

# The Family Time

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*Proverbs 19:20 - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.  
Proverbs 19:21 - [There are] many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD,  
that shall stand.*

In our last session, we looked at how important it is that we accept Godly counsel. We took a look at the fact that very often youth today reject the counsel of those who have passed through the challenges of life. *Adventist Home*, page 73.2, told us that:

- 1. If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them.**
2. Open to them your hopes and plans;
3. Learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught. { *Adventist Home*, page 73.2}

Even those of us who are older, should always seek Godly counsel: It is truly amazing how much useful advice we overlook.

1. Men and women who are otherwise sensible and conscientious close their ears to counsel; they are deaf to the appeals and entreaties of friends and kindred and of the servants of God.
2. The expression of a caution or warning is regarded as impertinent meddling, and the friend who is faithful enough to utter a remonstrance is treated as an enemy.
3. All this is as Satan would have it. He weaves his spell about the soul, and it becomes bewitched, infatuated.
4. Reason lets fall the reins of self-control upon the neck of lust; unsanctified passion bears sway, until, too late, the victim awakens to a life of misery and bondage.
5. This is not a picture drawn by the imagination, but a recital of facts. God's sanction is not given to unions which He has expressly forbidden. { *Adventist Home*, page 61.2}

We long for love. Why? We are made in the image of God. God is love. Therefore love is a part of our being. *Adventist Home*, page 67.3 says:

1. The heart yearns for human love, but this love is not strong enough, or pure enough, or precious enough to supply the place of the love of Jesus.
2. Only in her Savior can the wife find wisdom, strength, and grace to meet the cares, responsibilities, and sorrows of life. She should make Him her strength and her guide.
3. Let woman give herself to Christ before giving herself to any earthly friend, and enter into no relation which shall conflict with this.
4. Those who would find true happiness must have the blessing of Heaven upon all that they possess and all that they do.
5. It is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery.
6. My sister, unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God. {*AH 67.3*}



## So how is true love accomplished?

1. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter.
2. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature.
3. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude.
4. This is what it means to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This is eating the Bread that comes down from heaven. *{DA 391.1}*

## So what is the advice for our youth regarding counsel on the matter of relationships?

1. If children would be more familiar with their parents, if they would confide in them and unburden to them their joys and sorrows, they would save themselves many a future heartache.
2. When perplexed to know what course is right, let them lay the matter just as they view it before their parents, and ask advice of them.
3. Who are so well calculated to point out their dangers as godly parents?
4. Who can understand their peculiar temperaments so well as they?
5. Children who are Christians will esteem above every earthly blessing the love and approbation of their God-fearing parents.
6. The parents can sympathize with the children and pray for and with them that God will shield and guide them. Above everything else they will point them to their never-failing Friend and Counselor. *{AH 73.3}*