

a. Discipline...Galatians 5:1, 1 John 3:3, et al. The idea is that the son learns to stand firm in what has been given to him. He builds his life and character along the ideals conveyed to him. In this regard he becomes an overcomer...an abstainer, so to speak, from what is contrary to sons: license and abuse, mastery by non-Christian ideals. It is not thought that the father should have to constantly follow the son, making his decisions, correcting his errors, etc., but that the son would be maturing and so be able to direct his own affairs. An 'undisciplined child' is no credit to his parent.

b. Love...Galatians 5:13, etc., which leads to serving one another after the pattern of John 13. Love is more than a simple passive expression, it is a direction of living. It is the desired end that a son would appreciate and serve the family.

c. Correct walk, as in Galatians 5:16 et al., a walk in the Spirit. What the son does will be done in accord with the Spirit and his direction. In that way obedience and growth will be produced in the child and he will more correctly display the proper characteristics of the family.

C. Conclusion

The big problem is learning to think of ourselves as "sons of God." Until we can translate this concept into a daily ideal, we are likely to not desire or move towards a life that is given to that perspective. When we do come to see ourselves in that light it is easier to see the force of the walk that should be ours and to adjust the concepts of behaviour to suit it. Self-instruction can be a very beneficial thing and it would help if every Christian would daily instruct himself to the effect that he is a "son of God."