

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

In the past few sessions, we have been looking at the establishment of the family in the Garden of Eden, and the parallel establishment of the institution of marriage.

If we are going to understand how to deal with our families, our children, our spouses, we must first understand to reason for the family's existence.

Marriage is an incredibly important matter. For those who are contemplating it, and also for those who are already.

If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated. *{AH 71.1}*

If those who are contemplating marriage would not have miserable, unhappy reflections after marriage, they must make it a subject of serious, earnest reflection now. This step taken unwisely is one of the most effective means of ruining the usefulness of young men and women. Life becomes a burden, a curse. No one can so effectually ruin a woman's happiness and usefulness, and make life a heart sickening burden, as her own husband; and no one can do one hundredth part as much to chill the hopes and aspirations of a man, to paralyze his energies and ruin his influence and prospects, as his own wife. It is from the marriage hour that many men and women date their success or failure in this life, and their hopes of the future life. *{AH 43.1}*

Now, let me hasten to say that this quote has not been given to be used as a whip against your spouse, but rather as an explanation of the difficulties that you are experiencing.

The impact of marriage is totally underestimated today.

Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must choose for him. We are not to please ourselves, for Christ pleased not Himself. I would not be understood to mean that anyone is to marry one whom he does not love. This would be sin. But fancy and the emotional nature must not be allowed to lead on to ruin. God requires the whole heart, the supreme affections. *{AH 43.3}*

Few have correct views of the marriage relation. Many seem to think that it is the attainment of perfect bliss; but if they could know one quarter of the heartaches of men and women that are bound by the marriage vow in chains that they cannot and dare not break, they would not be surprised that I trace these lines. Marriage, in a majority of cases, is a most galling yoke. There are thousands that are mated but not matched. The books of heaven are burdened with the woes, the wickedness, and the abuse that lie hidden under the marriage mantle. This is why I would warn the young who are of a marriageable age to make



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haste slowly in the choice of a companion. The path of married life may appear beautiful and full of happiness; but why may not you be disappointed as thousands of others have been? *{RH, February 2, 1886 par. 1}*

Let me hasten to say again that this quote has not been given to be used as a whip against your spouse, but rather as an explanation of the difficulties that you are experiencing. We will be dealing with solutions very soon.

We will continue to take a look at this in our next few sessions.