

T H E S I S .

Subject, *Love as an Educational and Governing Force.*

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1.
Love is an educational and governing force. Before we attempt to prove this proposition we must understand the meaning of the different terms used. Love is a divine law that consists of affection, kind feeling, friendship, and goodwill. Force is capacity of exercising an influence or producing an effect; especially power to persuade or convince. An educational force is a force that brings about the mental, moral, and physical development of man. A governing force is a force that directs, controls, and influences the actions of persons.

Force cannot produce any effect upon anything unless it is applied to it by some cause. For example take the locomotive. Before it

can perform any work, the force of steam must be applied to it by the engineer. In this case the steam is the force, the engine that to which force is applied, the engineer, the cause that applies the force, and the work done by the locomotive is the effect of the force. If the locomotive has the force stored up in the boiler and no engineer to apply the force to the engine, no work will be performed. On the other hand if there is an unskillful engineer who does not know how to regulate the force, the locomotive may stand still or it may move with such speed that the engineer cannot control it.

From the locomotive let us turn to the school-room where love is the force to be used to educate the

children and the teacher, the person
 by whom the force is to be applied to
 the individual pupils under his
 care. Why should we say that love
 is a governing force in the school?
 Because the teacher comes in contact
 with human hearts, and the human
 heart is in its highest sense sympa-
 thetic, responding to the warmth of
 human love. There is no human
 heart however tightly sealed, but that
 has some key to unlock it. This
 key may be the key of courtesy, of
 kindness or of politeness. The heart
 does not or cannot show its beauty
 or its worth without the human touch
 that unlocks the hidden treasures.
 This revealing touch was and is one
 of the secrets of Christ's power in the
 hearts and lives of men. It is only

when the teacher's love wraps the child's soul about and it becomes conscious of that touch that it flashes forth new beauties of life. True human love is the secret of good government. Caesar, Napoleon, and Washington easily governed their soldiers because they loved them.

Some teachers fail in trying to govern by love because they have the impression that governing by love means to neglect their own requirements and allow the pupils to do as they please. The teacher who is unskillful in governing by this force is like the unskillful engineer who does not know how to apply the force of steam to his engine. The result is that the school becomes unmanageable. A teacher may be very strict and firm

my his requirements and yet govern
by love. He can reason with the
pupils, trust them and lead them
to see that his requirements are
simply for their own good. By
being reasonable and kind he can
secure good government or obedience
which is the only government.

This is true because it is human
nature to try to please those who
by their words and actions prove that
they love us and are interested in
our welfare. So it is easy to see
that by the force of love the teacher
can direct, control, and influence
the actions of the pupils. He can
direct their minds toward some
special line of work and he can
influence them to build true
moral characters. He can do this

because he loves the pupils and they love him and are willing to do whatever he requires of them. They will study to please the teacher who loves them. By this earnest study their minds will be developed and by the teacher's example and influence their moral development will increase. Thus we see that love is a strong force in the government and in the education of each individual child. What then will be the effect of this force when pupils who have been educated under such influences begin their work in life? It will be a wonderful power for good for by their love and earnestness many will be influenced to try to educate themselves

and to try to raise the race to a higher moral and intellectual state. God has told us in his word that love is the fulfilling of the law. If by true love alone man can fulfill God's law, how great is the effect of true love on the hearts and lives of children who are placed under the care of a devoted Christian teacher?

8.
Bibliography

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