

*Hedging*  
*the*  
*Heart*  
Of Your Child

Restoring Biblical Foundations In the Home

by Janice Dortch

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Special thanks to cover model Mariah Marteney  
and Sassyfras Studios in North Carolina

With love and sincere thanks  
to my wonderful husband John  
and my two sons, Daniel and Michael,  
for the value they gave to this book.  
J.D.

All Scripture used in this book is Authorized King James Version.

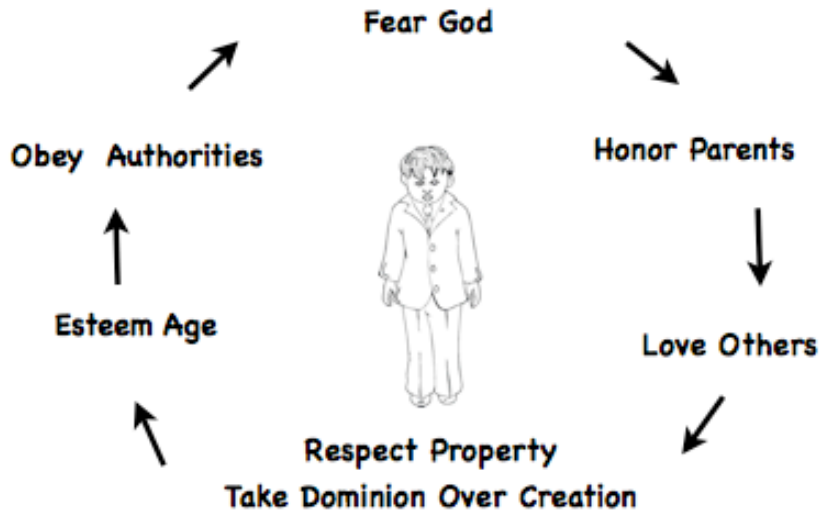
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To do so is to break the laws of man, as well as the laws of God. Exodus 20:15

## *Foreword: Restoring the Hedge*

*"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."  
Ecclesiastes 10:8*

Satan plants seeds. Furthermore, he is willing to wait for years for those seeds of discontent and rebellion to start producing fruit. Sadly, he is reaping quite a bountiful harvest in America today.

God desires to place a hedge around us and around our children. This hedge is in the protection of God-given authorities and right relationships.



As adults, our hedge includes the wife's submission to her husband and the husband's love for the wife.

When our children dwell in the secret place of the most High, they will abide under the protection and provision of the Almighty (Psalm 91.) When we allow our children to come out from under that protection, they break the hedge, opening the door to Satanic destruction and defeat in their lives.

Surely we, as parents, have fallen into a pit that we have taken years to dig. While preserving the relationships, we have allowed Satan to pervert their values in our lives.

- ✓ The choices of our daily lives are ruled more by a concern of esteeming creation (EPA and other ecological movements) than the Creator.
- ✓ Our government sees its citizens as their dominion rather than their God-ordained responsibility.
- ✓ The wisdom of age has been sacrificed for the adventure of youth.
- ✓ Our children invest more time and energy in property than parents, basing their moral excellence on the standard of the property (books, movies, games, etc.)
- ✓ Born-again Christians are being influenced more by the world than we are influencing the world for Christ with love.
- ✓ Rather than using property with respect, we disrespect it with abuse, using it as an outlet for our own frustrations. This is one step away from abusing people.

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*“Hast not thou made an hedge around him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.” Job 1:10*

God desires to do the same for you and your family today.

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and in their minds will I write them.”  
Hebrews 10:16***

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***If you teach your child to obey,  
The world will see God's law.  
If you teach your child to honor,  
The world will see God's love.***

## *Introduction: Using This Study*

*“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9 (a)*

Hedging the Heart of Your Child is designed to assist parents as they teach and train their children in honoring ways based upon the Word of God. The principles taught in this book are an overview of the honor and humility which should flow from every Christian’s heart, regardless of age. As a parent, you must first understand and embrace the concept of honor. If you do not accept this material within your own heart, you cannot plant it into the heart of your child.

My book, A Humble Heart (published by Queen Homeschool Supplies, Inc.), is a step-by-step course designed to assist you in teaching your child how to practically demonstrate appropriate honor and respect in seven God-given relationships. It is designed to teach and train your child in honorable ways.

Throughout these books, you will find Scriptural principles and suggestions for practical applications designed to help you incorporate honor into your child’s lifestyle. These applications should be used as guidelines. Your family may not embrace every suggestion on the level that it is offered. Please do not become bogged down by legalistic relativism. While honor must be demonstrated, it is the goal to teach humility, not legalism.



## *Section 1: Hedged About With Wisdom*

*“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Proverbs 16:3*

### The Wisdom of the World

*“For the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God.” 1 Corinthians 3:19*

Our library shelves are lined with popular self-help books on accumulating wealth, developing self esteem, and living a healthy, vibrant life.

With so much knowledge available, why are our children still searching for meaningful purpose in their lives?

A generation or so ago, child psychologists decided that, for the sake of creative self-expression and increased self esteem, children should be given the freedom to create their own boundaries while ignoring established guidelines. Today, many find the presentation of the Ten Commandments in public places offensive, because, as a nation, we want no restrictions on how to live our lives.

When rules and regulations became unpopular, so did the authorities that upheld them. Dad became “the old man.” Police officers became “pigs.” Church leaders became outdated and irrelevant. And today, our nation is reaping the harvest of everyone doing what is right in their own eyes.

In a microwave society, we have developed quick-fix programs which fail to deal with the more deep rooted problem. Today’s children lack proper respect for their parents. Today’s employee has lost the appropriate appreciation for the opportunity to work and to be paid for honest labor. Through their lack of integrity and virtue, many government leaders have lost the respect of the American people. In my own community, I watched amazed as one woman took her mail from the box and, in complete disregard for property, dropped the junk mail to the ground.

What is the cure for the fruit of this self-centered world view philosophy? How can we once again become men and women who experience value and find purpose in life?

*“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.” Proverbs 22:4*

According to the Word of God, security and contentment are not found in possessions and wealth. Scripture is filled right instructions for living meaningful and purposeful lives through esteeming others, not self.

In our attempt to find true success, we have focused on the wrong end of the ladder.

*“and whoseever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all...” Mark 10:44*

## The Wisdom of the Word

*“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honour and life.” Proverbs 22:4*

According to Proverbs 22:4, riches lie in humility and the fear of the Lord; value lies in humility and the fear of the Lord, and abundant life lies in humility and the fear of the Lord.

Our lack of humility before the Lord has built a floodgate in Heaven that blocks the blessings that God desires to shower on His children. Read this portion of Scripture, 2 Chronicles 7:13 – 14:

*“If I shut up heaven that there be no rain  
Or if I command the locusts to devour the land,  
Or if I send pestilence among my people;  
If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves...”*

Shortly after I started working at a retirement facility, I became aware that God was prompting me to share the Gospel with one of the residents. I felt, however, that I was too busy to work a visit into my immediate schedule, and in my procrastination, the man died.

My dilemma became how to balance the demands of my job with the need to share the Gospel with someone on the verges of entering eternity. The Lord, Who always gives wisdom when we truly desire it, spoke to my heart that if any resident would have to be hospitalized for whatever reason, I should make time to visit them in the hospital and share the Gospel.

When we obey God’s commandments to humble ourselves in God-given relationships, we are humbling ourselves before God.

A child with a humble heart will honor his parents.

A wife with a humble heart will submit to her husband.

A man with a humble heart will submit to his employer, church leaders, and government authorities.

A nation with a humble heart will look to God for wisdom and protection.

My desire for my two sons is for them to see the reality of God’s Word, the power of God’s Word, and the wisdom of God’s Word. It will be much easier for them to embrace all of this if they see it first in me.

Isn’t it time the Word became flesh in our lives?