

The Family Time

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2 Samuel 22:33 - God [is] my strength [and] power: And he maketh my way perfect.

2 Samuel 22:34 -He maketh my feet like hinds' [feet]: and setteth me upon my high places.

2 Samuel 22:35 -He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

2 Samuel 22:36 -Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

2 Samuel 22:37 -Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

Yesterday we took a look at some very sobering statistics regarding the institution of marriage. Today we will look at some of the effects upon our children, that result from failed marriages.

Divorce statistics regarding children

- 40% of children growing up in America today are being raised without their fathers. (*Wade, Horn and Busby, -Fathers, Marriage and Welfare Reform, Hudson Institute Executive Briefing, 1997*)
- 50% of all the children born to married parents today will experience the divorce of their parents before they are 18 years old. (*Fagan, Fitzgerald, Rector, -The Effects of Divorce On America-*)

Emotional Damage

- Studies in 1980 - 1981 uncovered that children in repeat divorces got lower results at school. The other children of their age rated them as less pleasant to be around. (*Andrew J. Cherlin, - Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage- Harvard University Press 1981*)
- Teenage children of divorce are three times more likely (35% instead of 13%) to need psychological help within a given year. (*Peter Hill - Recent Advances in Selected Aspects of Adolescent Development- Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 1993*)
- Children from divorced homes have more psychological problems, than children from which one of the parents has died. (*Robert E. Emery, - Marriage, Divorce and Children's Adjustment- Sage Publications, 1988*).

Long term Effects on Children of Divorce

- In 1991 a study was done of children from whom the parents were divorced six years earlier. The study found that even after all that time, these children tended to be lonely, unhappy, anxious and insecure. (*Wallerstein - The Long-Term Effects of Divorce on Children -Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 1991*)
- Seventy percent of long-term prison inmates grew up in broken homes. (*Horn, Bush, -Fathers, Marriage and Welfare Reform-*)

This is why we must understand that the family is indeed an institution that is intended to prepare us for the kingdom of heaven.



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Marriage Is a Contract for Life.--In the youthful mind marriage is clothed with romance, and it is difficult to divest it of this feature, with which imagination covers it, and to impress the mind with a sense of the weighty responsibilities involved in the marriage vow. This vow links the destinies of the two individuals with bonds which naught but the hand of death should sever. *{AH 340.1}*

Marriage, a union for life, is a symbol of the union between Christ and His church. The spirit that Christ manifests toward His church is the spirit that the husband and wife are to manifest toward each other. If they love God supremely, they will love each other in the Lord. . . . In their mutual self-denial and self-sacrifice they will be a blessing to each other. . . . *{FLB 259.5}*

God has a special desire for each home.

God wants the home to be the happiest place on earth, the very symbol of the home in heaven. Bearing the marriage responsibilities in the home, linking their interests with Jesus Christ, leaning upon His arm and His assurance, husband and wife may share a happiness in this union that angels of God commend. Marriage does not lessen their usefulness, but strengthens it. *{FLB 259.6}*

Perhaps we should end today as e ended in our last session

We have little idea of the strength that would be ours if we would connect with the Source of all strength. We fall into sin again and again, and think it must always be so. We cling to our infirmities as if they were something to be proud of. Christ tells us that we must set our face as a flint if we would overcome. He has borne our sins in His own body on the tree; and through the power He has given us, we may resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. Then let us not talk of our weakness and inefficiency, but of Christ and His strength. When we talk of Satan's strength, the enemy fastens his power more firmly upon us. When we talk of the power of the Mighty One, the enemy is driven back. As we draw near to God, He draws near to us. *{Amazing Grace 262.2}*