

The Family Time

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1 Corinthians 7:3 - Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

The difficulties that the family faces today are many. But we need to understand this:

Well does Satan know what heaven is, and what the influence of the angels is. **His work is to bring into every family the cruel elements of self-will, harshness, selfishness.** Thus he seeks to destroy the happiness of the family. He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church. *{Upward Look 163.4}*

But Listen to this:

1. In many cases where these difficulties are thought to exist, the cause is imaginary.
2. Mistakes are made through ignorance, and the result that is sure to follow is misunderstanding and alienation.
3. **If the husband and wife would freely talk over the matter with each other in the spirit of Christ, the difficulty would be healed.**
4. **But too often they remain apart, and brood over the trouble, and it wounds them continually.**
5. If they loved God supremely, their hearts would be so filled, so satisfied, with His love that they would not be consumed with longing for affection to be manifested in acts toward themselves.
6. Many have mistaken the true duty of the wife to the husband and the husband to the wife.
7. Self becomes all-absorbing, and Satan can manage the matter to suit himself.
8. He has his net all ready to draw about the human soul, to get it so entangled by human imagination that it seems impossible for human wisdom to disentangle the meshes of his finely woven snares. *{13MR 138.3}*

So what do we do?

1. Let the husband and wife talk things over together.
2. Renew the early attentions to each other, acknowledge your faults to each other,
3. **but** in this work be very careful that the husband does not take it upon himself to confess **his wife's faults** or
4. The wife (*confess*) her husband's.
5. Be determined that you will be all that it is possible for you to be to each other, and the bonds of wedlock will be the most desirable of ties.
6. Let not the thought be entertained for one moment that you are bound by irrevocable vows to one whom you cannot love.
7. **It is as a terrible nightmare for two persons to be apparently living as one through a lifetime, and yet be in reality as two.** *{10MR 185.1}*



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There is good news. The problem you face today with your marriage may not be terminal.

- 1.** What human wisdom cannot do, the wisdom of God can do through the surrender of the will, the mind, the soul, the strength, the entire being, to God.
- 2.** His providence can unite hearts in bonds that are of heavenly origin.
- 3.** But the result will not be a mere external interchange of affection in soft and flattering words.
- 4.** There will be a new experience;
- 5.** The loom of heaven weaves with warp and woof finer, yet more firm, than those of earth.
- 6.** The material is not a mere tissue fabric but a texture that will bear the wear and test of trial;
- 7.** Heart is bound to heart in the golden chain of a love that is genuine.
- 8.** There is a love that it is cruelty to feed or to give vent to. It is regarded as very fine, very elevated, yet it absorbs so much that God cannot be glorified in the life of the ones He has purchased by the sacrifice of His own life to unite them with Himself. *{13MR 139.1}*

We'll begin right here in our next session.