

BOOK REVIEW: HOMESCHOOLING WITH A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT

(by Teri Maxwell, *Communication Concepts, Inc.* 2001; 118p)
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This book is pure soul food!

Unlike the vast majority of books about home education, which are concerned with the useful details of how to educate your child, this one is written for the home-schooling mother.

Teri, a pastor's wife and mother of eight, looks at the very real issues of attitude and maintaining one's equilibrium in the face of a relentless, demanding occupation. She draws on 1 Peter 3:4 ('...let your adornment ... be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God') to describe the desired attitude of a meek and quiet spirit.

From her own extensive experience in marriage, parenting and home education, Teri discusses how to develop and maintain this attitude in life. Not surprisingly, she reminds us of the need for daily quiet time, that is, drawing away from our responsibilities to be refreshed by time with God.

Three key 'robbers' of the meek and quiet spirit are identified as fear, disorganisation and anger. Each of these sap precious time and energy from our lives and can also erode the trust and respect we owe our husbands.

The book does not offer the popular world view of making time for yourself, fulfilling your own dreams at any cost or demanding our rights. Rather, it advocates an 'attitude of gratitude' towards the life each of us has been entrusted by God, and viewing as a privilege the role of mother and wife in serving the needs of her family.

Teri writes honestly and succinctly. She shares her own failings on the journey toward a meek and quiet spirit and the progress she has made with common problems such as impatience and depression.

I wish I'd read this book years ago!

You know that the beginning is the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing; for that is the time at which the character is being formed and the desired impression is more readily taken ... Shall we just carelessly allow children to hear any casual tales which may be devised by casual persons, and to receive into their minds ideas for the most part the very opposite of those which we should wish them to have when they are grown up?

We cannot ... Anything received into the mind at that age is likely to become indelible and unalterable; and therefore it is most important that the tales which the young first hear should be models of virtuous thoughts ...

There can be no nobler training than that.

Plato's Republic