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When Your Wheels Need Alignment

A qualified car mechanic may better explain why a car that is pulling even slightly to the right or left will suffer more wear and tear from the additional friction. The wheels may be aligned by a mechanic to roll straight forward when the driver is not steering another way. From rough roads the wheels may become pointed slightly to the right or left. The driver will need to turn his wheels gently in the opposite direction to drive the car effectively.

Such wheel alignment was a metaphor for one of our Sunday school lessons by Brother Cecil. In the lesson the driver represented the Divine. The car with its wheels represented all of us in the class. The Divine driver guides His cars through His chosen route whether the car steers easily or constantly pulls against the Driver's steering. Just as the cars, people who are constantly pulling against the One driving will experience the extra friction as the Divine driver is determined and will not change His decided route.

Unlike cars or other machines people are created with the image of the One who has an individual and personal will. Unlike cars or other machines, people cannot be repaired without their consent and participation. Therefore we listened as we heard about the Divine driver who patiently guides our route, correcting us if we pull to go our own way.

Parenting is another application for the car and driver metaphor. In the latter instance the parents are the ones charged with guiding their children's wheels. For example, consider the ritual of shopping for school clothes with a teenage

daughter. Some of us "old-school" dads may be steering toward a very different fashion than our daughters. Rather than letting her wheels roll to select today's extraordinary offerings, dads may do well to steer toward those simpler, unremarkable sport-shirts and slacks. We dads foresee the hazards of our daughters wearing the most remarkable wardrobes.

Note that in this instance parents are drivers and not merely some friendly traveling companions. As drivers, their duties require they carefully guide their charges throughout the route. Merely selecting all smooth roads and attractive scenery are not the primary objectives. Certainly good drivers don't take their hands off the wheels while moving. When parents have a sure map, and appreciate the Word, then they need to stay their course and abide the friction even when their children pull another way. As for my own travels, if I only would not delay having repairs to my alignment as I should like to minimize the extra friction on the roadways of life as my determined Driver steers me home.

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