GOD, our children,

and the

FACTS OF LIFE

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CHRISTIAN LIGHT PUBLICATIONS

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

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"That the generation to come might know...

that they might set their

hope in God, and . . .

keep His commandments."

Psalm 78:6, 7

PREFACE

Years ago, another young father and I were traveling together when he asked me a startling question. He wanted to know the meaning of a word relating to personal purity. His question that afternoon started a discussion that has remained in my memory for many years. I found it hard to believe what I had just heard.

Pausing at a red light a few moments later, I turned and looked at him. "Are you telling me that you grew up and never knew what that is? And you are now married with children and still don't know what it is?"

We had not talked long until I had another question for him. "Please tell me how your father raised you. How did he help you develop into manhood so that you remained morally pure?"

"My father talked with me about my development as I grew. There were some things I never learned through experience because of his teaching," he explained. "I don't know if he knew the term or not. He didn't use it. I just knew what was expected of me in relation to personal purity. I only heard that word years later and never had the courage to ask anyone till now."

That afternoon I felt a relief about raising morally free sons. My friend had given me an insight into how to chart a course for the future. I would be talking with our sons about their physical development. I would possibly share more than his father did, as children's natures are not all the same. My wife and I already had four sons who seemed quite normal, and we earnestly wanted to be good parents. You don't feel quite as lost if there is a path to follow. When the subject of sexuality and morals comes up, and it certainly will, you don't feel that overwhelming panic when you have help and an idea how to respond.

What Sandra and I have laid out in this book is not a foolproof path. Parents will still need Holy Spirit enablement along the way. We need help through every step and correction for every failure. This path can give hope in relating to our children on a sensitive subject, where we—fathers, mothers, and children—can learn how to walk together in life.

This book is not so much about sex education itself. What sex education alone brought into the world since the sixties is very alarming. We need Biblical wisdom, not the philosophies of men, to guide us through life.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

Genesis 1:27, 31

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

God the Creator delighted in all He had made. He found special joy in the first couple and the fellowship He had with them in the Garden. His desire was to see the human family grow. Malachi 2:15 says God designed the exclusive marriage union because He was seeking "a godly seed." God loved and still loves the people He creates.

God is not overwhelmed by anything that has transpired with His creation. If He could be involved with people and their lives for six thousand years, He has resources for our short life span on earth. Seeing