

The Family Time

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Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In our last session, we dealt with the importance of what happens in the marriage. We also looked at the fact that issues between husbands and wives, affects everyone else in the family.

We took a look at the fact that indeed wrong choices have sometimes been made.

Even when proper consideration was not given to choosing a partner, we should carefully consider what steps should be taken when difficulties arise.

Listen to what the book *In Heavenly Places* says about preventing alienation between husbands and wives:

1. How much trouble and what a tide of woe and unhappiness would be saved if men and women also, would continue to cultivate the regard, attention, and kind words of appreciation and little courtesies of life which kept love alive and which they felt were necessary in gaining the companions of their choice.
2. If the husband and wife would only continue to cultivate these attentions which nourish love, they would be happy in each other's society and would have a sanctifying influence upon their families. They would have in themselves a little world of happiness and would not desire to go outside this world for new attractions and new objects of love. . . . *{In Heavenly Places 206.2}*

The complaint is often heard that the other partner has changed, and therefore it is impossible to maintain the relationship. Often we do not realize how much WE have changed; it is easier to evaluate how much our spouses have changed. But In *Heavenly Places* the following counsel is given.

Many women pine for words of love and kindness and the common attentions and courtesies due them from their husbands who have selected them as their life companions. . . . It is these little attentions and courtesies which make up the sum of life's happiness. . . . *{ In Heavenly Places 206.3}*

If the hearts were kept tender in our families, if there were a noble, generous deference to each other's tastes and opinions, if the wife were seeking opportunities to express her love by actions in her courtesies to her husband, and the husband were manifesting the same consideration and kindly regard for the wife, the children would partake of the same spirit. The influence would pervade the household, and what a tide of misery would be saved in the families! . . . *{In Heavenly Places 206.4}*



This is why the young should carefully consider the choices and paths that they take.

1. If there is any subject that should be considered with calm reason and unimpassioned judgment, it is the subject of marriage.
2. If ever the Bible is needed as a counselor, it is before taking a step that binds persons together for life.
3. But the prevailing sentiment is that in this matter the feelings are to be the guide, and in too many cases lovesick sentimentalism takes the helm and guides to certain ruin.
4. It is here that the youth show less intelligence than on any other subject; it is here that they refuse to be reasoned with.
5. The question of marriage seems to have a bewitching power over them.
6. They do not submit themselves to God.
7. Their senses are enchained, and they move forward in secretiveness, as if fearful that their plans would be interfered with by someone. *{AH 70.2}*

It is important that God be included in every aspect of our lives, and every choice we make.

The majority of the marriages of our time and the way in which they are conducted make them one of the signs of the last days. Men and women are so persistent, so headstrong, that God is left out of the question. Religion is laid aside, as if it had no part to act in this solemn and important matter. *{AH 71.2}*

To order to build a home of love we must build a love for Christ.

Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart. Religion is love, and a Christian home is one where love reigns and finds expression in words and acts of thoughtful kindness and gentle courtesy. *{AH 94.2}*