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Address to the Child Conservation
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In asking me to speak to you upon the subject of "What constitutes a Modern Good Father" leaves me open to the opportunity to simply do as the lawyers do in presenting the best part of their case. That is I might just introduce myself in evidence as "Exhibit A" and close the address.

But probably it is not exemplification that you desire but a serious discussion of what is this day and time, under the changes times and circumstances does in fact produce or constitute a good father.

Well, I shall inform you in the first instance, that the first requirement of a Modern Good Father is to be a Modern Good Husband. It is much more essential to have a good husband than it is to have a good father in the home. After all it is the mothers of the country who rear the children, the father is a remarkably small necessity in the child life; except, of course in the first instance.

So going back to our first assertion that to be a good father first requires the male to be a good husband. For in being a good husband, furnishing the home, the raiment, the food in sufficient amounts he necessarily enables the mother to do her part, which is entirely the greater part, more efficiently and well. And to the same extent the father is enabled to furnish the necessities of life and some of the comforts and conveniences, is the child life prospered and benefited.

After the material things of life have been provided by the father, then of course as an adjunct and corollary, he should provide the moral and spiritual example. Even if these things are more or less hypocritical on his part, yet, withal, it is an absolutely necessary thing to have before the child's mind always the example of honor and respectability. This is best exemplified in church life; in the recognition of a Supreme Being; in the expectation of a Future Reward for right living and moral conduct. For, whatever one may believe in the mature years of life, be he skeptic or orthodox, it cannot be denied by a thinking mind impression made upon little minds that through their good conduct and right living they will be expected to gain a reward that is unseen and unknown. It may be hard for the parent to explain to the enquiring mind sometimes, for those little folk oftentimes ask such startling questions, yet there is nothing in this life that will take the place of Religion in shaping the future course of the human being. There is nothing that lends the stimulus to correct morals as does the stimuli of religious teachings and thought.

We must not be deceived about the moral requirements; they are not God given so much as they are man-made. Man made to protect man from the many ills that lurk about each human being ready to take their toll should a misstep be made. Gluttony, if contracted in youth is destructive of happy life in after years. Intemperance of all kinds must be discouraged whether it be in appetite or a disposition to allow the passions to run amok. Intemperance in expression, intemperance in looks, intemperance in speech; these are all forces that make or destroy the best personality.

And in this life personality has more to do with our successful, joyful living than any other characteristic that goes to make up our existence. We may be smart, we may have beauty, we may possess grace but without the saving quality of personality it is all more or less lost in the same extent or personality is had. Personality can be cultivated to the fullest in the tender years of a child. The father, of course, is of but small importance in this moulding of character and personality, but being a Good Modern Father, he can and should be helpful to the patient mother by setting a good example before the child. Never crossing the mother in the presence of the child; never allowing the child to get the idea (and they gets ideas in strange ways and upon the smallest fault) that the mother is wrong. If he believes her wrong he should speak to her about the matter apart from the presence of the child. It is the worst thing possible for one parent to criticise the other in the presence of their children for that child or those children will be led to believe that either the parent is wrong or that the other is deliberately taking sides with the child. Either of these things is destructive of the best interest of children. It is inconceivable, almost, what small things will influence the life of a child. You have all experienced no doubt the fact that when a baby is but two or three days old, it will begin to take advantage and demand to have its way. Walk the floor with it once or twice and it will cry its head off for that to take place again when it wants it. This is indulgence that is not fair to that child. For character is made between the ages to one and six-- that is the foundation of character, the superstructure is imposed as the years go forward.

The greatest fault in the home today is overindulgence--
coddling. That a handicap it is to the child in after life when it
is required to buck the turmoil of the business life or the
social life. What set backs it must receive, what bitterness
it must feel. And yet it is so much easier to say yes than it is
to say no. But after all that saying yes when judgment dictates
it is not for the best interest of the youngster is but a self-
ishness on the part of the parent. It is a desire to please one's
self rather than do the best thing for the child. In this the
father can be of great service in recommendations and advice.

You know, the father is the hunter of the family--the provider.
It is his business to bring home the bacon and this requirement
necessitates him being absent from the home, but the mother is
always there. His business requires his attention to it constantly
if he is to be successful and provide for the home as he desires
and as it should be provided for. And in this the wife can be of
the greatest help. She can save, cut the corners, advise in many
ways and give comfort and support that is of the utmost benefit
to the often harassed husband. [A_nd right here allow me to state
that the disposition of our people to move to the cities and
live in the towns is a matter of the greatest misfortune. On the
farm every member of the family is helpful-- can cooperate-- but
in the cities and towns only the head of the house can provide
and the other members, so far as the income is concerned, are but
wasters. Wasters of necessity, but nevertheless wasters. But they
may be helpful as such; they can cut down the waste, the expenses.
They can help the head of the house, the provider, to build up a
reserve for the unfortunate time. In the country the wife and the
children
can provide their own little incomes, but the city and
the town prevents it.

And right here allow me to remark that the Good Father, who is also a Good Husband, can enhance his value very much to society and to the home by taking into consideration the trials of the mother in the home. The tax upon her patience, her household worries, the monotony and lack of excitement in doing over and over again the same things. By his patience and understanding in these matters he can best serve the purpose of a Good Father. The home is a place of business where two partners carry on. Each must take their respective responsibility, if they do not, dissension is going to break out in that household. It is a business of give and take--sometimes most exasperating. But a thoughtful, sensible person will understand and in understanding be helpful. And in being helpful provide a better environment for the growing children.

Children's characters are made by precept as well as example and in this the father can exercise a wholesome influence. When the chill of winter drives the family to the sitting room and about the blazing fires, principles of right living and good conduct can be discussed. The father here, and the mother too, can in a most insidious and intertaining manner inculcate into little minds truths of conduct that will remain with the children all through their lives. However far they may stray from the beaten paths in after life, and what member of society has never done so to some extent, yet those teaching will bring them back to the best manner of living. No law, no government, no tribunal that ever sat, can do so much for the best interest of the children of a land as the kindly parents about the hearthstone implanting high principles into little minds. Teaching them to speak the truth, pay their debts, honor their God and respect their government, and to live as nearly as possible by the Golden Rule.

The Good Father can be a better father by providing his children as they advance in years, not with the toys already prepared for play, but with materials to construct their toys. This gives rise to imagination in little minds, encourages and stimulates their constructive abilities. As a matter of fact children are not fastidious in their choice of playthings. A boy will play with and enjoy more the ordinary "stick-horse" that he has contrived himself than all the expensive hobby horses that repose in the nursery. The little girl will enjoy a rag-doll and love it more than the fanciest creation brought home from the shops. Many toys are a sore detriment to children. The practice gives them the wrong idea of things, they expect bigger and better ones all the times, they are never satisfied, whether they really play with them or not. It is just a selfish satisfaction on the part of the parents that prompts the practice. In all of these thoughtful ways a father may develop into even a Good Modern Father. As a matter of fact, my friends, if there is any difference between a good old fashioned father and the modern fathers in my judgment, the balance of good is on the side of the old fashioned one. He, whether designedly or not, did not give the full attention to the children that is lavished today. He left them to themselves to a great extent. Their little sorrows and troubles were not given the impressive emphasis that we extend today. This left them, to a great extent, to their own ingenuity. That was good because it made them to that extent resourceful and self-sufficient. In those days, too, the father and the mother too practiced frugality and thrift more than they do in this day of the installment buying. This was well because by example the little minds were impressed with thrifty impulses.

You know today we are all victims of pretention. Our fathers endeavor to possess a better car than the Jones and our mothers vie with each other in dress. It is a constant contest to see who is the better dresser or has more pretty things; who has the newest car and a host of kindred pretentions. This is the rankest folly. What does it avail except to bring anxiety and sorrow? The stretching of the credit to meet our pretentions brings the anxiety in the very first payment. No wonder there are so many heart failures these days. The old heart has a constant strain.

And then there is another way in which the Modern Father can show him self not only a Good Father but an excellent one. He can teach his children to use their hands. He can teach them that it is not disgraceful to work. He can teach them that if their hands are dexterous in many ways (not toward the cash drawer of course) they are to the same extent independant of conditions, of hard times, of other men and women. This is the greatest lesson that can be inculcated. Our schools are standardizing the so called education of our children. They are all run through the same mill. They are taught music and French, physicology and philosophy, political ecomony and science when there is not five per cent of our children who in the natural run of events can ever find the leisure time to enjoy such things. The girls are taught in domestic science to the extent of baking cakes, making deserts and accomplishing strang looking salads, when God knows the far greater portion of our people will be continually striving to get bread and butter and the absolute, substantial necessities in food. Her

is where the good of using their hands comes in. If a job is lost or the pay is small many a savings may be made if the young man understand how to construct, even if it be in a crude way, many of the necessities around the home. Understands the science of tilling the soil--understands its properties and the many things that may be grown in the garden or in the field. Understand the coice of live stock, the selection of chickens and other fowls; understands their nature and the proper breeding animal life. How many times will such things tide over an unfortunate period in a man or woman's life. We can not always and all times find employment, not all of us. In the more fortunate homes a classical education is a happy circumstance, but to the average boy and girl it is but the filling of the mind with wrong ideals--encouraging them to a standard that can never be reached-- discourages them to pursue a course that is more in keeping with their position in life and oftines with their particular mentalgy and ability to accumulate. Yet, however fortune the circumstances of a youngster may be, it is never emiss for him to kgow how to use his hands. In this life the very great majority of people must work, and work hard and in lowly places, to gain a living. And he who accomplishes anything in this life worth while must do it by work. I have seen the brilliant man fall by the wayside while the plodder who works steadily forward reaches the goal of iminence. This life is made for us to work in and the father who neglects to teach his children this cardinal principle of life is keeping misfortune upon their head-- is exposing them to a condition that will in all likelyhood wreck their lives.

Then there is another means by which the father may enhance his goodness as a father; that is teaching his children self denial. All through life we must or should practice this, the chief of all virtues. One of the great men of the world when asked what was the most difficult thing he had to overcome in his onward march toward success, answered: "Not doing those things that I wanted to do." That is self denial, it is more-- it is self mastery. How many of the children of today are taught that virtue, either by precept or example? On the other mischievous hand, they are indulged and overindulged. What a cruel thing to practice upon our children.

Then there is discipline-- after all it is but the practice of self denial--. All through life we must meet with discipline in the home, in the school and in the law of both God and man. If the home neglects, so will the school because today the earnest school teachers (in fear of her job) will neglect to discipline the boy or girl because the parents in the home object and report such things to the school board with a demand that she be dismissed. Yet that teacher, even if the punishment be a little severe, is doing the best thing possible for the child. The fact is, if the child had been taught to mind in the home the teacher would have but small responsibility in this line. What does the child think who is taken by the hand and marched down to the school by the mother or father so that the teacher may be browbeaten for some punishment that no doubt the little dickens needed. That child thinks: "My father and my mother will not allow me to be corrected by that teacher" I am not only protected in my mischief but I am now given a license to do worse." Isent that the natural thing for the

child to believe? Honor bright! what will that conduct on the part of the parent do for the child in after life when it finds itself required to buck the business world or the social whirl? I'll tell you what it will do for him or her. It will make them bitter; they have been taught to believe that whatever they wanted they could get and when they find the world loath to defer to them-- find some other boy or girl better fitted to take it on the chin-- finds some other boy or girl that beats them to the punch-- they will become bitter and resentful-- will come to believe that the world is against them and then they will turn against the world. Their lives are ruined, their dispositions will destroy them. And if they do not rob a filling station or pick from a cash drawer it is because they have learned a lesson for themselves that was not taught them in the home.

What a handicap the parents who coddle fasten upon their children. That an injustice! I never felt sorry for the boy peddling papers on the street, it was the boy driving his daddy's car about the streets, that I feel sorry for. When the time comes for those boys to meet in the marts of trade, in the business world- that boy who has met people by peddling his papers-- that boy who has learned to give and take and look after himself, will be the victor. I ask you in all seriousness: how many of the great men and women of the world came from families that were in position to coddle them? You can't for the life of you, right now, name one. I can name you countless hundreds who have come up from the humble home. Have come from the wks in life where adversity and want were their playmates. Adversity when met and overcome, is strengthening.

It was adversity that made the great men great. Adversity teaches men how to work, how to accept misfortune and turn it into advantage-- how to bounce back like a rubber ball when misfortune hits them a stunning blow. Do you understand that ~~VIRTUE~~ necessity is the greatest virtue in life? Think of that statement, its import will grow on you. What things in this life-- what accomplishments, inventions, discoveries-- have come about without the driving force of necessity? There are but very few. No necessity in the lives of people make the strong great, but the weak, being weak, will fail for they were failures at the best.

So I say to you that the father who disciplines his child, who encourages the mother to do so too, enhances his Goodness as a father. It is pleasant to do so some times, but really, isent that a selfishness on the part of the parent. Is the parent really looking to the best interest of the child? Does he want to turn him out upon the world totally unprepared? A thinking parent and a Good Father, modern or otherwise, will see that his child is taught the strictest discipline for its protection and security all the way through life.

Then too a good father will inculcate good morals in his children and in doing this he will not be satisfied to say to the child " you must not do this or you must not do that" but he will explain to that child in the most painstaking manner the benefits to be derived from the practice of moral conduct. Children's minds are peculiar. A bare statement or a given rule, does not mean much to the average child. What he wants are the facts. He can understand them. A good father will analyse and explain in detail just why the moral rule is beneficial. If

he dont do this the chances are the child will just dismiss his lecture with a shrug of the shhoulders. But if he goes into detail-- if he explains that youth is very apt to take chances that mature people will not take-- if he explains that youth is apt to go to excess in the enthusiasm of his youth, and that excesses will impair, in the million ways he can explain, the enjoyment and health of after life, then that child will be impressed and being impressed guard himself in a more or less degree. Why you see it every day in your schools. The foot ball coach or athletic instructor implants these ideas in the mind of our children in the sports world. And do they follow the advice? I'll say they do, and if the fether will go to the same pains and exercise the same patience with the inculcation of the moral laws he will get just as good results.

My idea of a good fater, or a good mother, is one who never indulges his children. Indulgence is a pleasure for the parent but is bad medicine for the child. My idea of a good parent is one who teaches discipline in the strictest sense to his children, For discipline is necessary in every stage of life, in every step we take, in every effort we put forth. And my idea of the good fater is one who impresses upon his child the advantage and the virtue of self denial, because self denial is the greatest blessing one may^{be} possessed of in this life; it is the greatest virtue and within itself possesses the greatest advantage for the human being. And then, my idea of the good fater is one who teaches his children how to use their hands and be self sufficient-- life demands this security-- what a disadvantage yourchild will be at to go into life unprepared for any and all emergencies. And finally my idea of the best fater is one

who has the talent and the tact to send his children into the world prepared to the fullest extent with the advantages of a strict adherence to the moral laws. A father who can teach his children thrift and frugality, discipline, self denial, temperance and to regard work as honorable and necessary; a father who can teach his children to respect and abide by the moral laws; to Honor his God and respect his country; to pay his debts and tell the truth and live as nearly as is humanly possible by the Golden Rule, is the greatest success there is in this life. He will need no monument to mark his grave and keep the memory of his life fresh in the minds of men for his life and virtues will be reflected in the lives of his children. No marble shaft, chiseled into beautiful form by the hands of a master, could tell the story. No fitting epitaph could tell the tale, but the lives of his children will blazon it forth in flaming words that will make the most persuasive biographer a silly thing.

I have stood within the halls of the greatest art galleries of this country. There I saw the great work of the patient masters, and I thought them fine. I saw the blocks of stone and marble hewn into the most pleasing forms. I saw the cold clay in the hands of the master wrought into the most perfect symmetry of form and feature. And I knew they were great, that the work of those workmen was a great work. But it took but a short time to create the picture or mould the form. But the moulding of ^{character} ~~xxxxxx~~ in the child is a matter of life. It takes years of patient toil to accomplish and it lives a lifetime in the mould that is cast. Not only that, my friends, but the happiness and the contentment that it brings; the adornment

that it affords to society and the world; the satisfaction that follows in its wake, is the greatest blessing that this life affords.

We dont have to be rich or powerful; we dont have to be great or have fame; we dont have to have beauty or brilliance of mind to make a success of this life. The man that maintains a modest home, who is a kind husband and a thoughtful father, and rears his children to be fine men and women; that man has made the greatest success that this life affords. He has given to society and to civilization the best there is to give. He has made this a better world in which to abide and the future is beholden to him in a thousand ways. That father and that mother who rears a fine family of boys and girls into manhood and womanhood has fastened a lasting benefit and blessing upon posterity. Riches are troublesome in the getting and fraught with anxiety after they have been gotten. Power is but fleeting, is here today and gone tomorrow and is therefore a delusion and a snare. Beauty of face and grace of form is destined to but few years and are passing while the brilliance of mind perishes in the grave. But the man and the woman who raise a fine family teaching them to speak the truth, pay their debts, be loyal to the country and true to the God-- that man and woman have accomplished something that will live after them and reflect glory upon themselves and upon their kind. It is the greatest achievement in this fleeting life of ours.

C. Guy Outlip