

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



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.

We ended our last session discussing the need for good counsel. We talked about the fact that too frequently we shun good counsel. Oftimes children reject the counsel of Godly parents. We read in *Adventist Home*, page 73.3

1. 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.
2. Who are so well calculated to point out their dangers as godly parents?
3. Who can understand their peculiar temperaments so well as they?
4. Children who are Christians will esteem above every earthly blessing the love and approbation of their God-fearing parents.
5. 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}

So what constitutes a Godly parent?

1. Jesus should be the honored Guest in the family circle.
2. We should talk with Him, bring all our burdens to Him, and converse of His love, His grace, and His perfection of character.
3. **What a lesson may be daily given by godly parents in taking all their troubles to Jesus, the Burden Bearer, instead of fretting and scolding over cares and perplexities they cannot help.**
4. The minds of the little ones may be taught to turn to Jesus as the flower turns its opening petals to the sun. {CG 486.4}

So what is the duty of parents?

1. Fathers and mothers should feel that a duty devolves upon them to guide the affections of the youth that they may be placed upon those who will be suitable companions.
2. They should feel it a duty, by their own teaching and example, with the assisting grace of God, to so mold the character of the children from their earliest years that they will be pure and noble and will be attracted to the good and true.
3. Like attracts like; like appreciates like. Let the love for truth and purity and goodness be early implanted in the soul, and the youth will seek the society of those who possess these characteristics. {AH 74.1}



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Unfortunately, too few parents recognize their God given responsibility;

1. There are few parents who realize how important it is to give to their children the influence of a godly example.
2. Yet this is far more potent than precept.
3. No other means is so effective in training them in right lines.
4. **The children and youth must have a true copy in right-doing if they succeed in overcoming sin and perfecting a Christian character.**
5. **This copy they should find in the lives of their parents.**
6. If they enter the city of God, someone must show them the way.
7. **By living before their children godly, consistent lives, parents may make the work before them clear and plain. {HP 212.3}**