

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.

We live in a time when the superficial dominates. Love is a word, not a principle. Attraction reigns supreme. The selfish satisfaction of lust dominates the senses. But we have been warned in *RH, Nov 4, 1884*

Not to Trifle With Hearts.--To trifle with hearts is a crime of no small magnitude in the sight of a holy God. And yet some will show preference for young ladies and call out their affections, and then go their way and forget all about the words they have spoken and their effect. A new face attracts them, and they repeat the same words, devote to another the same attentions.--*RH, Nov 4, 1884. (AH 57.) {IMCP 299.3}*

Courtship has given way to dating, which in turn has given way to hooking-up. *RH, January 26, 1886 par. 4* describes the deception that exists today:

Deceptive Practices in Courtship.--A young man who enjoys the society and wins the friendship of a young lady unbeknown to her parents does not act a noble Christian part toward her or toward her parents.

Through secret communications and meetings he may gain an influence over her mind, but in so doing he fails to manifest that nobility and integrity of soul which every child of God will possess. In order to accomplish their ends, they act a part that is not frank and open and according to the Bible standard, and prove themselves untrue to those who love them and try to be faithful guardians over them.

Marriages contracted under such influences are not according to the word of God. **He who would lead a daughter away from duty, who would confuse her ideas of God's plain and positive commands to obey and honor her parents, is not one who would be true to the marriage obligations.** . . . *{AH 57.3} {RH, January 26, 1886 par. 4}*

These actions are not just deceptive in themselves, but are indicative of the relationship to come. Listen to *RH, November 4, 1884 par. 9*

- 1.** This disposition will reveal itself in the married life.
- 2.** The marriage relation does not always make the fickle mind firm, the wavering steadfast and true to principle.
- 3.** They tire of constancy, and unholy thoughts will manifest themselves in unholy actions.
- 4.** How essential it is, then, that the youth so gird up the loins of their mind and guard their conduct, that Satan cannot beguile them from the path of uprightness.
- 5.** We grieve to see men with good capabilities, to whom have been intrusted precious talents, wholly unfitting themselves to teach the truth.
- 6.** Their thoughts are upon low, debasing themes that defile the mind, so that it never reaches that high standard that would give nobleness of character and firmness of principle. *{RH, November 4, 1884 par. 9}*



Ultimately improper relationships lead to disappointment and distress.

- 55 percent of cohabitating couples get married within five years of moving in together. Forty percent of couples who live together break up within that same time period. "*Annual Review of Sociology*

- Children of divorce have a higher risk of divorce when they marry and an even higher risk if the person they marry comes from a divorced home. One study found that when the wife alone had experienced a parental divorce, her odds of divorce increased to 59 percent. When both spouses experienced parental divorce, the odds of divorce nearly tripled to 189 percent. " *Journal of Marriage and the Family*

- The likelihood that a woman will eventually marry is significantly lower for those who first had a child out of wedlock. By age 35, only 70 percent of all unwed mothers are married in contrast to 88 percent of women who have not had a child out of wedlock. " "*Finding a Mate? The Marital and Cohabitation Histories of Unwed Mothers,*" *Lawrence L. Wu and Barbara Wolfe*

Given all that we have heard today, what counsel is there for the youth of today?

Discipline Yourself.--You will be inclined to accept the attention of those who are your inferiors in everything. You must be made wiser through the grace of Christ. You must consider every step in the light [of the fact] that you are not your own; you are bought with a price. May the Lord be your Counselor. **Do nothing to impair or cripple your efficiency. Deal faithfully with yourself; with painstaking effort discipline yourself. The grace of Jesus Christ will help you at every step if you will be teachable and considerate.** {*1MCP 301.2*}

I write you this now, and will write again ere long, for as the mistake of your past life has been set before me, I dare not withhold most earnest entreaties that you hold yourself strictly to discipline. . . . {*1MCP 301.3*}