**The Art Of Standing Aside**

The Masterly Activity of Charlotte Mason’s Method

**Questions to ask myself in thinking through this issue:**

What is Masterly Inactivity?

Do I understand that my parental authority is from God? Does my child understand this?

Do I understand that God’s command to children is to obey their parents? Does my child understand this?

Do I say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ arbitrarily? Are my ‘yes’ or ‘no’ based on God’s principles or on my own convenience or personal desires?

Am I helping my child form the habit of obedience? Am I allowing them to gain the strength of will that comes from choosing to do what is right?

Do I save my children’s effort of decision for important choices or am I forcing them to make too many decisions unnecessarily?

**Am I masterly inactive regarding . . .**

. . . my children’s play and free time? Do I ensure they have enough free time? Do I interfere?

. . . skills my child is learning? Do I give him the time and space needed to learn the skill? Am I patient? Do I try to tell my child exactly how to do everything or do I let him go through the processes of figuring out his own way?

. . . my child’s narrations? Do I let his mind do the work without ‘helping out’. Do I interrupt? Do I quiz him, asking direct, fill-in-the-blank questions instead of letting him narrate what he picked up from the reading, trusting that it is enough? Do I wait until after the narration is over to gently make corrections and have a discussion to aid understanding?

. . . my child’s effort toward their chores, schoolwork, handcrafts, etc.? Do I prop up my child’s efforts by prodding?

. . . my child’s choice of friends? Have I taught my child the importance of and principles of wisely choosing his friends? Do I give him the chance to learn or exercise discernment in this area? Do I step in and intervene when necessary?

. . . my child’s spending choices? Have I taught my child the principles of spending money wisely and with purpose? Do I let my child spend his own money as he chooses?

. . . my child’s opinions? Do I continually lead my child to God’s word, teaching him truth and wisdom, while letting him form his specific opinions on his own? Do I tell him what he should think on any given issue or let him come to his conclusions himself? Am I being watchful? Am I praying for my child?

. . . my child’s practical outworking of the principles taught to him? Am I over controlling my child? Do I confuse the difference between God’s commands and my preferences? Am I praying for my child?

**Scriptures for further study:**

Matthew 8:5-13

Romans 7:4

1 Corinthians 5:15

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Galatians 2:19-20

Galatians 5

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 6:1-4

Philippians 1:21

Philippians 2:13

1 Timothy 5:10

2 Timothy 3:14

James 4 (especially vs. 17)

1 Peter 1:13-19

1 Peter 2:16

1 Peter 4:2

1 Peter 4:8-11

**Let us be masterly parents that actively engage our children:**

**“in pleasant talks upon the general principles of conduct”**

**but that exercise a “wise ‘letting-alone’ as to the practice of these principles.”**

~Charlotte Mason, School Education, pg. 43