it to have what it takes to bring forth the expected beauty.

b. Trimming: flowers are like every other plant without trimming. To bring out the beauty of the flower it must be trimmed (the cutting away of all the unnecessary branches).

c. Protection: the owner will guide against intruders. He will protect the flower against all destructive animals, pests, insects, etc.

Note: - the greatest joy of the owner is to see the flower in its full beauty, potential and purpose.

**2) The Passer-By:** the activities of the passer-by in the life of the flower include the following;

a. Admiration: the first activity of the passer-by is admiration. They admire the beauty of the flower. Sometimes they make comments like *“wow! This flower is beautiful”*. They appreciate the effort of the owner.

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b. Photoshoot: They, very often take pictures of the flower and other times with the flower. Somehow; everyone wants to have a memory of the flower all in the name of admiration.

c. Cut-Away: Some admirers are obsessed with the beauty of the flower and will do everything within their strength to cut the flower from the stem and take it home. When this happens, the flower is disconnected from the life-giving source and subsequently, it will dry with time. After the flower dries, the same person that admired and cut the flower from the stem will carry a broom and sweep it out of his residence.

Note: - the admirer or the passer-by who cut the flower never said *“wow! This flower is beautiful let me destroy it”*. No! He never had the intention to destroy the flower. He sincerely likes and admires the flower but since he is not the owner, his activities are tantamount to destruction.

## THE GIRL CHILD AND THE FLOWER STAGE (Substitution)

Everything on earth has a life cycle. In business, we have something like the introductory stage, growth

stage, maturity stage and declining stage. That is a business life cycle. The same applies to every sphere of human life.

The story of the flowering stage is to help us analyse the life cycle of a girl child and to help them make necessary and key decisions when it matters most in their lives; their flower stage. It will help guide their vulnerable stage.

The flowering stage in the life of a girl is that stage of their life where their beauty glows. This is the stage when the girl-child is in her full beauty and attraction. At this stage, no one sees her passing without noticing her - male and female alike. At this stage, every dick and harry is attracted to her.

### **FACTS ABOUT FLOWER STAGE**

Some facts are available at this stage of your life that has the potential to either make or mar your destiny.

- The first fact is that you are beautiful at this stage. You will like yourself and men will like you too. Everyone will appreciate your beauty male and female alike but do not let the praise of men on your beauty arrogate you. Guide against pride.

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- The second fact to note is that beauty will not last forever. Every old woman you see on the streets today was a beautiful damsel many years ago. You may be a beauty queen today but you will be like that old woman in just years to come. The wise make the best use of opportunities that are available to them at this stage and it will affect their destiny positively forever. While some allow their beauty to override them and develop into pride and arrogance. Such people spend the rest of their life regretting the damage they have done to themselves through the improper handling of the stage.
- The third fact to note is that men are attracted to you all men. The good, the bad and the ugly.

All the men in your life at this stage are divided into two categories-the 'the owner' and 'the passer-by'. It is your responsibility to weigh their activities using the scale of the word of God to know the category each belongs to. The most frustrating thing in life is to mistake the passer-by for the owner. You need God's grace not to take the passer-by for the owner because it is not subject to physical observation. The passer-by will do everything within his strength to impress you.

They flaunt their wealth before you and try to gain your approval.

### **Category One:**

The owner (your owner) plays the activities of the owner of the flower in your life. Your owner will (water the flower) feed you with the word of God, (trim the flower) reprove and correct you with the shepherd's rod of correction. He will protect and guide your relationship, especially against the bandwagon. Sometimes you need to differentiate what you need for your destiny to be fulfilled from what you want because of fantasy. The irony however, is that most ladies go for what they want (fantasy) and missed what they need; only to realise it when it is too late.

The owner (your owner) includes God your creator, your parents, your spiritual leaders (be careful of wolves in sheep's clothing. Don't allow anyone to manipulate you under the umbrella of a spiritual leader), your mentor(s) and your husband-to-be (when he comes his activities in your life will reveal him).



## Category Two:

The passer-by. All other men in the world apart from those in category one are passers-by. Some will just pass by without having anything to do with you, others will appreciate your beauty, some will like to have a picture of you, take it from social media some with your consent others without your consent, some will like to take pictures with you and others will like to cut the flower away by having sex with you and subsequently get you pregnant. They do this because they want to take you home and have your beauty in their home.

When a girl child gets pregnant; unwanted pregnancy as it is called, the girl is left with two options. Let's consider those options and their consequences.

**Option one, abortion:** since it is popularly called "*unwanted pregnancy*", most ladies are not interested in keeping it so they choose the option of abortion at the risk of their lives. Some survive it while many have died from it. They made their early grave with their own hands. Some survived it and lost their womb. some others survived it and often stand the risk of breast cancer. According to medical experts, the moment conception takes place, the brain sends a signal

to the breast that “*in nine months you would be shouldered with the responsibility of feeding a person*” and immediately all the veins in the breast start expanding in preparation for the breast milk.

That’s why you can observe that the breast size increases during pregnancy. The veins in the breast don’t increase in numbers but they expand. When the pregnancy is terminated, some of those veins may not completely return to their original size, thereby increasing her risk of developing breast cancer. Though, it’s just a factor out of many other factors.

**Option two, giving birth to the child:** the boys or men responsible for this type of pregnancy quite often, are not ready to take responsibility, therefore, leaving the child and the mother un-catered for. Therefore, they carry the load of raising the child all alone. As we all know; weight reduces speed and we are all in the race of life. Some ladies have had to drop out of school to face the challenge of raising a child as a single mother. Sometimes they live wretched and stigmatized.

The society denies them many privileges; it calls such children “*illegitimate children*”. However, my pastor Rev. David Faruna calls such parents “*illegitimate parents*” and I tow his lines of thoughts. The children

## The Values to be Taught

are innocent, but the parents are not. The children are innocent and have a purpose to accomplish on earth therefore they are not inferior to any other child.

Recall from the scenario above that the admirer or the passer-by never said *"wow! This flower is beautiful let me destroy it"*. No. He never had the intention to destroy the flower. He sincerely liked, lusted and admired the flower but since he is not the owner, his activities are detrimental to the well-being of the flower.

The same applies to the girl child; he will not come to destroy you. Since he is not the owner, if you mistakenly find yourself in his house, he will send you out as soon as he finishes up with your beauty. Just like the hand that cut the flower is the same hand that sweeps it out when it is dried.

Teach the girl-child that at this stage **THEY ARE VULNERABLE**; Beware, be warned and be careful.

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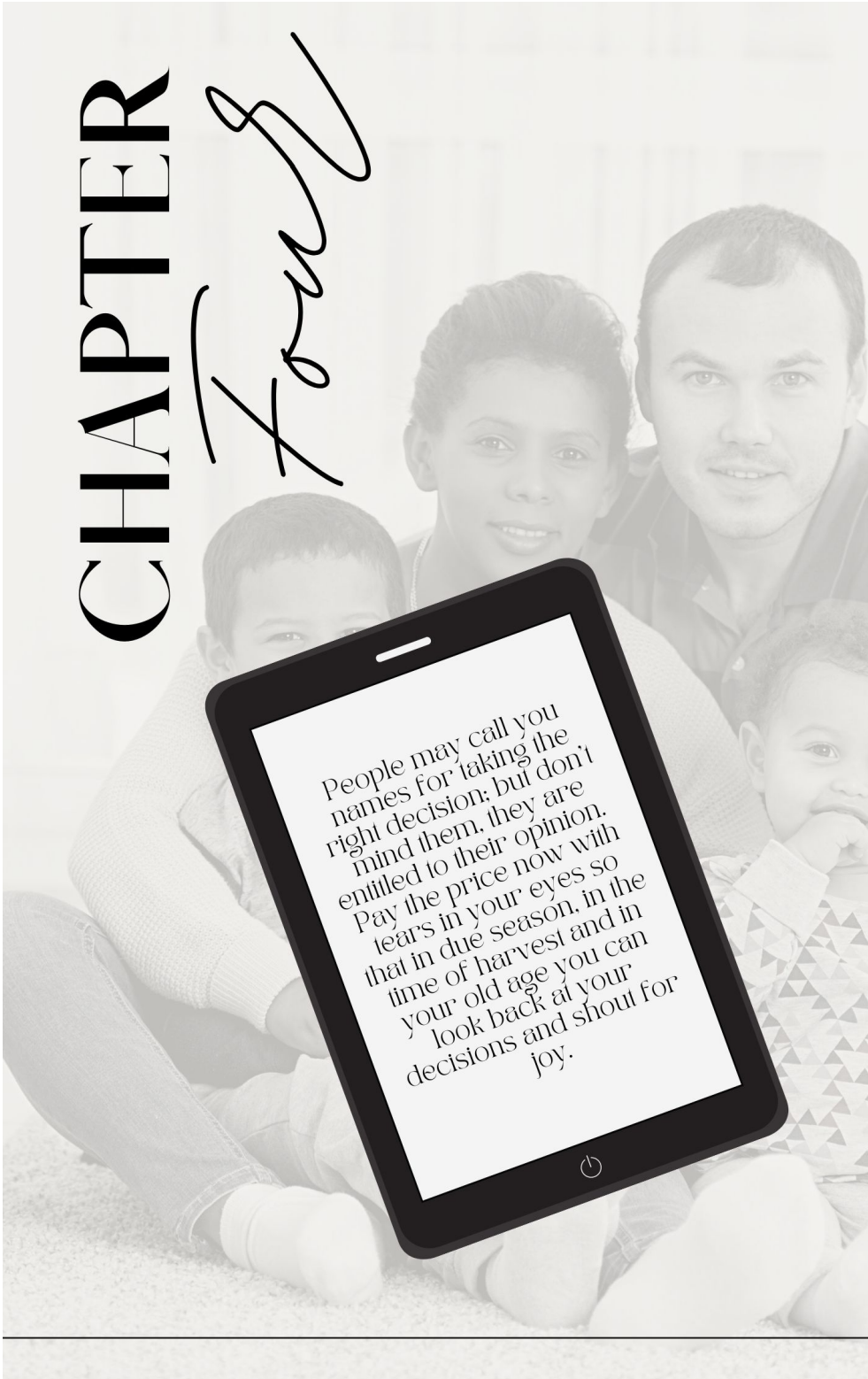
# CHAPTER FOUR

## THE ROLE OF CHILDREN - OBEDIENCE

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# CHAPTER

## Four



People may call you  
names for taking the  
right decision; but don't  
mind them, they are  
entitled to their opinion.  
Pay the price now with  
tears in your eyes so  
that in due season, in the  
time of harvest and in  
your old age you can  
look back at your  
decisions and shout for  
joy.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE ROLE OF CHILDREN - OBEDIENCE

Obedience is doing what you are asked to do at the time you are required to do it. Not in your own time.

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

*Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first  
commandment with promise That it may be well with thee,  
and thou mayest live long on the earth“*

**(Ephesians 6:1-3)**

*“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well  
pleasing unto the Lord”*

**(Colossians 3:20)**

Always respect your parents because they ultimately know what is good for you. Usually, parents know more about how you should behave in certain situations because of their experience. Whatever your age is, if you think you will know more and better than what you know now by the time you get to mummy and daddy’s age; then you must believe that they know more than you do, and obey them.

Always be honest in all dealings with your parents because if anything happens in form of an allegation, they should know what you can do and what you cannot do. They should be able to stand for you. They are the ones to defend you in times of trouble. If you are not always honest with them when you are accused of any wrongdoings, they will not be able to stand for you. Even when you are telling the truth they will doubt you.

Always assist your parents while doing any work whether domestic chores or commercial work. Don’t despise the work your parents do especially if they are



into petty or odd jobs for survival. That is what the whole family survives on, respect that and God can bless the work of their hands to change their situation.

Always remember that your relationship with your parents will comfort you. You are the one that will ultimately benefit from your good relationship with your parents; therefore, when they get angry with any of your behaviours, quickly repent of that particular behaviour and apologise to make sure you are always in a good relationship with them. It is only when you are in a good relationship with them that you can comfortably ask them for anything and gets their endorsement.

Listen to your parents' advice all the time, listen to their conversations. There is always wisdom to learn from the words of elders. *"The words of elders are words of wisdom"*. If you feel that your parents are wrong, you can ask questions politely or engage them in an argumentative conversation. You will get clarity and a better understanding from the conversation.

When parents give you a simple task like cleaning your room or making lunch, just do it without grumbling. It may not be fun but it is your responsibility to carry out

their instructions. Remember, it is not good to complain or grumble. Everything they ask you to do is preparing you for the future. When they give you any work to do, do it well. There is always a reward for a work well done. Make sure you fully understand what you are asked to do. If you don't, ask (don't irritate parents with silly questions, though). If you feel they are giving you too much to do, tell them politely.

Do not leave home without your parents' permission. You may get yourself into unnecessary trouble if you are always going out without parental permission. They need to know wherever you go per time for your safety.

Do not lie to your parents. The truth will come out eventually.

### **WHY DO CHILDREN HAVE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS?**

Here is a statement I saw on the internet, let us consider it together. *"When I was a kid, I didn't much enjoy obeying my parents, and when I became a teenager, that attitude became even more evident".* You see, whatever you harbour becomes more evident as you grow. Therefore,

don't harbour evil or any negative thoughts. Obeying your parents can seem like a drain on your fun time, it may even be misinterpreted as being cruel. We do know that no parent is perfect but many parents strive to be loving and consistent at it.

Therefore, obedience is for your own good as a child. The parents can see beyond the immediate "*inconvenience*" of finishing chores, saving money or completing homework to the ultimate good those responsibilities will bring.

The boundaries and responsibilities that parents set for you as children are not meant to be burdensome but to train. To succeed in life, children must learn to keep boundaries, distinguish between right and wrong, and take responsibility. The rules and chores are not a cruel hindrance but they are the binding materials that make for a secure future.

Obeying your parents is much more than just doing what you are asked to do. It is the reflection of our obedience to the heavenly Father.

Why do children have to obey their parents? Because every treatment meted out by most parents is intended at least, to make them better. The children need to

prepare their minds to endure the present pain for the glory of the future. Children are not only to endure but enjoy disciplinary measures in the home, understanding both its immediate and ultimate benefits. Even Jesus our Lord and example had to endure shame and the cross for the joy ahead.

*“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the  
throne of God”*

**(Heb 12:2)**

Your future is bright – obedience and discipline will take you there.

*“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the  
land”*

**(Isaiah 1:19)**

**CAN I CHOOSE TO BE DISOBEDIENT?**

**YES.**

We all know that we are living in the generation of choice. The generation believes that whatever path anyone chooses is okay as long as it's the person's

choice. The generation where people are not ready to be guided by the standard. That's why some men choose to marry their fellow men and women marry women and it's ok by this generation. That's also responsible for why men can choose to marry animals and this generation oks it. Unfortunately, this idea is penetrating our younger generation, especially teenagers.

I was privileged to take the topic of obedience at a teenage conference some time ago, the conference had provision for questions and answers. During the questions and answers session, a teenage boy asked me a question. Here is his question *"Can I choose to be disobedient?"*. Bearing in mind the generation we are in, I answered him *"Yes!"* but I didn't stop at the emphatic Yes, I said to him *"but note that you cannot escape the consequences of your disobedience and you cannot choose the type consequences"*.

Some were disobedient they lost their throne; others were disobedient and became a wild beast. Some were disobedient and their kingdom was divided. Some were disobedient, they became barren another was disobedient and became a pillar of salt. Some were disobedient and they became leprous another was

disobedient and died. Therefore, since we cannot escape the consequences of disobedience and have no power to choose the type of consequences, it is wisdom to be obedient and escape the consequences of disobedience. So that our lives will not end up the way we may not like.

## **RESISTING REBELLION**

While researching this topic of teenage rebellion, I discovered that all the works by professionals on this topic both in print and on the net tend to address teenage rebellion from the parents' angle. They all try to educate the parents on the type of parenting strategy they can use to curb teenage rebellion. This work seems to be the first or one of the few that tries to address teenage rebellion from the children's angle: educating children to resist rebellion on their own.

The first question we need to ask as teenagers is; why are we always seeing things differently from our parents? Or better still, why are parents not always seeing things in our own way? The answer is simple.

Parents do not look at you in line with your present status. They look at your potential and your future and

thus expect you to behave in keeping with who or what you shall become. However, our friends and peer group look at us in our present status and address us as such, look down on us and expect us to misbehave.

You can be the judge of your own case; do you want to be looked down upon or you want to be addressed as a king? Then align your life and behaviour with which ever school of thought you prefer for your life. Tomorrow is greater than today.

*“Good friends, don’t forget all I’ve taught you; take to heart my commands. They will help you live a long, long time, a long life lived full and well. Don’t lose your grip on love and loyalty. Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart. Earn a reputation for living well in God’s eyes and the eyes of the people”*

**(Proverbs 3:1-4 The Message Translation)**

Good friends, I want you to know that a rebellious spirit can cause young people to rebel even against their own self-interests. It can cause them to engage in self-defeating and self-destructive behaviour, such as refusing to do school works or even physically hurting themselves. It can cause them to experiment with high-risks, accepting dares that as children they ought not to.

It can cause them to reject safety rules and restraints, letting impulse overrule judgement to dangerous effects. It can cause them to injure valued relationships, pushing them against those they care about and pushing them away.

Although young people think that rebellion is an act of independence, it actually never is. It is a reflection of your state of mind. It shows that if young people are left to themselves, they will make fatal mistakes in life. Rebellion is a reflection that you are not fully in charge of your emotions, and life is not ruled by emotions but by deep thought and rationality.

We know that majority of people make mistakes as teens but it will also interest you to know that while some make mild mistakes that can be easily corrected; others make fatal mistakes that will continue to hunt them for the rest of their lives. Don't be on the later side.

Rebellion is actually pride put into actions. Rebellious thought says *"I'm going to do whatever I want, no matter what anyone says or feel about it"*.

*"So I spake to you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill. And the Amorites, which*



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*dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chases  
you, as bees do, and destroyed you in seir, even unto  
Hormah.*

*And ye returned and wept before the Lord; but the Lord  
would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.”*

**(Deuteronomy 1:43-45)**

*“Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against  
her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be  
dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped  
up”*

**(Hosea 13:16)**

Friends, as we can see from the scriptures above; the act of rebellion brings two things to the rebellious children.

The first thing they get is destruction. The rebellious children in the above scriptures were destroyed. There are many stories of those who rebelled against their parents in the Bible and how they ended their lives. Absalom rebelled against his father; he was destroyed. Samson rebelled against his parents' advice, he was destroyed, Judas Iscariot rebelled against his master, he was destroyed. All forms of rebellion-open rebellion or secret rebellion were all accompanied by destruction. If

you think rebellion is the way, re-consider your options.

The second thing they got from God was an unanswered prayer. The Bible says they cried to the Lord but the Lord would not hearken nor give them a listening ear. One of the common identities of rebellious children is that both God and men will not listen to them when they call for help.

That's why before you are given any serious appointment in the society; they will demand you to present two or three letters of recommendation from senior citizens to enable them to believe your report. If you are a rebellious child, it will be difficult for you to obtain those recommendations. So, if you desire that God and even men should listen to you when you call for help; then guide your actions now that you think you don't need anything from them.

Finally, friends, we must take a very firm stand and resist every temptation to rebel against authority figures in our lives. The only sets of people in this world who wish and pray that you should be better and greater than them in every good thing are your parents. Why don't you give their opinion a benefit of the doubt

by swallowing your own and resisting all forms of violence?

There is a general saying that *"a wise child always does the parents proud"*. So, if we find ourselves in any situation that requires our action, we must, first of all, do a self-evaluation and make sure that the outcome of our actions will do our family and friends proud. By so doing, we secure our future and those of our children.

### HANDLING REJECTION

My friend, there may be many things in your outward life that the world would tell you are not *"normal"*. You may lack education, money, status, experience or picture-perfect looks. So what? God doesn't care about any of these. Remember, man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). *"God don't make no junk"* is a popular phrase in the US and other western countries.

We experience rejection as part of our daily activities. No one can gain the acceptance of everybody. Luke 6:26a. Says *"woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you"* even our Lord Jesus Christ did not attain that status. Everyone does experience rejection at one point

or another in life but what is important is how each person handles their own. A wise man said, *“life is 10% what happened to you and 90% your reaction to them”*. In this light, we can see that what happens to you is not as important as your reactions to them-or the way you handle them.

An old Indian story goes like this: *“on my shoulders are two wolves. One is a black wolf, evil, who continually tempts me to do and say the wrong things. On my other shoulder is a white wolf that continually encourages me to live up to my very best.”*

A listener asked the old man *“which of these wolves has the greatest power over you?”*

The old man replied, *“The one I feed”*.

Be careful the one you feed. I’ve never heard of anybody going all the way through life and not getting knocked down. Some people never get up and some get up so slowly that it takes years and a lifetime of anger and bitterness before they recover. *“People fall down. Winners get up. Gold winners get up faster”*

We must note that it is not everything we see as rejection that is actually rejection; sometimes we come

face to face with basic principles or laws that guide a particular thing, organization, family, person, etc, and we are tempted to misinterpret it as rejection. In such situations what we need might just be a proper understanding of that person, family, organization, device, etc.

I am fully aware that in some other circumstances we do come face to face with outright rejection. It is because of such situations that we need to learn the art of handling rejections. This is because rejection is the commonest and the most effective instrument of the devil to keep us out of our God-given destiny.

Yeah! Rejection is real, we face rejection every day, from society, neighbours, friends, and even family but what is more real is your identity in God.

*But you are the one chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you-from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.*

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourself cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your*

*actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.*

*"Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government"*

**(1 Peter 2:9-17 The Message Translation)**

*"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"*

**(1 Timothy 4:12).**

Knowing your identity in Christ is the greatest antidote to handling rejection in life. You are the finished work of Christ. The awareness that you are the finished work of Christ is the only thing that can keep you going in life when all other situations around you suggest the negative. It gives you encouragement from within. It puts you over.

## The Role of Children - Obedience

*“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord  
will take me up.”*

**(Psalm 27:10)**

The encouragement from within is the only encouragement that will keep you on your destiny route, unto the end of time. Sometimes you could be alone in a situation without anybody to encourage you; other times you may even be in the crowd but nobody is willing to listen or encourage you, or to make the matter worse all of them may even discourage you.

King David once found himself in such a situation, (1 Samuel 30:6) the Bible says he encouraged himself. That is the only thing that can keep a man; self-encouragement. Don't let rejection from any angle put you on the floor, it may even come from your spouse (the closest person to you), but encourage yourself and continue with life. Like it or not, nothing causes us to grow like hard times. It develops our patience and character.

I like the way Matthew Ashimolowo put it. He said rejection is like an elevator, when you found yourself inside, the button you press will determine the direction it will take you; whether up or down. Self-

pity, regret and discouragement will take you down, while self-encouragement, determination, concentration and the likes will take you up. So many are drowned in the ocean of rejection but the same ocean has taken some people to the high shores of life. Press the right button.

Gary R-Habermas said *“In reality, the primary reason we feel so much emotional pain when these things occur is because of our belief about what happened to us. Correct beliefs promote life, health and peace. Incorrect often called irrational beliefs eventually cause great pain and suffering”*.

After all, our thoughts largely determine who we are and what we become. Often, the wrong belief leads us to wrong actions and wrong ends. I counsel you to choose what is right so that it may go well with you.



## AN EXTRACT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LETTER

Here are some extracts from Abraham Lincoln's letter to the teacher of his child;

- Teach my child that for every enemy there is a friend.
- Teach him that a dollar earned is more valued than five found.
- Teach him to learn how to lose and enjoy winning. Steer him from envy if you can.
- Teach him the secret of quiet laughter.
- Teach him the wonder of books. But also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a hillside.
- In school, teach him to know that it is more honourable to fail than to cheat.
- Teach him to have faith in his ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

- Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with tough people.
- Try to give him strength on the bandwagon.
- Teach him to listen to all men but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and take only the good that comes through.
- Teach him how to laugh even when he is sad.
- Teach him there is no shame in tears.
- Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob and to stand and fight if he thinks he is right.
- Treat him gently but do not cuddle him because only the test of fire makes fine steel.
- Let him have the courage to be impatient and patient to be brave.
- Teach him always to have faith in his creator and faith in himself too, because then he will always have faith in man-kind...

## NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Who are you? A common question, isn't it? Any time this question comes your way you think about yourself and all your accomplishments. You ask yourself how you felt when you achieved each success in life. Now ask yourself if your accomplishments are you. If you hadn't gotten that promotion, would you still be the same person? If you hadn't finished your degree, would you still be the same person? Of course, you would.

The accomplishment or titles themselves are not part of who you truly are. They are merely garments of the material world that you wear. When you take those garments off, what are you? Are you your body? The answer is, of course, NO!

We are far more than our physical conglomeration of proteins, cells and five senses. That's why someone may recognise your physical conglomeration for years and suddenly make a statement like *"oh! I never knew*

*you*” this means you are beyond your body. What makes you who you are is what this book is all about – the values.

## DID YOU ENJOY THIS BOOK?

Did you enjoy reading this book? Do you know someone that can benefit from it? Feel free to share it with them with the following link:  
<https://lasouchpublishing.com/Far-Tim-1>

I would appreciate it if you take a moment and leave an honest review for this book on Amazon. This helps others find the book and decide if this is a fit for them.

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A black and white portrait of a man with a warm smile, wearing a light-colored shirt with thin vertical stripes. He is leaning forward with his hands clasped in front of him. The background is dark and textured. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Faruna Timothy (Far-Tim.) is a dedicated Christian whose passion for the entrenchment of godly character, attributes and virtues in individuals and societal lives have spanned many years.

He is a lover of our Lord Jesus Christ and a relationship expert who has served in the church and other Christian organisations in different capacities including being a two-time Fellowship President in his university days.

Born into the family of Mr & Mrs Faruna Adaji of Abejukolo, Kogi State, Faruna Timothy holds a B.Sc. (degree) in Management Science from the Kogi State University, Anyigba and an M.Sc. in Business Management from the same institution.



### About the Author

During his NYSC days, Far-Tim. served as the Zonal Coordinator of the Nigeria Christian Corpsers Fellowship (NCCF). He was also the Coordinator of Culture and Family Re-orientation in Delta State in the same year and is currently a Pastor at the Voice of Faith Chapel, Suleja, Niger State, Nigeria.

Timothy is married to Grace and they are blessed with three children: Peace, Prosper and Praise.

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