

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Ephesians 5:31- For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32- This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33- Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

The family, the home, is the place where we learn to be members of the heavenly family. It is truly where we learn to be citizens of heaven. Listen to Child Guidance, pag 549, paragraph 2:

Proper Church Conduct Is Learned at Home. -- The home is a school where all may learn how they are to act in the church. When all are members of the royal family, there will be true politeness in the home life. Each member of the family will seek to make it pleasant for every other member. The angels of God, who minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation, will help you to make your family a model of the heavenly family. Let there be peace in the home, and there will be peace in the church. This precious experience brought into the church will be the means of creating a kindly affection one for another. Quarrels will cease. True Christian courtesy will be seen among church members. The world will take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus and have learned of Him. What an impression the church would make upon the world if all the members would live Christian lives! *{CG 549.2}*

Too often, we underestimate the importance of the family. The truth is that the family is the originally created center of government, and is therefore the foundation, the inner core of man's societal growth and expansion. Listen to the servant of the lord answer the question as to why there is weakness in the church. *Child Guidance, page 550 and paragraph 1* says:

- 1. Why There Is Weakness in the Church.**--Many seem to think that the declension in the church, the growing love of pleasure, is due to want of pastoral work.
2. True, the church is to be provided with faithful guides and pastors. Ministers should labor earnestly for the youth who have not given themselves to Christ, and also for others who, though their names are on the church roll, are irreligious and Christless.
3. But ministers may do their work faithfully and well, yet it will amount to very little if parents neglect their work.
4. It is to a lack of Christianity in the home life that the lack of power in the church is due.
5. Until parents take up their work as they should, it will be difficult to arouse the youth to a sense of their duty.
6. If religion reigns in the home, it will be brought into the church. The parents who do their work for God are a power for good.
7. As they restrain and encourage their children, bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, they bless the neighborhood in which they live. And the church is strengthened by their faithful work. *{CG 550.1}*



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Obviously therefore, there is work to be done. Clarity of understanding must be gleaned from the counsel given. If we are not careful, we will lose the kingdom. A Godly example must be set, otherwise we will in nowise gain the victory, for ourselves and for our children.

Listen to Review and Herald, March 7, 1907, paragraphs 5 and 9:

The work of forming the character of children, of properly preserving and developing their physical, mental, and moral powers, is no small task. *{RH, March 7, 1907 par. 5}*

God will call upon you to give a strict account of the work you have done for your little ones. You make them what they are. They will either stand pure and undefiled before God, because you have worked faithfully for them, or, corrupt and defiled, they will be banished from his presence, because you have neglected your work. *{RH, March 7, 1907 par. 9}*

Satan exults at his success in controlling the minds of so many who profess to be Christians. He has deceived them, benumbed their sensibilities, and planted his hellish banner right in their midst, and they are so completely deceived that they know not that it is he. The people have not erected graven images, yet their sin is no less in the sight of God. They worship mammon. They love worldly gain. Some will make any sacrifice of conscience to obtain their object. God's professed people are selfish and self-caring. They love the things of this world, and have fellowship with the works of darkness. They have pleasure in unrighteousness. They have not love toward God nor love for their neighbors. They are idolaters, and are worse, far worse, in the sight of God than the heathen, graven-image worshipers who have no knowledge of a better way. *{2T 440.2}*