

PART ONE

Teachers and their Relationship with Students

*In order to succeed in the very difficult task of effectively educating young people, a teacher truly must possess certain qualities.*

**A Call to Be a Teacher** Since God alone provides the means for the successful accomplishments of any task, it seems evident that a person needs to be called by God to be an effective teacher. Without this call to teaching, how will anyone be able to put up with everything that teachers face daily? From the time the school year begins, teachers do not have a moments rest or a moment free. Every good teacher is preoccupied with the care and the progress of students,

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with their schoolwork, and with the small and bothersome difficulties that inevitably arise in dealing with young people. Teachers will find it difficult to care seriously for their own spiritual needs and their own interests.

Relationships with young people are always difficult. Sometimes those who deal with young people attach themselves too closely to the young and end up giving themselves over strictly to human affections. Finding among their students young people who are frank and open, who are moving towards accomplishing good things, who respond well to the care they are providing, some teachers forget the place of God in the relationship between teacher and student. Learning this often surprises teachers, since it is easily hidden by enthusiasm, kindness and even duty.

Teachers who experience close relationships with their students become totally occupied with them: every place they go the students come to mind; no matter what they do, they think of their students. Teachers like these often enter into unhealthy relationships of all kinds with their students, often without realizing what is happening.

Christian educators really need a call from God in order to deal with all that they face in working with young people. How else can teachers possibly work towards building Christian values in the young as well as towards giving them the knowledge they need? For the religious, this call to education comes in obedience.

