

DON'T BE A DELINQUENT PARENT!

—Sara D.

When finishing up these Teen articles & seeing the emphasis I had put on discipline & having a high standard, etc., I commented to Maria how I was a bit concerned that, "I may not have shown enough love & appreciation in these articles." I felt a little sorry to have to come down so hard on our teens, as they've really done so well, GB'm, in their crash-course training here & I do appreciate their progress & great help to me so much! They not only need discipline but also praise & encouragement & appreciation. —How do we reward them?

Maria explained to me that it's very easy for parents to compromise the standard of their teens' training & not demand obedience to the rules, since they feel obligated to the teens because of their hard work & the great help they are to the Home & the fact that they as parents definitely need & appreciate their help. They want to keep them "happy" & not crack down on them so that they'll continue their help. —They may sometimes make an almost unwritten or unspoken "deal" with them. "If you help me, I'll let you have what you want." Parents feel they should maybe "repay" them in gratitude by letting them get by with less discipline, or letting them go to movies, or wear make-up, or drink wine & get into worldly habits. Sometimes their motivations are mixed: They genuinely want to show them some well-deserved appreciation, yet they also want to "pay" them to stay helpful, perhaps even fearing that they'll lose the teens' valuable help with the younger children or in the workload & witnessing & support, etc.—hence, the compromise.

"But you cannot let your feelings get in the way", Maria stressed to me. "You

can't for any reason be a delinquent parent & show any laxness at all in the rules & standard! This is an army & you cannot compromise!" Maria said that of course you as parents appreciate all their help & want to show them this, but your love & understanding & your good spiritual training & guidance should be their main reward! What you shouldn't give them is permission or leeway to break the rules or keep any less standard. You just have to keep a high standard of obedience to the basic principles & spirit of the Family & its rules & behaviour! Your young people will appreciate it much more if you make them toe the mark, no matter how indebted you feel to them!

Some people even feel indebted in the same way to their mate or adult childcare helper. They hate to make a suggestion or correction or reproof that will "make it harder on them" or "rock the boat" or chance losing their love or help, or "hurt their feelings" when they've done pretty well, but that's not helping & loving them. Just like we love & appreciate good strong shepherds who counsel & guide & help & correct us for the better, the children & teens will always respect the Lord in their parents & appreciate their spiritual standard & conviction & obedience, righteous & Godly principles & standards!

One of our teens gave the following reaction: "When I was living with good childcare overseers before at a Combo, it could have been a really good time of learning lessons & really changing, but I have to admit that I really wasn't very open & willing. I was too proud & thought it was unfair the few times that the adults would correct us for doing some things. When

I turned 12, just overnight I started doing everything like an adult—watching adult movies, drinking coffee & wine regularly. (I've stopped that now.) I want to say now I'm really sorry & wholeheartedly agree with all the rules you've laid down for us here. I'm sorry for not making the most of my opportunity before, as our teacher really knew a lot & he really tried. If I had just been open & willing I could have learned a whole lot from him & his good sample. I won't do that again this time, by God's

grace, as I know this will be one of the best opportunities in my life to really get things right with the Lord & change! I know it will be a big change for me being so closely overseen & being told what to do every minute of the day & being punished & deprived of blessings if I don't do what I should after a warning or disobedience. I really want to obey & change & do whatever the Lord & Mama & Grandpa want me to do, by God's grace!"

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer, no disease that enough love will not heal. No door that enough love will not open, no gulf that enough love will not bridge. No wall that enough love will not throw down, no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. Sufficient love will dissolve it all.

