

Sermons We See

I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and, more willing than the ear
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.
And the best of all the preachers, are the one's who live their creeds
For to see good deed in action, is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver, may be very nice and true
But I'd rather get my lessons, by observing what you do.
For I might misunderstand you, and the high advice you give
But there's no misunderstanding, how you act and how you live.

One good person teaches many, for we believe what we behold.
One deed of kindness noticed, is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with folks of honor, learns to hold his honor dear.
For right living speaks a language, which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me, with his eloquence I say.
I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day.



Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.

If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.

If a child lives with love,
He learns to love.

Originally published in the early 1950's, there is a recent book that flushes out the ideas a little more. Nolte, D. L. (1998). Children Learn What They Live: Parenting to Inspire Values. Workman Publishing Company.