

The Family Time

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*Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

We finished our last session, discussing the fact that many arguments arise out of rather trivial matters. We were looking at Adventist Home, page 83, paragraph 4

By contention over trivial matters a bitter spirit is cultivated. Open disagreements and bickering bring inexpressible misery into the home and drive asunder those who should be united in the bonds of love. Thus thousands have sacrificed themselves, soul and body, by unwise marriages and have gone down in the path of perdition. *{AH 83.4}*

Testimonies Vol 4: Page 495.3 records a letter to a certain sister H. in that letter she says:

Since you have been living with your present husband you have allowed yourself to become exasperated at very trivial matters; and at such times you seem to have a frenzied passion, while Satan stands by and laughs at the misery you are bringing upon yourself and those whom it is your duty to make happy. Your children have had transmitted to them your traits of character, and, besides this, they are daily copying your example of blind, unreasonable passion, impatience, and fretfulness. *{4T 495.3}*

We must be so careful as we deal with the issues of life. Sometimes God allows us to pass through difficult times so that we may see ourselves.

1. In the human heart there is natural selfishness and corruption, which can only be overcome by most thorough discipline and severe restraint; and
2. Even then it will require years of patient effort and earnest resistance.
3. God permits us to experience the ills of poverty, and places us in difficult positions, that the defects in our characters may be revealed and their asperities be smoothed away.
4. But after privileges and opportunities have been given of God,
5. after light and truth have been brought home to the understanding,
6. if persons still make excuses for their deformity of character, and continue in their selfishness and jealousy,
7. Their hearts become as granite, making it impossible for them to be reformed, except by the chisel, the hammer, and the polishing of the Spirit of God. *{4T 496.1}*



So what will you choose to do? What sort of home will you develop?

- 1.** As a family you can be happy or miserable. It rests with yourselves. Your own course of action will determine the future.
- 2.** You both need to soften the sharp points of your characters and to speak such words only as you will not be ashamed to meet in the day of God. . . .
- 3.** You may contend about little things that are not worthy of contention, and the result will be trouble.
- 4.** The path of the upright is the path of peace.
- 5.** It is so plain that the humble, God-fearing man can walk in it without stumbling and without making crooked paths.
- 6.** It is a narrow path; but men of different temperaments can walk side by side if they but follow the Captain of their salvation.--*4T 502, 503 (1880). {2MCP 501.1}*

What wonderful reassurance! The choice is ours. God will indeed lead, if we seek to correct our mistakes. Why will God do this? Notice the book Desire of Ages, page 151, para 1.

- 1.** In both the Old and the New Testament, the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people.
- 2.** To the mind of Jesus the gladness of the wedding festivities pointed forward to the rejoicing of that day when He shall bring home His bride to the Father's house, and the redeemed with the Redeemer shall sit down to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- 3.** He says, "As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; . . . but thou shalt be called My Delight; . . . for the Lord delighteth in thee." "He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing." Isaiah 62:5, 4, margin; Zephaniah 3:17. *{DA 151.1}*

That is why it is so important that we take seriously the matter of marriage.