

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.

In our last session, we closed with a quotation found in 13MR 139.1. it speaks to the good news that the problems you face in the family are not terminal. Let's look at it again.

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.**
 - a. It is regarded as very fine, very elevated,
 - b. Yet it absorbs so much that
 - c. 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}

So what love IS that which is cruelty to feed, or to give vent to?

That love which has no better foundation than mere sensual gratification will be headstrong, blind, and uncontrollable. Honor, truth, and every noble, elevated power of the mind are brought under the slavery of passions. The man who is bound in the chains of this infatuation is too often deaf to the voice of reason and conscience; neither argument nor entreaty can lead him to see the folly of his course. {AH 51.1}

True love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. **On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals, and is attracted by qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating, and its devotion is real and abiding.** {AH 51.2}

So what is true love?

1. **Love, lifted out of the realm of passion and impulse, becomes spiritualized, and is revealed in words and acts.**
2. **A Christian must have a sanctified tenderness and love in which there is no impatience of fretfulness;**
3. The rude, harsh manners must be softened by the grace of Christ. {AH 51.3}



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Why is all this so important? It is important because, what happens in the marriage affects everyone in the family.

The misery arising from unhappy marriages is felt by the offspring of such unions. They have entailed upon them a life of living misery; and though innocent, suffer the consequences of their parents' inconsiderate course. *{2SM 421.2}*

This is indeed a serious matter.

Men and women have no right to follow impulse, or blind passion, in their marriage relation, and then bring innocent children into the world to realize from various causes that life has but little joy, but little happiness, and is therefore a burden. *{2SM 421.2}*

This is such an important matter that we should carefully consider the choices we make. Even when proper consideration was not given to choosing a partner, we should carefully consider what steps should be taken when difficulties arise.