

The Family Time

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Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

Ephesians 6:13 - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

We live in a world that is filled with evil influences. That is why in 2T 441.1 God has specific requirements.

Christ's followers are required to come out from the world, and be separate, and touch not the unclean, and they have the promise of being the sons and daughters of the Most High, members of the royal family. But if the conditions are not complied with on their part, they will not, cannot, realize the fulfillment of the promise. A profession of Christianity is nothing in the sight of God; but true, humble, willing obedience to His requirements designates the children of His adoption, the recipients of His grace, and the partakers of His great salvation. Such will be peculiar, a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to men. Their peculiar, holy character will be discernible, and will distinctly separate them from the world, from its affections and lust. {2T 441.1}

That is the call. That is the requirement. However, the evaluation of the church is extremely troubling!! Listen to 2T 441.2:

- 1.** I saw that but few among us answer to this description.
- 2.** Their love to God is in word, not in deed and in truth.
- 3.** Their course of action, their works, testify of them that they are not children of the light but of darkness.
- 4.** Their works have not been wrought in God, but in selfishness, in unrighteousness.
- 5.** Their hearts are strangers to His renewing grace.
- 6.** They have not experienced the transforming power which leads them to walk even as Christ walked. {2T 441.2}

A comparison is given as 2T 441.2 continues.

- 1.** Those who are living branches of the heavenly Vine will partake of the sap and nourishment of the Vine.
- 2.** They will not be withered and fruitless branches, but will show life and vigor, and will flourish and bear fruit to the glory of God.
- 3.** They will be careful to depart from all iniquity and to perfect holiness in the fear of God. {2T 441.2}



But I hear you say, what does all this have to do with the family? Well, remember what we read during a previous session?

"The home is a school where all may learn how they are to act in the church". Says child Guidance, page 549 and paragraph 2

This would mean that the resulting attitudes reflected in the church have been given birth in the home, either through purposeful misdirection, or neglect. Listen to how 2T 441.3 continues the startling evaluation of this church.

1. Like ancient Israel the church has dishonored her God by departing from the light, neglecting her duties and abusing her high and exalted privilege of being peculiar and holy in character.
2. Her members have violated their covenant to live for God and Him only. They have joined with the selfish and world-loving.
3. Pride, the love of pleasure, and sin have been cherished, and Christ has departed.
4. His Spirit has been quenched in the church.
5. Satan works side by side with professed Christians; yet they are so destitute of spiritual discernment that they do not detect him.
6. They have not the burden of the work. The solemn truths they profess to believe are not a reality to them. They have not genuine faith. {2T 441.3}

As if the comparison given in paragraph 2 of page 441 were not enough, she again is led by the Holy Spirit the repeat the assessment in paragraph 3 of page 441. Listen:

1. Men and women will act out all the faith which they in reality possess. By their fruits ye shall know them.
2. Not their profession, but the fruit they bear, shows the character of the tree.
3. Many have a form of godliness, their names are upon the church records; but they have a spotted record in heaven.
4. The recording angel has faithfully written their deeds.
5. Every selfish act, every wrong word, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling, is faithfully chronicled in the book of records kept by the recording angel. {2T 441.3}