

*If* I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love—I am a housekeeper, not a homemaker.

*If* I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love—my children learn of cleanliness, not Godliness.

*Love* leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh.

*Love* smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window.

*Love* wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk.

*Love* picks up the child before it picks up the toys.

*Love* is present through trials.

*Love* reprimands, reproves, and is responsive.

*As* a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is . . .

*Love.*