

The Family Time

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Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Today, we will continue to take a look at the relationship challenges of our youth. The dangers are great and yet often overlooked or ignored. The tendency to surrender to emotion or superficial attraction is epidemic. Listen to “Signs of the Times” July 1, 1903.

Counterfeit Love Uncontrollable.--That love which has no better foundation than mere sensual gratification will be headstrong, blind, and uncontrollable. Honor, truth, and every noble, elevated power of the mind are brought under the slavery of passions. The man who is bound in the chains of this infatuation is too often deaf to the voice of reason and conscience; neither argument nor entreaty can lead him to see the folly of his course.-- *ST, July 1, 1903. (AH 51.) {IMCP 296.4}*

Not only is the victim of this love deaf, but blind. Adventist Home page 84 says it best:

- 1. The Aftermath of Blind Love.**--Every faculty of those who become affected by this contagious disease-- blind love--is brought in subjection to it.
- They seem to be devoid of good sense, and their course of action is disgusting to all who behold it.
...
- With many the crisis of the disease is reached in an immature marriage, and
- when the novelty is past and the bewitching power of love-making is over, one or both parties awake to their true situation.
- They then find themselves ill-mated, but united for life.
- Bound to each other by the most solemn vows, they look with sinking hearts upon the miserable life they must lead.
- They ought then to make the best of their situation, but many will not do this.
- They will either prove false to their marriage vows or make the yoke which they persisted in placing upon their own necks so very galling that not a few cowardly put an end to their existence.
{AH 84.3}

A troubled live and marriage relationship often leads to unfaithfulness and infidelity.

Repetition of Sin Lessens Powers of Resistance.-- He who has once yielded to temptation will yield more readily the second time. Every repetition of the sin lessens his power of resistance, blinds his eyes, and stifles conviction. Every seed of indulgence sown will bear fruit. God works no miracle to prevent the harvest. -- *PP 268 (1890).*



The warnings given are clear. God has time and time again made plain the result of a flawed pathway.

Passion Destroys Everything.-- The words of Christ should ever be borne in mind: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." They married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. We see the same infatuation in regard to marriage. Youth, and even men and women, who ought to be wise and discerning, act as if bewitched upon this question. Satanic power seems to take possession of them. Courtship and marriage is the all-absorbing theme. The most indiscreet marriages are formed. God is not consulted. Human feelings, desires, and passions bear down everything before them, until the die is cast. Untold misery is the result of this state of things, and God is dishonored. The marriage bed is not sanctified or holy. Shall there not be a decided change in reference to this important matter?--Letter 6a, 1888. *{Testimonies on Sexual Behavior Adultery and Divorce 16.2}*

Solomon's experience is worth noting.

In the battle with inward corruption and outward temptation, even the wise and powerful Solomon was vanquished. His life began under favorable auspices. He was beloved of God; and, had virtue been preserved, his life might have closed in prosperity and honor. But he surrendered this special grace to lustful passion. In his youth he trusted in God, and looked to him for guidance; and the Lord gave him power and wisdom that astonished the world. His fame reached to all lands. But when he began to descend the declivity of life, he yielded principle, thus placing himself in the current of evil, and separating himself from God, the foundation and source of his strength; he lost his firmness of character, and wavered, like a giddy youth, between right and wrong. His love of women was his sin. This passion he did not control in his manhood, and it proved a snare to him. He took many wives, some of whom were daughters of heathen kings; and they led him into idolatry. In his youth, wisdom had been more precious to him than the golden wedge of Ophir. But, alas! lustful passions gained the victory. He was deceived and ruined by women. What a lesson is here taught! What a demonstration of the need of strength from God to the very last! It is not safe to permit the least departure from strict integrity. *{Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene 128.2}*