

The Family Time

October 27, 2014

By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



*Proverbs 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
Proverbs 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding;
Proverbs 2:3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding;
Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures;
Proverbs 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

We've been looking at the issues associated with marriage and the family. We've also been seeing the impact that all this can have upon the character and lives of the children. In our last session we made the point that whatever the problems we encounter in the home, God is willing and able to provide the solution. Notice this:

“What human wisdom cannot do, the wisdom of God can do through the surrender of the will, the mind, the soul, the strength, the entire being, to God. His providence can unite hearts in bonds that are of heavenly origin. But the result will not be a mere external interchange of affection in soft and flattering words. There will be a new experience; the loom of heaven weaves with warp and woof finer, yet more firm, than those of earth. The material is not a mere tissue fabric but a texture that will bear the wear and test of trial; heart is bound to heart in the golden chain of a love that is genuine.” - *{13MR 139.1}*

Here are some things to consider as you, with God's leading restore a damaged relationship:

Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Be kind, patient, and forbearing, considerate, and courteous. By the grace of God you can succeed in making each other happy, as in your marriage vow you promised to do. *{AH 118.2}*

We must be willing to learn of Christ. To learn of Christ is to learn humility.

Unless men and women have learned of Christ, His meekness and lowliness, they will reveal the impulsive, unreasonable spirit so often revealed by children. The strong, undisciplined will, will seek to rule. Such ones need to study the words of Paul: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." *{AH 118.4}*



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I sincerely hope that those of you, who are not yet married, see the importance of careful consideration and counsel. As we've said before, we carefully consider other aspects of life, why not this? Notice what RH, January 26, 1886 par. 10 says.

1. If there ever was a subject that needed to be viewed from every standpoint, it is this.
2. The aid of the experience of others, and a calm, careful weighing of the matter on both sides, is positively essential.
3. It is a subject that is treated altogether too lightly by the great majority of people.
4. Take God and your God-fearing parents into your counsel, young friends.
5. Pray over the matter.
6. Weigh every sentiment, and
7. Watch every development of character in the one with whom you think to link your life destiny.
8. The step you are about to take is one of the most important in your life, and should not be taken hastily.
9. While you may love, do not love blindly. *{RH, January 26, 1886 par. 10}*

One more thing:

1. **If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them.**
2. Open to them your hopes and plans;
3. Learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught. *{AH 73.2}*