

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 have been looking at the structure of the family. Starting in the Garden of Eden, we saw that God put the institution of the family together. We've looked at the fact that problems often arise in the family. This is why it is so important that those contemplating marriage give much thought and prayer before entering into the commitment.

Adventist Home page 44. 2 counsels the following.

1. Those who are contemplating marriage should consider what will be the character and influence of the home they are founding.
2. As they become parents, a sacred trust is committed to them.
3. Upon them depends in a great measure the well-being of their children in this world, and their happiness in the world to come.
4. **To a great extent they determine both the physical and the moral stamp that the little ones receive.**
5. And upon the character of the home depends the condition of society; the weight of each family's influence will tell in the upward or the downward scale. {AH 44.2}

For those who are single, who may not necessarily be connected to anyone at the moment, this is a great time to absorb the issues involved in making a happy home. Too often, when we meet someone, we become so carried away with the emotion of the moment, that careful analysis is difficult to engage. Listen to *Review and Herald, February 1, par. 8, published in 1906.*

1. Great care should be taken by Christian youth in the formation of friendships and in the choice of companions.
2. Take heed, lest what you now think to be pure gold turns out to be base metal.
3. Worldly associations tend to place obstructions in the way of your service to God, and many souls are ruined by unhappy unions, either business or matrimonial, with those who can never elevate or ennoble.
4. Never should God's people venture upon forbidden ground.
5. Marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by God. But
6. Too often the unconverted heart follows its own desires, and marriages unsanctioned by God are formed.
7. Because of this, many men and women are without hope and without God in the world.
8. Their noble aspirations are dead; by a chain of circumstances they are held in Satan's net.
9. Those who are ruled by passion and impulse will have a bitter harvest to reap in this life, and their course may result in the loss of their souls. {RH, February 1, 1906 par. 8}



How little attention is paid to the future today, when relationships are entered into!! Listen to Adventist Home page 71.3

- 1.** Two persons become acquainted;
- 2.** They are infatuated with each other, and their whole attention is absorbed.
- 3.** Reason is blinded, and judgment is overthrown.
- 4.** They will not submit to any advice or control, but insist on having their own way, regardless of consequences.
- 5.** Like some epidemic, or contagion, that must run its course is the infatuation that possesses them; and
- 6.** There seems to be no such thing as putting a stop to it. *{AH 71.3}*

It would be much better for our youth, if a lot more thought went into the matter of relationships.

- 1.** When so much misery results from marriage, why will not the youth be wise?
- 2.** Why will they continue to feel that they do not need the counsel of older and more experienced persons? *{AH 72.1}*

Look at how we handle our other issues!

- 3.** In business, men and women manifest great caution.
- 4.** Before engaging in any important enterprise, they prepare themselves for their work.
- 5.** Time, money, and much careful study are devoted to the subject, lest they shall make a failure in their undertaking. *{AH 72.1}*

We will continue this in or next session.