

THE HOME: GOD'S FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE

Domestic influence is superior to governmental influence in the world in six ways.

1. In its originality

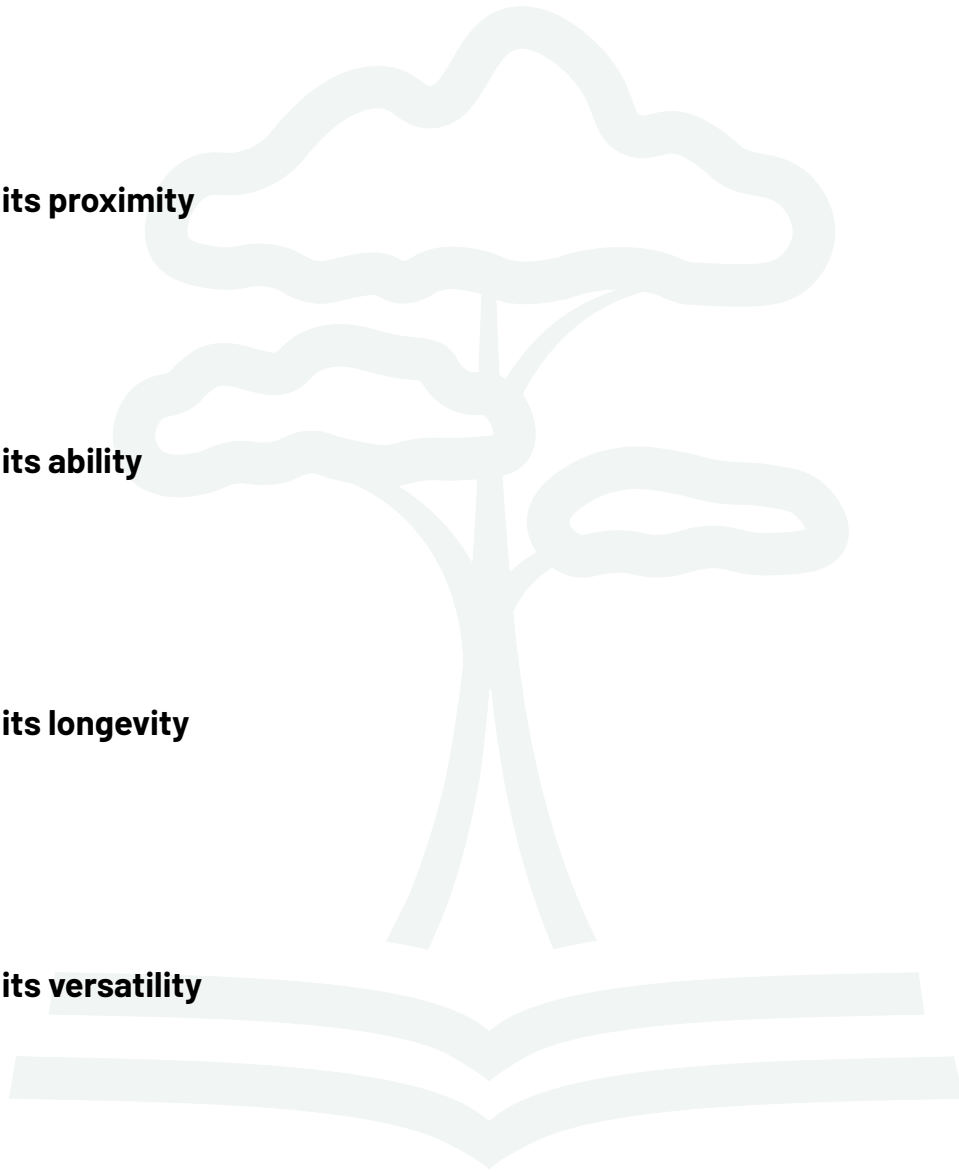
2. In its proximity

3. In its ability

4. In its longevity

5. In its versatility

6. In its spirituality



QUOTES

1. "In the discussion which have been agitated to settle the question as to the form of civil government best adapted to secure the welfare of the human race, the FAMILY CONSTITUTION has been too much overlooked. Speculation has been indulged, and theories proposed by their respective authors, in reference to the greater aggregations of society, with all the confidence of oracular authority; while at the same time, it is evident they have forgotten how much the well being of states is dependent on the well being of the families of which all states are composed. If there be any truth in the figure, by which a nation is compared to a pillar, we should recollect, that while individuals are the materials of which it is formed, it is the good conditions of families that constitutes the cement which holds it together, and gives to it its fine form, solidity and durability. Let this be wanting, and however inherently excellent the materials, however elegant the shape, however ornamented the base, the shaft, or the capital may be, it contains in itself the principle of decay, an active cause of delapidation and ruin.

[The domestic constitution] is a system of government, quite unique: neither below the heavens, nor above them, is there any thing precisely like it. In some respects it resembles the civil government of a state; in others, the ecclesiastical rule of a church; and it is there that the church and the state may be said to meet... When directed as it should be, every family has a sacred character, inasmuch as the head of it acts the part of both the prophet and the priest of the household, by instructing them in the knowledge, and leading them in the worship of God; while at the same time, he discharges the duties of a king, by supporting a system of order, subordination and discipline. Conformably with its nature is its design: beyond the benefit of the individuals which compose it, and which is its first and immediate object, it is intended to promote the welfare of the national community to which it belongs, and of which it is a part: hence every nation has stamped a great value on the family compact, and guarded it with the most powerful sanctions. Well instructed, well ordered, and well governed families are the springs, which from their retirements, send forth the tributary streams that make up, by their confluence, the majestic flow of national greatness and prosperity: nor can any state be prosperous, where family order and subordination are generally neglected; nor otherwise than prosperous, whatever be its political forms, where these are generally maintained. It is certainly under the wise instruction, and the impartial sceptre of a father, and within the little family circle, that the son becomes a good citizen; it is by the fire side and upon the family hearth, that loyalty, and patriotism, and every public virtue grows; as it is in the disordered families, that factious demagogues, and turbulent rebels, and tyrannical oppressors, are trained up to be their neighbour's torment, or their country's scourge. It is there that the thorn and the brier, to use the elegant simile of the prophet, or the

myrtle and the fir tree are reared, which are in future time to be the ornament and defence, or the deformity and misery of the land.”¹ — John Angell James

2. “If I may have but ten years of the life of a man of seventy, to form his character, give me the first ten.”²
3. “No duties of men in society are more important to peace and good order than those of parents and children. Families are the origin of nations; the principles instilled into youth in families, and the habits there formed are the germs of the principles and habits of society and nations. If children are left without restraint and culture in early life, many or most of them will be rude in manners, and turbulent members of society. On the other hand, the subordination of children in families tends to favor subordination in citizens; respect for parents generates respect for rulers and laws.”³
— Noah Webster



¹ John Angell James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 2-4.

² *Letters on Christian Education* (Avinger, TX: Simpson Publishing Company, 1993), 18.

³ Quoted in *Letters on Christian Education* (Avinger, TX: Simpson Publishing Company, 1993),