

Refractory Disciples; Dominant Mothers

ha-êmeq — Mr. Porterfield told me how every step through life makes a little impression on the earth, a slight impression that will never go away. Even if you step back over the step that you made before, it will only add to that impression; it will never go away. I told him that is so important to me because I want to make sure that all my steps are our Father's will — that I am not taking steps off of the course that He has planned for me. I don't want to go off. I liked the way he was talking; it was common sense, not Christianity.

The basic constitution of a person is formed by his earliest experiences. What was that he said about the first step? *It makes an impression, and the second one can't change it.* A person's constitution is what he is made out of — the basic things. A person's constitution is weakened or strengthened by his earliest experiences. They set the kind of temperament he has. People react according to the basic development of their constitution. There is a psychological term, *reaction formation*, meaning a behavior which is the opposite of that which you want to express. You are nice, but you really can't stand the person or what he is telling you. It is substituting behavior that best masks the impulses. It is compensating for negative impulses.

Then there is the word *refractory*, as in *refractory disciple*. He deflects what he considers an assault, putting it on someone else, as a defensive parent will always do. When someone comes to you about your child, you say, "What about you?" or "What about so-and-so?" You never really take it to heart, but deflect it to someone else. You redirect what you perceive to be an assault. It's the classic "Defensive Parent Syndrome."

Parents have to be willing to receive it to themselves when someone comes to them to tell them about their child. They have to receive it, not deflect it. Deflection is a defensive maneuver. It hinders them from developing into their full potential in every aspect of their personality. As we speak to one another in love, we'll grow up into all aspects, but we have to receive those who come to us, not say, "What about you?"

Those who are refractory cannot ever grow up into the Head. They will stay the same way that they came into the Community, never becoming a new creation. Old things don't pass away and all things don't become new. They stay the same as how they were brought up.

So the constitution of a person can be weakened by his earliest experiences, or it can actually be strengthened. It is according to how you were raised as a child to face conflict. To deflect or deviate from a correction causes an abnormality or malformation, even causing contortions — getting it off of yourself and onto someone else when you should have taken it to yourself for healing. It could be a very destructive behavior trait when someone is speaking to you about a certain blockage in your development. Then you can't enter the Kingdom.

If we don't allow Eph 4:15 we won't enter the Kingdom because we have to grow up into the same authority and likeness of our Master. He is the head, He is the authority. We have to arrive to the same authority that He has in order to rule over the nations eternally. We have to speak to each other in love, bringing something to our brother or sister that they need to hear about themselves or their child, and if they don't listen then you have to bring two or three people who have understanding and discernment, so that we can all grow up into the head and not be stunted.

The only place that can happen is in community. That is why our Master established community. It will never happen by just going into church and listening to a sermon. We do it by living with one another. We who believe live together and have all things in common. It is really an important thing that when someone comes to you about a certain thing that you would not divert it to someone else. You might need to hear what he is saying even though he is not perfect himself. Deflection or divergence disfigures, deforms, injures, and malforms children. We've seen a lot of malformed children.

However you are formed you are susceptible to certain kinds of things in your daily life that you have to overcome and put under our Master's feet so that it won't be a hindrance to your development into a mature son. We have to grow up into the same authority and stature as our Master, to rule with Him over the nations. Of course, He will always be our head, but we grow up in all aspects into the same authority given to Him (Mt 28:18; 1 Cor 15:24-28; Col 2:19). He is the "Head of heads," as He is the King of kings, and we will have His same authority and headship over the kings of the nations.

Dominant Mothering

Children need affection. Affection from the mother is one of the greatest needs in a child. A child needs affection from the mother to develop stably,¹ especially in the early stages, in order to feel secure. Affectionate mothering is necessary. This is not the same as babying or coddling the child, which has negative effects.

Normally the mother spends more time with the child. The mother's dominance produces obedience. Even psychologists know that the mother's dominance produces obedience, courtesy, modesty, carefulness, and attentiveness. The mother's dominance can produce these good things. Psychologists study these things and see that a child is this way because of the mother. Dominant mothers produce obedience and all of those good things.

Then the "sugar daddies" (indulgent fathers) come along and mess everything up, and the children tend to be disobedient, sitting down on the outside while standing up on the inside. The sugar daddies produce disorderly, disobedient, selfish, aggressive, proud, self-confident, chattering, independent children. That is the bad fruit of worldly child-rearing knowledge, which can seem to have some merit.

Normally the father is at work and the children are with their imma, and when the abba comes home they are happy to see him and spend time with him, but the abba

¹ Stably — not easily upset or disturbed; firmly fixed or established (Pr 22:6).

cannot dominate and take over in the realm of childcare. That is why he has a wife, who is the children's mother. We want our children to grow up right.

It is very easy for the evil one to come to certain people. As soon as they hear something they become sour. Obviously they themselves were not trained up in the right way to be stable, so now they are old and easily disturbed and upset. Something comes over them. They hear something about their own children and they don't take it to heart. They deflect it, which is refractory. The evil one comes to people, even seemingly very responsible people, and they need to have their helmet on. Some people don't have their helmet on when the enemy comes. If we have our helmet on, it deflects the enemy's fiery darts and not their brother's concerns. We have to let the Spirit come into our soul and pray to not be touched by the evil one (1 Jn 5:18).

You're easy prey for the evil one if you are unstable and defensive. There are a lot of defective parents. I hope some of our first generation are really learning to be good parents. They should be learning more than anyone else because they have seen their brothers and sisters go off. Those who have been raised up in the way they should go, they will never forget, and they will return. Those who haven't been raised up in the way, when they depart they will never return.

So the parents have an awesome² responsibility. Mothers are to be the dominant ones in raising children. Being raised by a dominant mother has marvelous benefits under the authority and the rulership of the father. The father is the head, but the mother is with the children more than the father, and while the father is away the mother needs to be in charge, and not say, "Wait till your abba gets home! He will spank you." Then they are not so happy to see him when he returns, but shrink back in the fearful expectation of judgment (Heb 10:38-39). But if the mother deals with the children while the father is away, they will love their abba and be very glad to see him.

² Awe = inspiring Godly fear

So many times it has happened that they are so fearful that abba is going to come home and spank them. Mothers need to be dominant in that way, in the spirit of Elijah's ministry (and all apostles and leaders), making way for the return of Messiah (Lk 1:17; Mal 3:1; 4:5).

If any one of us is out of fellowship with just one person who is in fellowship with our Master, then he can't enter the Kingdom. We know that we have passed out of death and into life because we love one another — that means everyone. Therefore, we have to not allow any barriers to come between any of us, especially someone who has offended us. We need to have our helmet on and be praying that we will be able to let these things bounce off of that helmet. Thoughts can come to us, but they cannot get through the helmet; they can't lodge in us and resonate and cause us to do the work of the evil one (1 Jn 5:18).

Sho'er — Like a prowling lion, the evil one goes after the weak sheep that has drifted away from the flock. I thought how the one whom you would most likely be out of fellowship with is probably the one who would bring you the most grace if you were in fellowship with him. That brother or sister may have the keys for you, but you are estranged from him.

Yônêq — The evil one makes you think you are right and are doing good by being estranged from him.

Sho'er — So somehow you feel justified and meanwhile you are divided from the Body and are easy prey for Satan. The helmet is where the head is, and the head is where the mind is, and the mind is where the evil one wants to operate with those accusations. "She is not for you. She is looking at you a certain way..." Satan is a master at dividing people. We have an adversary, so it says in 1 Peter, "Be on the alert." That means be watchful, be vigilant, be attentive. Don't relax, because your adversary, the evil one, prowls around looking for someone to devour. Our Master came to seek and save the lost, but Satan came to seek someone to devour.

The flock needs to be so tight that the enemy can't attack. The minute a little division comes in and a sheep starts to stray, that's who he goes after. Lions are lightning fast. I am thankful we have one another. If we feel ourselves drifting, we can run back to the flock, lest we be devoured.

Chazaq — When you are disconnected you are more likely to say something to a brother that wounds him, and then the lion goes after the wounded sheep. You are a tool for the evil one because of what you say, and then the evil one can attack the wounded one.

But if you have your helmet on, you can hear in the right way. It is not *what* you hear but *how* you hear it. You can go to the brother or sister and say, “Did I hear you right? Maybe I took it wrong.”

Ishah Ruth — I see that there are ways the evil one has easy access to me because my constitution is weak there. I never learned to face that way in me that hates being corrected. It reminded me about what we read in the Intertribal News about receiving discipline. If we want to change we have to let it hurt. It is normal that it hurts, and if we are not proud we will be healed. There is actually encouragement and kindness afterwards. I want to be strengthened by the things we hear, and learn what it means to receive correction, and be humble so I can receive our Father’s healing. If someone always catches a cold, it is because their constitution is weak and it needs to be strengthened. It is strengthened through tests. You do everything you know to do, but then you know when the cold weather comes whether you can handle it or not. I am thankful that we are learning to have our helmet on so we don’t always fall prey to the evil one.

ha-êmeq — It always amazes me how we live with the nicest people in the whole world. Finally we are in a place where we can let our guard down. I remember going to public school and the terror of walking down those hallways full of mockers and tough guys trying to prove themselves, and girls trying to be prettier than everybody else, and gossips... So you are trying to walk through life and you put this big wall around yourself. Especially in public school children just take the opportunity to be really hard on each other. People learn to be on guard because someone is going to come at you.

But in the Community, our brothers and sisters are our best friends. Sometimes your brothers say something to you that is hard. Maybe it is not what you wanted to hear that day. You were wanting a sugar daddy to pass your way, not someone who says, “You messed up my shepherd’s pie.” We would rather hear someone say, “It was great!” even if it wasn’t.

We have the potential to become the greatest people on earth because by hearing what is wrong with ourselves we have a chance to change, rather than living with a bunch of people who say, “You are so nice! You are so pretty! Now do what I want you to do...” They just tell

you what you want to hear. That keeps you at a low level. But here you are always hearing something that you have to reach for. It always feels as if you are reaching for something that is a little past your ability to reach it. Because of that, our Father is raising up a people who are not static. They are always reaching up because we can hear things from one another.

That is why it is so bad when there is deflection, “Yes, ha-êmeq,” and then you continue to smile, but behind there is that, “She is always...” I walked away thinking, “That was nice, she received it.” But inside she deflected it, and it went off into outer space somewhere, and she will never change, and five years from now I’ll say the same thing to her and I will wonder why it did not work five years ago when I had said the same thing.

Our Father is looking for a nation of people who are willing to hear and not defending themselves. Correction is never given without some hope at the end, like, “Just turn your heart to our Master and you will change.” “Oh, good, I have hope. I have a Savior. I can be saved!”

Deflection is subconscious. If your constitution is weak, you are not stable. You will be easily disturbed or upset, raised by defective parents as most of us were in the world.³ Your first response will be to deflect, not to receive. If we are in communion, we will walk as He walks. 1 Jn 1:7; 2:6 — Walk in the light as He is in the light. If we have fellowship one with another (our Master and us), our sins can be covered by His blood because we will be able to judge ourselves immediately when and if we do give room to be disturbed and give into that tendency to deflect. Our constitution is growing stronger and stronger as we are in fellowship with Him, and we don’t deflect. We just take it and see what that person has to say to us. Maybe it is our Father; maybe it is the Holy Spirit speaking right through that person to help you. Let’s be that way, that we grow up into the Head to be imperturbable by our brothers and sisters who walk in the light.

But if a brother now comes to you and addresses something about you or your children, and you say, “You’re not walking in the light so I can’t listen to you,” then who is not walking in the light? (Eph 4:2,3,15)

Aiyelet — You don’t just wake up in the morning with your helmet on, but you have to put it on in order to hear. Our constitutions are weak in

³ But now there is hope to change! (Eph 4:15)

different areas and you never know when something will come your way, when our Father has something for you. But if we don't have our helmet on every day, we will miss the most important things our Father has for us. The evil one is right there. He doesn't want us to receive what the Holy Spirit has; he doesn't want us to grow up.

Migdalah — My abba talked to us once about where it says, “Consider it joy when you encounter trials.” He asked us why you should consider it joy, and I thought about how our Father disciplines His sons. That is why it should be a joy to us when He feels we are worthy to be disciplined. It is because he sees something in us that wants to respond and change. It is an honor that our Father would invest in us as sons. Zahav told me to never say, “I never heard that way was in me before. It must not be there.” Our Father is bringing us around to see that way, but if we deflect it, He will have to bring us around another whole lap to see it again.

Paul said that if someone is given to anger, that is the weak constitution that was not dealt with in childhood, resulting in poor character or instability.⁴ You can't be an elder if you are given to anger, if all of a sudden you have that reaction. Somehow you are set that way. Somehow you are set to be given to anger. There are some who have been with us for years but are still given to anger. You can't be a leader if you're given to anger, because you make too quick a response. You deflect things and get angry.

Tsiy-tsah — I am thankful that even the neediest parent can make it if they will do that one simple thing — just listen to those who see more than they can. I am thankful that we have people around us who can see more than we can. We can't raise our children in our own strength. We hear different things like, “We don't want to baby or coddle our children, but we want to be very affectionate.” You have to hear from the Holy Spirit in order to know how Abraham was.

Also we have heard a lot about how most of the responsibility lies with the mother. I would never have thought it was a good thing to be a dominant mother. But to be dominant means that I wouldn't just wait for him to get home and then say, “Here, please take them!” but that I would

⁴ Instability — a lack of stability due to defective parenting; lack of firmness or steadfastness or steadiness; lack of determination, irresolution; tendency to behave or react violently or erratically; lack of patient enduring (Heb 10:36, #5281 — patience is the fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-24, endurance through circumstances, longsuffering toward your brothers, a quality that does not surrender to pressure or when “under fire,” etc.)

be ruling over them and then when he gets home we'd all be happy to see him, and it wouldn't be, "Please take the children. It has been such a hard day." It is easy to be that way if you are not ruling, if you are just giving in. I am thankful to learn how to be the way our Father wants us to be with our children.

That is just how you need to be, you need to have dominance so that you don't just store up wrath that your husband has to deal with when he gets home. Yes, it is true that a child needs affection from the mother to make them feel secure. But the most dominating parents are the most affectionate if they are in the right spirit, because their children know that they love them and keep them under control as they grow up that way.

Hannah — I thought of what I read in the *Intertribal News* about how people were only left with wounds and bruises, but no healing. Someone can say something to me and I think, "I did that because you said this." I don't want to be that way because I will never change. I am thankful that I can learn to receive the discipline so I can change. I don't want to be a person who goes away thinking something different that what I'm saying.

What she is saying is that she doesn't want to develop *reaction formation*, like someone who says, "When someone comes to you and really gets down on you, just act as if you're receiving them." That is behavior opposite to what you really feel inside. That is the flesh trying to ennoble the soul, to "win friends and influence people," when inside you're really offended at that person.

Havah — I'm thankful for what ha-êmeq said about reaching for something that is out of reach. In ourselves we will never be humble because we *want* to be, but correction should make us reach for Yahshua, not just try to take it and say, "I will never say that again." It should make us cry out to Yahshua so that He can change us. I've never distinguished getting corrected from receiving correction. You can get corrected all the time, but it doesn't do anything if you never receive it, or it just makes you bitter. I remember a verse that we heard a while ago, "The smelter refines in vain, and the wicked are never purified. He calls them rejected silver." It is a waste of time after a while. I don't want to waste time, but I want to let it hurt and change.

That is Jer 6:29-30.

How much farther do we have to go in this present time to be like Him? We are just starting aren't we? We have to grow up into every aspect. We have got to grow up. I have to put my foot down and say, "I've got to grow up. I am not going to be emotionally retarded." We need to grow up in every aspect, including emotionally, to be like our Master. We need to be comparable to Him, worthy of Him (Rev 3:4). We need to grow up socially (having proper conversations, proper talk), spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically. We need to grow up in every way. How is it going to happen? By doing the works prepared for us, as it goes on in Eph 2:10 and 4:15-16 and Rev 19:8.

We will be ready to meet Him when He returns if we grow up doing the works that were prepared for us to do. Doing those works is what prepares us. You go through emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, and social testing in every way in the Body of Messiah. Phil 3:10-17 — So let us hold fast to what we have attained, and not slide back. We have to forget the past, don't we? We have to roll away the past, looking forward to the future.