

# ORDERLINESS

*by Miss W. Koole*

One of the subjects in our school curriculum is math — or arithmetic as it was designated when I laboriously learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide. It was never my favorite subject although I experienced very little difficulty in mastering the various procedures. But it was not until the “new” math was introduced with its greater emphasis on an understanding of the structure of the number system, that mathematics began to intrigue me. I could see now something of the beauty and order of this facet of God’s creation — and to realize anew how this beauty and order is revelatory of God Himself. This is something that every God-fearing teacher hopes to show to the students.

Disorderliness leading to anarchy seems to be such a common thing today in many homes and schools, and even in society in general. Therefore it is fitting to remind ourselves that one of the attributes of God is order. We say He is a God of perfect order. In a creaturely fashion some people are endowed at birth with a sense of orderliness, and all through their lives their activities manifest this. Most of us have to be taught to develop and strengthen this virtue.

When a teacher in the classroom activities shows a great lack of orderliness, the pupils become progressively confused, frustrated, and disorderly. Therefore one of the important behind-the-scenes aspects of teaching is thorough preparation and organization. This takes much time and effort, but it is vital for effective teaching. One is cautioned though not to be so highly structured that spontaneity and a casual relaxed method may never characterize the teaching — particularly in the lower grades.

What about our homes? Because so much of the actual day to day routine depends upon the mother, she is forced to develop some organizational structure, or living would be chaotic. The measure of her success will surely influence the attitude and behavior of her children. The problem however reveals itself when the parents have to train the child to be orderly and self-disciplined. It is the rare child that becomes self-disciplined without continual and consistent guidance and admonition. That is the fatiguing part — for teachers also. But I believe that both parents and teachers must work together to instill such orderliness in the children under their care. God Himself tells us in His Holy Word: “Let all things be done decently and in order.” I Cor. 14:40

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