

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
IN THE HOME**

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Religious Education in the Home by John D. Folsom

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**JOHN D. FOLSOM**

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# Religious Education in the Home

BY  
JOHN D. FOLSOM



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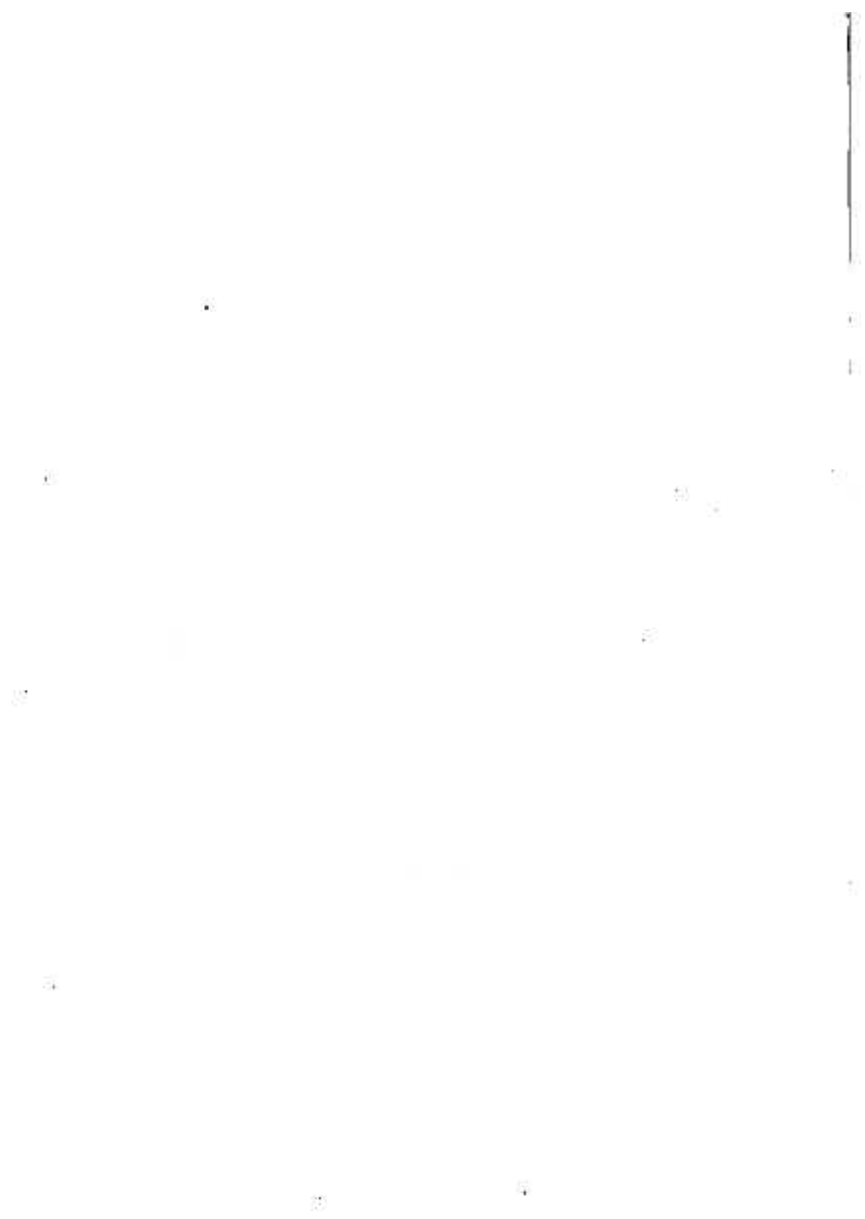
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Copy of Sermon by  
Dr. R. M. Dick

6-20-60





## PREFACE

TAKING education as "the systematic development and cultivation of the mind and other natural powers," "Religious Education in the Home" means the systematic development and cultivation, under home influences, of the religious nature of the child. That this is a work of unsurpassed importance is plain to everyone who gives it serious thought. It may be safely asserted that no other method for the propagation of our Christian religion can compare with it. The lack of right home cultivation of the religious life is everywhere felt to be a very serious hindrance to the work of the church. The more the subject is studied the deeper will grow the conviction that in our efforts to lead the young into the religious life we have not begun early enough; that we cannot begin too early; and that we have depended too much on instruction, ignoring some things of much greater importance. That we have been at fault somewhere is clearly evident from the results. One generation of children arises after another, and always the drift of the majority is away from Christ. The Sunday

school cannot hold them; the church cannot reach them. Meanwhile Christianity is at a standstill in many places, and the church is not seldom found to be losing ground, even where the population is increasing. Of course the trouble is not altogether with defective home education, but here is where a large share of it will be found.

A discussion of some of the general principles of a religious education in the home is herewith presented, with intentional brevity, in the hope that it may be helpful to parents, especially to Christian parents, and to pastors, teachers, and others who may have any opportunity or desire to give any direction or encouragement to the religious education of children in the home.

January, 1912.

## INTRODUCTION

THE title of this book consists of three of the greatest words in human speech: Religion, Education, Home. Reversing the order of these terms, as their logical relations require, we have the statement of an agency, a process, and an end. The home is the primary and most responsible agency for conducting the religious education of the young. The production of moral and religious character in its members is the highest purpose for which the home exists. And in the fulfillment of this purpose the home must employ the intelligent processes of education.

The first thing is to secure from parents the recognition and acceptance of their responsibility for the religious education of their children. The denial or avoidance of this responsibility is disloyalty to a parent's most primary duty. Parenthood carries with it the obligation for the utmost effort to make possible the achievement of life's essential success by the child for whose coming into the world the parents are responsible. That success must be defined in the terms of the highest range of life, which is moral and religious character. It should be regarded as fundamentally dis-