

*John Meyer*

Without the effective co-operation of the family it is impossible  
to Christianize society.

The basic unit of society in our civilization is the family.  
If there is to be any social revolutions, its roots must be  
in family life. In that respect, the family is the key to  
our civilization, the origin of any reform, the origin  
of every fault. To make the family perfect would be to  
~~and~~ make the world perfect.

The reason for this vital influence is the fact that  
in the family, the individual receives his first impres-  
sions, his first prejudices, his first ideas of the  
world into which he has come. In the first twelve or fifteen  
years of a child's life he is most susceptible to influence,  
indeed, during those years he is being molded by external  
influences and his inner spirit to what he will be  
as a man. The man is ~~very~~ unchangeable, the child  
is not. The impressions of childhood leave the  
profoundest mark on the character of the individual.

If, then, we endeavor to change the ways of men, we must logically make our first and foremost effort in the family. Family life should be an asset to and the life of the individual because of the principles it imbues in his character.

Almost all of Christ's teachings and ethical values can be applied in the family. The Christian ideas of self-sacrifice, of selfless love, of forgiveness, of mercy, all of these would do wonders for the family. Right at this place is the important point. If Christianity ~~be~~ lives ~~on~~ within the family, we need not fear a third world war. The presence of Christianity (or of any similar code of ethics and moral) is absolutely vital for today's civilization.

And then, then we need worry about nothing else. Poverty and wealth; sickness and death; and all these problems which have cropped up because of the moral vacuum will find their own solutions and will weave themselves into the pattern of harmony.

Ethics is, I think, the key to a better way of life.  
True ethics as is embodied in the teachings of Jesus  
Christ is the basis for every constructive civilization.  
Let us, then, begin to saturate our family life with  
the essence of Christianity, and we shall see  
our way open to a higher level of civilization  
and culture.

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