Holy Marriage

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The expression, "Man shall leave father and mother, cleave to his wife; and they shall be one flesh." Does it mean all men of Adam's race? If so, then all marriages are joined together by divine law. Should I be able to find one case not joined together by divine law, then I establish positive proof that the word "man" refers not to Adam's race. Lamech took unto himself two wives (Gen. 4:19). Impossible to take two wives and make one, or make them one flesh with one man. Then Lamech broke the divine law of marriage as given in the beginning. Then man cannot refer to the race of Adam but to the family of God as established in the beginning.

Then there must be a child of God in order for the marriage to be joined together by divine law. In the beginning God created from Adam's rib Eve and presented her unto Adam. Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man" (Gen. 2:21-24).

Here we have one man, one woman created, one flesh constituting God's family—his family in covenant relationship with him—a 'holy marriage.

Adam and Eve fell by transgression, restored by divine law. Man is the priest over his family as head of the sacrificial worship. Children are born by flesh, members of the only family in existence—God's family. Children born into this family when reaching manhood, left father and mother, and cleaved unto their wives were joined together by divine law. Each family was commanded to bear children for God's heritage, the fruit of the womb to be his reward (Ps. 127:3). God never intended his children should fall or die in the flesh. Not knowing what man would do created the tree of life that man should live forever. If he knew, he knew he was creating it in vain. The children of Judah offered their children unto fire gods, and God said, "Which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart" (Jer. 7:30, 31). Likewise it never entered God's mind that man would sin. It grieved God until he repented that he had made man, so much so, he destroyed man by the flood.

God tested man to know what he would do, instead of looking forward and knowing what he would do. God not knowing that man would sin, certainly would not make a marriage law for men that he did not know would ever exist: therefore the marriage law, in the beginning, was not given to alien sinners because none to give it to. Man by transgression alienated himself from God until God destroyed man except four families of one man, one woman in each family in covenant relationship with God. Thus families are established as in the beginning, joined together by divine law. If their children had never transgressed, there would not have been
families of the devil. Soon transgression alienated man so far from God, that he confused their tongues, scattering man into many nations. God called Abram to establish his seed to become a separate people above all people upon the face of the earth. To this people he gave the law of Moses.

The rest of the world were aliens from this covenant. Aliens had to obey the initiatory law to become subjects of this covenant: therefore not under the marriage laws of the Jewish covenant so when a Jew married a foreigner God never addressed the foreigner about the marriage but gave all law to the Jew.

God notified Moses that Israel would want a king, when they possessed the land therefore said, No king should multiply wives unto him that his heart turn not away (Deut. 17:17). Solomon took seven hundred wives unto him. God never spoke to his wives.

God permitted Solomon to have these wives, but never joined these marriages. To do so God would have broken the law—one man, one woman, one flesh.

Israel took many strange wives but when God stirred Cyrus' heart to rebuild the temple and restore the vessels carried off by Nebuchadnezzar, when completed, in order to purify themselves they had to put away their wives. We know then God did not join these marriages. While adultery was the only ground for a divorce between his people, these foreigners were put away because they were not subjects of God's covenant. Read ninth and tenth chapters of Ezra. You can see in these marriages the difference in permitting and joining marriages. When an Israelite captured or purchased a foreigner she was his property forever.

A Jewish slave was his property for seven years. If the master gave his Israelite slave a wife when it came time for his freedom, he could not take his wife and children out with him. If he would say that I love my master, my wife and children, the master would pierce an awl through his ear and he became a slave forever. Foreigners not being under the covenant, God gave different laws to govern marriage than he did where both were Jews.

Where a Jew took a foreigner for his wife, and he failed to find delight in her, could put her away, unlike the above, she went out a free woman, not his property, nor could he sell her. Thus it takes a different law to govern a different case, so will it be in the New Testament. We have examined God's dealings with his children covering a period of four thousand years and not one time is an alien spoken to.

Jesus gave laws during his personal ministry to his disciples to become laws of his kingdom. As his kingdom was not to be of this world, church and state are separated.

**Church Has Divine Law and State Civil Laws**

Divine laws are divided into spiritual and moral laws. Spiritual laws express our direct duties to God while moral laws express our duties to God and our duties to man, to control us in our relationship in natural
things of life. Marriage is a moral law of both church and state. A Christian is a subject of both therefore complies with church and state laws in marriage. Aliens being not subjects of divine laws of marriage are only married by civil laws of our country. When state laws annual marriages not under divine law, they are annulled independent of divine law. When the church tries to apply divine law they are applying it where God has not bound, of which we will say more later.

By fleshly birth or adoption, we become citizens of this country. By spiritual birth, we become citizens of Christ's kingdom. Foreigners obeying initiatory laws of our country become subjects of our country, but beforehand, not subjects of divine law, so divine marriage laws do not apply to aliens. While marriage is a moral law bound upon Christians, alien sinners can obey any moral law and become moral people to the extent of their obedience; still not being Christians are not subjects of Christ's kingdom are only bound by civil laws. They can be as virtuous, honest, truthful as the moral Christian, but the binding is all by civil law. All alien marriages created by civil law and annulled by civil law puts both parties in a single state, free to remarry by civil laws. Completely cut loose from the first marriage. Should each marry different persons, each marriage would contain one man, one woman created one flesh by civil law.

The word of God being the seed of the kingdom that produces and governs citizens did not create or govern these parties in said marriage. In this alien marriage. Should one or both obey the law of birth, into Christ's kingdom that moment they would become subjects of the divine law of marriage, one man and one woman and one flesh in the Lord. Should any one teach that these parties have two living companions would be using divine law annulling civil law, and binding these parties by divine laws of which they were not subjects, when marriage, divorce and remarriage took place. I am afraid to bind law where God has not. If that is not teaching another gospel, then I fail to understand what seems to be plain, simple teaching that a child could understand.

That would be like taking the law of pardon to an erring Christian and applying it unto alien sinners. These who reject the law of birth obey moral laws by force of civil laws, by nature, custom or practice and not for the purpose of a home for God and Christ to dwell and rule over. Not willing to submit to God's will because they desire to follow the lust of the eye and ear and the pride of life; it being natural to mate, in order to be decent, they marry and keep other moral laws or by custom or practice from youth through the influence of parents and associates, moral laws are planted in their hearts.

As the world grows day by day with less respect for marriage or morality of any nature, marriage becomes a business contract or trial marriage to see if they can be satisfied sexually or otherwise with each other, the devil being the father of such contracts, one out of five end in divorce. Yet many think God joins these rebels against his government in marriage. If he does God has three families.

1. The spiritual family, through Jesus Christ.
2. Fleshly marriage in the Lord, where God is head of Christ; Christ head of the husband, and the husband head of his wife, ruled by divine law.

3. God takes two children of the devil, unites as one flesh for the devil; and God leaves this family of his in the devil's kingdom, to raise children for the devil; which destroys the purpose of his creation in the beginning, which was for children to be his heritage and the fruit of the womb his reward. I do not believe God has anything to do with that which destroys his divine purposes. No, God does not join together alien sinners in marriage. Yet, they are not living in adultery, when married by civil law.

It is infallibly safe to teach your child to become a Christian, then marry. This is right and cannot be wrong. Divine laws are to create subjects and control them as subjects of Christ's kingdom. His laws must be obeyed for the purpose given, by whom given to. If aliens, must obey the law of birth in order to become subjects of any other law of the kingdom. In the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of Matthew, Jesus gives divine laws to be bound, by the apostles, upon the children of his kingdom. The law was in force until his death when he fulfilled and took away the law. He taught the law until his death to Jews and his people. He taught out of the law, and many things concerning his kingdom.

After teaching the beatitudes unto his disciples, he addressed them as the salt of the earth, the light of the world. As a warning, he uses whosoever eleven times against disobedience of these laws laid down for his kingdom. Nine of them I have never heard any of our preachers apply them to the world but when most of them get to verses 31 and 32 they teach both whosoever to include unbelievers. If so, all believers and unbelievers are included, therefore all marriages are joined together by divine law; but we have showed cases that God did not join together, therefore unscriptural to include unbelievers in divine marriage, therefore only believers are included in whosoever in these verses.

Jesus, it hath been said by Moses, because of the hardness of the hearts of Israel, whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement, but I say unto you, my disciples, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced com:mitth adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committh adultery.

Then, this testimony is to the salt of the earth for his kingdom. In Matt. 19:3-9, no doubt that the Pharisees had heard Christ somewhere upon the marriage question and thought they could trap him. The trap, "Is it lawful for a man to put away a wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them? (His people, who fell by transgression), Have ye not read that he who made them at the beginning made them male and female? And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."
This shows plainly that Christ refers to the marriage of Adam and Eve. Please reread the first page which shows to whom given and for the purpose given, and you will see the impossibility of unbelievers to be included in Matt. 19:3-9.

You would not apply "whosoever" in 1 Cor. 11:27 to include unbelievers, then why here where Jesus goes back to the marriage of Adam and Eve? Should you include unbelievers, then you are forced to the position that all marriages are joined together by divine law. That which proves too much destroys your position. Did the apostles teach the commission as Jesus authorized?

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

To whom did the apostles preach the marriage law? If to alien sinners, then marriage laws are initiatory laws. Jesus gave the marriage laws to the salt of the earth—to the light of the world—to a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid: therefore the apostles taught the marriage laws, as part of the all things given to people after they had been taught and baptized. No man on earth can find even one word ever written or spoken to any unbeliever, by the apostles, upon the subject of marriage; therefore you must go to the epistles given to the church, to Christians, the children of God. This is conclusive proof that God does not join alien sinners in marriage.

Again: For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy (1 Cor. 7:14). Here we have the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife. Subtract the believing wife and add an unbelieving wife. You have two unbelievers; therefore no believer through which their marriage can be sanctified. Here sanctification means to set apart in holy marriage. No believer; no sanctification; no setting apart or joining together in holy wedlock. Impossible to make this more simple or plainer, that God does not join alien sinners in holy wedlock. Two unbelievers are only married by state laws—divorced by state laws, and remarry by state. State laws have no authority over divine laws, therefore alien marriage is not under divine law, which is the reason why God, in no age of the world, has spoken to aliens on the subject of marriage. New Testament marriages are in the Lord. Alien sinners are out of the Lord. Therefore alien sinners are not subjects of New Testament marriage. Whosoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17). Alien sinners have not been baptized in the name of the Lord, therefore cannot marry by the authority of the Lord.

Civil laws are ordained of God for man's good where they do not conflict with divine law. True they do not always serve the purpose for which they were ordained. They enforce law against lying, stealing, cheating, etc. They demand marriage that man may live above the beast. They have no power to enforce or establish divine obedience. Divine laws must
be obeyed by whom given, for the purpose given, in order to render obedience. Should an alien sinner obey a law given to Christians, his obedience is not valid. He could come to church and partake of the Lord's supper which is for Christians but he is doing that which he is not a subject of therefore his obedience is unacceptable unto God. This is true of marriage or any moral law. The sinner is putting the cart in front of the horse and neither serve the purpose to suit the owner, therefore changes the order in order to take his ride. When man takes Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:1-9; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:11 and apply these laws to alien sinners, you are putting the cart before the horse, which won't work with God.

Some repudiate what Paul taught in 1 Cor. 7:12-16 because he stated, But to the rest speak I, not the Lord. The Lord spoke very little of the New Testament therefore you would have to repudiate twenty-three books of the New Testament. Paul received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God that he might know the things that are freely given us of God (1 Cor. 2:12). Therefore everything Paul wrote was given him of God. If he spoke anything else, he stood accursed of God (Gal. 1:6-8).

Paul's Teaching

And the woman which hath an unbelieving husband, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean; but now are they holy, but if the unbeliever depart, let him depart. 'A brother or a sister is not under bondage' (1 Cor. 7:13-15).

The believer is prohibited from putting away their unbelieving companion. One reason is that by their godly conversation they might convert the unbeliever (1 Cor. 7:16; 1 Peter 3:1, 2). The second reason is that a believer cannot put away his companion except for fornication (Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:1-3). The believer having fulfilled her part of the marriage contract. If her unbelieving husband departs let him depart. Don't use divine law to prevent him for he is not a subject. I have not addressed him, nor use civil law by which he divorces you. Don't appear against him. Let him get his divorce. You are under bondage. The unbeliever has spurned her godly life and conversation. A rebel against God and no respect for law has spurned it all his life; therefore let him divorce you. I will not hold you in bondage to him.

While divine law operated through the believer and sanctified the unbeliever in marriage, he never was a subject but a rebel against divine law, only as long as he was pleased in the flesh, was he willing to be in union with his wife. In what state did the unbelieving husband leave his Christian wife? He departed from her. Let us get the meaning of depart from Christian marriage. Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband (1 Cor. 7:10, 11). Depart here means she was severed from, divorce to the point that she was unmarried. Then when the unbeliever departed from his believing wife he severed himself from her, he divorced her and she became unmarried to him.
Paul passing circumcision and marriage of virgins returns to the distressed condition of marriage and says I suppose, therefore that this is good for a man so to be. Paul, in this present distressed condition of marriage says, what is it good for man to do? If he is bound unto a wife, seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she has not sinned. What is true of the husband is true of the wife, so she could marry under same conditions. What marriage is Paul talking about when he says, If thou art loosed from a wife? seek not a wife, (or if thou art loosed from a husband, seek not a husband). But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned (1 Cor. 7:27, 28). "He could not have had reference to one who had never been married, for she could not be loosed from anything or person to whom she had never been bound. Also, in the next expression he refers to a virgin therefore impossible to have reference to one who had never been married. Could it have reference to a believer being loosed from her believing husband? No, why? Because a believer departing from her believing husband is required to remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband; because she is bound unto him so long as he lives. Then the only marriage referred to is where the unbelieving husband or wife departs from their believing companion. Then, in this case, the unbeliever departed, divorced his believing companion, left her unmarried, loosed from her unbelieving husband. Paul says, "But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned." Then when Paul said, "She was not under bondage," he meant not bound by marriage, became loosed from her marriage, therefore a scriptural right to marry as God permitted, not commanded, a believer to marry out of the Lord, as she died spiritually to her husband—became dead to him—like the believing husband dying in the flesh, she is to marry only in the Lord (1 Cor. 7:39).

For emphasis I repeat divine law governing Christian marriages. Know ye not, brethren (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; as she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Thus, when loosed by death, free to marry another man.

Laws Governing Marriage Where A Christian Marries Out of the Lord

But if the unbelieving (husband) depart, let him depart. A brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases; but God hath called us to peace. In such cases—cases like this—not like Christians being divorced. If Christian marriage laws governed this case, then said laws would govern all marriages. If so, I, Paul, would not have uttered "in such cases," therefore he who uses the laws covering Christians to govern this case perverts the gospel. In this case, the believer never departed from her husband. She obeyed the law that bound her to her unbelieving husband.
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The unbeliever, not a subject of divine law, was not addressed. Whatev­er the law saith, it saith to them under the law. The unbeliever used state law to divorce his wife, the only law of which he is a subject. Then, the law that joined him to his wife annulled his marriage. State laws being the laws of her husband, that annulled their marriage, she became dead to the law of her husband, unmarried, loosed; therefore Paul says, "Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife."

But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned. The unbeliever died to his believing wife like man dies to God, by the law of sin and death: therefore free to marry in the Lord, made free by divine law, "Not under bondage of marriage in such cases." Some argue that Paul would have used the Greek verb "deo" which means to bind, tie or fasten together if he meant she was no longer bound in marriage. Whatever does the binding puts into the state of bondage. The law bound her in the bondage of marriage, therefore Paul used bondage to express the state of marriage was loosed. Let us examine the meaning of bondage as defined in the Bible.

My definition of bondage: To be bound in a state from which one cannot liberate himself. Liberation can only be enjoyed when a stronger power overcomes the power that had me in bondage. God said, "Israel should be in bondage four hundred thirty years. About two hundred fifteen of these years Israel enjoyed the milk and honey of Egypt, in slavery two hundred fifteen years. God had the fat of the land to allure, entice and force them there. They became subject to Pharaoh by entering Egypt. To loose them God had to break, overcome a Pharaoh. When God destroyed Pharaoh and his hosts, he destroyed the power that held Israel in bondage. Through the Red Sea they passed from under bondage and became married to Moses by being baptized into Moses. They became subjects of his law. This law bound them in bondage to God to serve, obey and worship him and have no other gods until Christ nailed the law to the cross (Col. 2:14). Becoming dead to the law, they were free to be married to Christ (Rom. 7:4). Rejecting Christ they became obedient to the law of sin and death, the servants of Satan. From the bondage of sin only Christ could deliver them.

Man can quit the practice of sin but is powerless to remove the guilt. Obedience to the law of birth removes the guilt—bondage of sin and death overcome, he becomes a new creature in Christ—married to Christ. Man and woman marrying become under the bondage of marriage, bound by law in the state of marriage. A bondage which they have not the power to loose. The law that did the binding is the power that annuls the bondage.

In each case they were powerless to liberate themselves from bondage. In each case God made the way of escape they departed the way prepared. In each case they passed out from under bondage. In each case had a lawful right to marry.

The believer marrying out of the Lord and the unbeliever departing, Paul says, "In such cases," is a different case from marriage of believers, where both parties are married in the Lord: therefore requires different laws to govern each case. Then he who takes law given Christians and
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applies it to alien sinners or applies the law given sinners to Christians misunderstands the laws of marriage.

Now we know that such things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stepped, and all the world may become guilty. While Paul was talking about the guilty of the law of Moses, I think it will apply to any subject in Old or New Testament. Then, whatsoever the law or gospel says upon any subject, it says to them who are subjects of that law, and no others. If marriage, we should be sure to apply the law to them that God applies it to.

The bondage of Israel was the state in which they were bound in Egypt. The bondage under the law was the state, in which they were bound by the law. The bondage of sin was the state in which they were bound by the law of sin. The bondage of marriage was the state in which they were bound by the law of marriage. The deliverance from bondage of Egypt means no longer bound in Egypt. The deliverance from bondage of the law means no longer bound by the law. The deliverance from bondage of sin, no longer bound by the law of sin and death. The deliverance from the bondage of marriage means no longer bound by the law of marriage.

Being loosed from the bondage of Egypt, they had the right to be married by Moses. Being loosed from the bondage of the law they were free to be married to Christ. Being hossed from the bondage of sin they were free to be married to Christ. Being loosed from the bondage of marriage, they were free to marry in the Lord.

I read this argument, Gentiles were guilty of adultery. Adultery is illicit sexual relations between married people. Therefore Gentiles (alien sinners) are joined together in marriage by the Lord." What is wrong? His conclusion, "Joined together by the Lord."

Whatsoever the Lord saith, it saith to them that are under the law. Gentiles were not under the law. In order to be under the law of marriage, you would have to find a thus saith the Lord spoken to them upon the subject of a marriage which cannot be found" in the Old or New Testament. Let me call your attention to marriage that all agree is joined together by the Lord. Always infallibly safe to pattern after infallible truth. It is always right and cannot be wrong. Why not keep on the infallibly safe side of any proposition where doubt cannot exist?

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For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 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. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Eph. 5:30-32). What is this great mystery? How can one be of his body, flesh and bones. It is through Christ and his church. Christ gave his body, flesh and bones, an expression to emphasize that all his body which contained his blood purchased the church, his spiritual body. Paul says, "Glorify God in body and spirit which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20). What is the price paid for our bodies and spirits? The whole body of Christ, when we become
members of his spiritual body, the church, which he with his entire body on the cross purchased. In this sense, when we become members of his spiritual body, we become of his body flesh and bones. Being of his body, flesh and bones, being in Christ we can marry in the Lord. For this cause, this reason, that he is in Christ, shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is the kind of marriage ordained of God in the beginning which Christ returned to and established as the law of marriage in his kingdom or church, therefore alien sinners are not subjects of New Testament marriage laws.

Type: Out of the flesh of Adam his bride was created, through whom fleshly families of God are created and perpetuated through the divine law of God.

Antitype: Out of the flesh of Christ his bride purchased, through whom fleshly families of God are created and perpetuated.

Cause, that which produces a result, reason, effect; to make or bring about.

The cause, "being in Christ" produces or establishes the right for a man to leave father and mother, and cleave unto his wife, and they become one flesh. We have the cause that produced the effect—the establishing of a holy married fleshly family of God created by the divine law of God (Matt. 5:32; 19:9; Rom. 7:1-3). In this kind of family, adultery or fornication are the only grounds for divorce. For any other cause, should one put away his wife and marry again he is living in adultery. As he is living in adultery, then as long as he lives he will be living in adultery, unless he puts away his last wife: for he is bound by the law of marriage unto his first wife as long as she lives. But suppose he remains unmarried? He causes her to marry, he causes her to commit adultery. Why? Because the law binds her to him as long as he lives. But suppose he marries on the ground that his wife is living in adultery? Did he put her away for adultery? No. Then, if he marries for any other cause he commits adultery. The one that marries either one commits adultery: therefore four souls are living in adulteries.

The danger of a Christian putting away a Christian is fourfold. When Christ purchased the church with his blood, he purchased the material, that God joins together in marriage, therefore God does not join alien sinners in marriage. In the marriage of Christians, God is head of Christ, Christ is head of the husband, and the husband the head of his wife; to be ruled by the word of the Lord.

Again: Two aliens are married by civil law, divorced by civil law, and are remarried by civil law, not married or divorced by divine law. They hear the gospel preached and are convicted. They come forward to confess Christ, and demand to be buried with him in baptism. The preacher refuses to take their confession and baptize them on the ground that they have living companions of their first marriage. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved" but the preacher says, "You must dissolve your present marriage before I can, or the church,
allow you to receive membership into the family of God or before we can baptize. Individual members we could not receive them, they are living in adultery.

Thus they are stamped before the world as living in adultery. Who drove them from obedience to Christ? Who sent them to hell? Those who refused their obedience to Christ. The result would have been, had they obeyed the gospel, they would have become subjects of the law of Christ, therefore subjects of the marriage law of Christ, their marriage made or becomes valid by divine law. One husband, one wife one flesh.

You marry two sinners. You are glad to take their confession and baptize them. Should one die and the other marry you would gladly baptize him or her and fellowship both. Each couple are children of the devil when they married, and each constituted the devil’s family, each married only by civil law. Civil law annulled one marriage, and remarried them, leaving each couple with one husband and one wife. If civil law does not have the power to join man and woman in marriage, then both couples were living in fornication. Fornication would have to be repented of before you could lawfully baptize either. So you are forced to the position, that God joins all marriages, that death or adultery are the only scriptural ground for divorce and remarriage. That position has God breaking the marriage law given in the beginning or in the law of faith.

There is not, even one place in all the Bible where God spoke to an alien about his marriage. At the flood, they were marrying, but God did all his talking to Noah. If God joined these marriages together, then all marriages constitute families of God. This conclusion has God creating families one day and destroying them the next. Also, destroying the purpose for which he created them, children to be his heritage—his delight, and the fruit of the womb his reward.

The body of a Christian is the temple of God. Paul, “He that is joined to an harlot is one flesh.” What would you have? God’s temple united to a human slut—a female dog. For God’s temple to remain in this union, he would become the scum of humanity, spiritually rotten, a disgrace to Christianity.

Divine law says, “God forbid.” Does God join marriages, that he forbids being joined together? Paul commands that the Christian is to flee fornication or adultery (1 Cor. 6:15-20).

The reason why some have spasms when you teach that God does not join aliens together in marriage is my parents, nor my husband and I, nor my children were Christians when married, therefore you consign us to hell. Marriage does not change spiritual relationship. You must be born of the flesh and the Spirit. No matter how cultural and refined my people or your people may be, we are children of the devil until we obey the gospel. My purpose has been to show the difference between alien and Christian marriage, and a Christian marrying out of the Lord; while you are applying the same law to saints and sinners alike. An alien is a rebel against God, not a subject of the law that governs Christians. An example of misapplied law. A scoundrel is sent to Camp Hood. Desiring to satisfy his
lust, he woos and wins the heart of a fine sweet Christian girl and they marry. She enjoys her married life. In about a year a child is born. Uncle Sam discharges him. He determines to leave for another job. In order to satisfy his lust, he gets a divorce. He wants to appear as a gentleman somewhere else and leaves.

I preach she has a lawful right to marry a Christian. You take the hysterics and accuse me of teaching heresy. Before God, one of us have misapplied law. He knows. I leave you to judge righteously. I mention this because some won't grant what they take. I know that I am right and you are wrong. Be sure we judge with righteous judgment. God judges us as we judge each other. Should a man teach heresy, strong men in the gospel should pass on his teaching, then the admonition before he is branded.

In the marriage of Christians the law is equally bound upon both. Where a Christian marries an alien sinner the law does not address the alien. Paul says, "in such cases," a different case requiring different law to govern the case. To apply the law given Christians to an alien that marries a Christian or to the marriage of alien sinners is perverting the gospel.

If marriage laws given Christians applied to all marriages, then no reason to give other laws upon the subject of marriage. Paul would never mention "in such cases" as let the unbeliever depart, a brother or sister is not under bondage; but would have said, if the believer departs from her husband, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband. Should you apply what the law says to Christians and apply it to alien sinners, you have perverted the gospel. Should a Christian marrying out of the Lord be divorced by her unbelieving husband, and you apply the law given Christians to her case, by that law she has no right to marry, she would have two living husbands, and everything Paul has said in the departing of an unbeliever is not divine law. Can't be otherwise.

God never made a covenant without speaking to those with whom he made the covenant. The law of initiation in any covenant God has made with man, man must obey it to become a subject of said laws. Marriage law to be binding upon an alien, he must became a subject. The alien has no divine law upon the subject of marriage. Being a subject of civil law, he is married and divorced only by civil law.

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the (believing) wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy (1 Cor. 7:14). Here sanctification does not mean to cleanse from sin but to set apart in holy matrimony through the believer, their marriage is joined together, by divine law, in holy matrimony. This also shows, that in alien wedlock children are born unclean. Does it mean children are sinners? No, the parents are sinners, and their children are born in an unclean state. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son (Ezek. 18:20).
David, behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. David states the condition of his mother. A bastard could not enter the congregation of the Lord until the tenth generation, his mother being the ninth, she had to suffer the result of Boaz's sin. In unbelievers marriage both are sinners. Marriage does not remove the guilt of sin; therefore their children are born in this sinful state, unclean state, but children of believers are born in holy wedlock, a clean state, therefore a holy state in birth. In holy marriage children can be raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, which is impossible in alien marriage.

The restrictions in holy matrimony show plainly that God does not join aliens in marriage. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).

1. His divine knowledge has not revealed even one marriage of alien sinners. Therefore alien marriage does not pertain to life and godliness.

2. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him (Col. 3:17). Man is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38). Therefore man cannot marry in Jesus until baptized.

All thanks must be rendered unto God, in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17; John 16:26). Alien marriage is not in the name of the Lord Jesus. Therefore, in alien marriage, the home cannot give thanks unto God, in the name of the Lord Jesus. That which is out of the Lord is not in the Lord. That which is out of the Lord cannot, by word or deed, do anything in the Lord. Therefore, alien marriage, which is out of the Lord, cannot by word or deed, do anything in the Lord.

5. In Christian marriage, God is head of Christ, and Christ head over the husband, and the husband head over his wife (1 Cor. 11:3). In alien marriage, the devil is head of their home, both husband and wife. Therefore, alien marriage has no God, no Christ over their home.

6. Christians, marrying, are commanded to raise their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). In alien marriage, they are in rebellion against the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Therefore they cannot raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

7. In alien marriage, the home is unsanctified, an unclean state (1 Cor. 7:14). Their children are born sinless, but in an unsanctified home. Therefore impossible to raise children sanctified and set apart unto the Lord.

8. Christian marriage is a holy, sanctified state, a dwelling place for God. Children are born in this sanctified state, therefore can be raised in a sanctified home where God dwells.

**Purpose of Marriage**

A marriage ordained and joined together by our heavenly Father cost
HOLY MARRIAGE

a price too great for them to be their own. They are in debt to God to fulfill all requirements made. Being members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones you are joined together as one flesh (Eph. 5:30, 31).

This cost was God's love, in the sacrifice of his Son. Not being your own, you are to glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). As servants of God, not men, and wherever God calls you there abide (1 Cor. 7:23). As God's family called, commanded to bear children to perpetuate the family—the church—as both families belong to him to serve the purpose for which he created them (Gen. 1:28; 1 Tim. 5:14). The purpose is that young women should marry, bear children, guide the house. To bear children is as much commanded as marriage. Why? There is no other way to keep the family and church in existence. Children are a heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward (Ps. 127:3). Thy wife shall be (not may be) as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house (Ps. 128:3). Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Mark 10:14).

The woman that can and refuses to bear children, refuses to serve the purpose for which she was created, refuses to reward God with the fruit of her womb, which is God's heritage, refuses to help perpetuate the family and church; therefore, at the judgment, she will be guilty to the extent of her womb of destroying family and church. Man does not go free that prevents or opposes children. He is the head of the house. Er, Juda's first born, married Tamar, but was so wicked, the Lord slew him. Juda commanded his son, Onan, to marry her and raise up seed to his brother. He split, wasted, destroyed the germ of life—refused to create children for his brother, therefore the Lord was displeased and killed Onan (Gen. 38:7-10).

Think what a child means to God. He created all things for his children because he loved, cherished, and desired them. He demands children as his reward in giving unto us the sun, moon, stars, wind, the earth, beasts of the field—anything you can name, that is beneficial, that God has given for children. In refusing to bear children to the extent of the womb, you are helping to destroy the American way of life—gradually turning it over to the devil. The righteous preserve the earth, and when they become too few, then God will raise up a nation to destroy us. We must not only bear children, "but nurture them in the admonition of the Lord."

Here are some reasons why Christians should not marry out of the Lord:

1. It is impossible for the mind of a believer to be in agreement with an unbeliever in service to God.

2. The unbeliever, in refusing to obey the Lord, loves the things of the world and will desire companionship in things of the flesh that the Christian cannot partake of.

3. The believer has no help or encouragement in being faithful to the Lord in home life.
4. Christian meditation and conversation is needful in developing a Christian home.

5. Home, without a head ruled by Christ, as head of his home, will be ruled from a business standpoint, locating with no thought or care for congregational worship, depriving wife of worship and Christian influence needful to save her soul and souls of her children.

6. Christians living without congregational influence have no influence in building up Christianity in the neighborhood where they live; therefore should marry a believer that will consider the church first and business second.

7. The unbeliever has no love for God, therefore only his love for his wife preserves his marriage. The command to “love his wife as his own body” has no power or influence to increase or perpetuate love to enable him to overlook the shortcomings, mistakes, weaknesses of his wife, so many times faults grow into mountains, without considering the beam in his eyes, and the result is a divorce.

8. What God has joined together has no influence over the unbeliever. Marriage is an individual transaction which he departs from without remorse of conscience or guilt.

9. To the believing husband, “Bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Wife, guide the house. Unbelievers disobey these commands, therefore marrying an unbeliever is an uphill business in rearing children for the Lord.

10. The influence of the unbeliever over his children is that Christianity does not amount to enough even to be considered.

11. The Bible is not the unbeliever’s guide book, therefore the home is easily wrecked.

12. He is a rebel against God, loves the lust of the eye, ear and the pride of life.

13. Fails to consider God—no reliance upon God—fails to recognize God as the giver of his existence—not thankful unto God for temporal and spiritual blessings, yet you, a Christian girl marry him to rule and train your children. So many, many things to make your journey through life a burden instead of blessings. Your weapons of success are love, kindness and a godly conversation, but remember he has no love, kindness or godliness towards God. He may be a refined moral man but he is an alien in God’s sight. Suppose you had a child that would not talk to you, never thank you for anything received, nor show any appreciation for your affections? Yet, with others he showed his affection and appreciation. That is the exact condition that your unbelieving husband lives in day by day enjoying the blessings of God. The marriage laws of faith obeyed, brings perfect peace, love, joy, and union for life. A Christian must fall from grace before he lives in disobedience to married laws. A sinner was never in grace, therefore it is more reasonable that a fallen Christian would be restrained by the word of God, thus an alien sinner who lives daily is a rebel against God; therefore the safest thing to do is to marry in the Lord.
As the word of God has no restraint upon the heart of an alien husband, his love for you is the only restraint you have. In association with other women, he is more liable to yield to temptation because the word of God is not considered and has no influence. I knew an alien husband because his Christian wife refused to go with him to enjoy the amusements of the world it would make him mad every time. Cruel words brought heartaches. After children had been born in their family it grew worse until he finally told her, you have got to quit going to church or I will leave you. While that is rare it might be the very kind of unbeliever that you would get. Think! Forbidden to take your own flesh and blood, a mother's love for her children spurned—cannot take them where they can be raised in the admonition of the Lord. His influence over your children would be for Satan. With a broken heart, this sister came to me for advice. I told her that I thought it was a bluff to force yielding obedience to him, that if he had any man about him, tell him that you love him, that he is the father of your babies, that you want to live with him, and for the sake of the children I want us to live together; but this is a problem between me and my God. I will serve him. You will have to depart. If he departs he is unworthy of you and your children. Her love for God gave her the courage to tell him and he knew she meant what she said. He made no reply, had all week to meditate. Sunday morning he hitched his horses to their carriage and drove around in front of the house, came in and said, "Well, if you must go to church, I will not have the neighbors talking about your father having to come after you in order to get to church, from this own I am taking you.

At first he would not come in the church building, finally edged in and several years passed before he obeyed the gospel. You might not have strong love for God, a weak Christian, a new born babe in Christ, and yield to the lust of the eye, ear and pride of life and be lost or he might not surrender and help you serve your Savior. I hope you see the danger of marrying out of the Lord. Marriage should be a life time contract. You should study, weigh, measure every step you take by the word of God with all seriousness of heart.

Marriage Obligations

Individuals who marry in the Lord are to glorify God in their bodies and in their hearts. All disagreements are not only between the married, but between them and God. Envy, jealousy, stubbornness, determination to have your way, self-willed hearts, are all evils that not only separate you but separate you from God. They are so serious that they destroy soul and body. Prayerful hearts bring peaceful minds and heal heartaches, restore peace, and settle your troubles. God's word obeyed settles all problems, all disagreements between each other and between man and man. Each are commanded to love the other as self, each to love the other as Christ loves both. This and this only is love that our Lord accepts. Therefore the necessity of being reconciled to each other in order to be reconciled to God. No law of God can be broken and remain broken without breaking your love for each other and for God. You must not only love each other as man and wife, but as a brother and sister in Christ.
Your spiritual relationship is if you love not each other as brethren, you cannot love God whom ye have not seen. He that loveth not his brother (common gender) is a murderer, and no murderer hath eternal life abiding in promise, therefore cannot go to the home of bliss. Do husband and wife love each other as each love self and divorce each other? Impossible! Think twice before you leap. Be sure your dealings between each other are controlled by love, kindness, and in godliness which heals all hearts.

Man is the stronger vessel and woman the weaker (1 Peter 3), therefore man must dwell with his wife according to the knowledge of the marriage law bound upon him as the head of his home. Giving honor unto her as the weaker vessel, as being heirs together of the grace of life; that their prayers be not hindered. In offense, the strong should take his wife in his arm, pull her to his bosom and kiss the tears away and all strife will disappear, as frost before the morning sun. I know it will work because I have tried it. Never did I take my wife into my bosom but that she nestled in peace and repulsive words ceased to be uttered. Peace drove the clouds away, love expanded day by day, and our home is more precious than gold, a place where God and our Saviour dwells. Home sweet home.

Home, yes, heirs of the grace of life, ever looking forward toward the goal of our high calling in Christ Jesus. A home where the altar of prayer is erected, and the lives of both so noble that their prayers are never hindered knowing the eyes of God are over them and their prayers are heard and answered according as he sees best. Such a home no alien sinner possesses. This is one reason why I write these lines, hoping and praying some sinner may read them and realize what holy marriage means to the soul. Remember that as long as man regards iniquity in his heart God will not hear his prayers. I know some souls are naggers, grumblers, fractious, faultfinding, that never see the good and happy side of life, sad and indeed sad when a mistake is made. I hope these lines will be read by such souls and help them see self as God sees them, and conquer their ungodliness that they may enjoy life and not make everybody else miserable.

Parents failed to teach the lesson of obedience to such characters. I fear they will see only their own selfish self. It is a hard road to travel, but you failed to study his disposition, his grouchy nature, his selfish heart. You made the hard road that you are traveling. This shows the necessity of studying the lives and disposition of those we marry. I know it is natural to put the best foot forward in courting, but that which is in man will betray him if you watch close enough. Don't let love close your eyes and ears and cover up his life. Look before you love for love covers a multitude of faults.

This is a strong reason why you should marry a Christian. Such men may pretend to be Christians. They are self-deceived hypocrites, even if they are, seemingly, in the church. If you are a faithful Christian, always at worship, you will learn the faithful of the flock. Such characters are born objectors to everything unless they are the daddy of it. In the church, because of their stupidity, these objectors are a hindrance to the cause of Christ and not appreciated by the faithful; therefore you can
know them by their fruits if you will wait, watch and measure during a long courtship. Don't be in haste to get married. Married life is a long, long journey unless death or divorce overtakes you. Take time for a home where peace and love rule each other.

I want to repeat a little that certain duties will follow you to the grave. Remember that in every Christian home God is over Christ; Christ head of the husband; and the husband head of his wife, and the word of God your ruling power. Should you pervert the word and rule by man-made laws, God will add the plagues written in his book. Wife remember that if you rebel at the rule that rules by the word of God, you reject God. Everybody wanting to rule destroys home or business of any kind.

An order given by one parent should never be countermanded or objected to before their children even if you think the other is completely wrong. Talk it over in secret. Woman also is commanded to guide her house—children. Responsibility resting on both creates cooperation between both that harmony may exist. To have our own way in things of life, instead of a compromise and meeting each other on half way ground is hard-headed stubbornness. It is muleish, meanness, playing the fool. I realize the statement of Solomon, "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house" (Prov. 25: 24). A contentious man is just as bad. Either is a disgrace in marriage. Generally speaking each can aggravate the condition and make bad matters worse. Here lies the necessity of both being Christians, both being educated by the word of God on marriage duties.

Every Christian knows they cannot bawl out each other and go to heaven. Such Christians destroy all respect for self, for each other, and for God. They become just what the devil wants them to be. Yes, the old boy laughs and throws in a few shovels of coal to heat their bodies in a burning hell unless a reformation of life takes place. Love and respect for God's law will cure any defects in the lives of men and women, and destroy all desire for divorce. Love never fails to cement two hearts together where the love is a living love for the other and for self. All the powers of hell cannot effect this union of hearts.

Of all the things that arise in lives of married people, they have a very small beginning. These make or mar married life. As each thing arises, both should look it squarely in the face. Each should weigh his individual duty toward the other and self. Each should be willing to meet on half way ground. Those things that mar should be sacrificed wherein essential for the happiness of both. A little thing is easily controlled, permitted to become rooted in the heart, it will become a mountain. If bad, crush it before it grows. If good, cultivate it.

In differences, each should control self; each kind and courteous; each, while seeing it his way, should not be determined to have it his way. A good compromise is much better than self-determination. To force your way creates rebellion. Remember that one who has no will of their own is a weakening but he who conquers his will for the happiness of the other, creates happiness for both and shows the spirit manifested by Christ toward his Father.
Home may be located in a mansion or hut, but neither can possibly make a home. It takes a real man and a real woman to make a home, a place where God dwells as head of Christ; Christ the head of the husband; the husband the head of his wife; a divine institution. God is love. He who drives love out of his heart for his companion, drives God out of his home. Love knows no failure, overcomes all obstacles, and makes the pathway of marriage easy to travel. When something is marred, look into your heart and examine your love by the law of love and you will see plainly the cure. God’s law will not cure unless your love is sufficient to practice the remedy God gives. At times, we say things that should not be said and do things that should not be done. Many times we make fools out of ourselves in wrangling for the last say when nothing is gained when we get it. Nothing comes up in the lives of husband and wife worth wrangling for. Contention increases strife, crushes love, destroys peace and happiness, and sews the seed for divorces.

You may know scissors are scissors, and say scissors until the other is defeated and what have you gained? Nothing worthy of victory. Heartaches are the seed of your victory. A little love expressed in kind words drives contention and strife from the home and makes it a place of refuge in time of storm.

A brother said to me, “I know that I mistreat my wife, but I am not man enough to confess my wrongs to her.” The devil himself could do that but he is not going to confess his wrongs. Why be a devil? Why not be a man? Take your wife in your arms and kiss away the tears you made. It will bring happiness to your soul. Knit two hearts together until each beat is for the other. Love not only makes a man out of a brute, but it makes a Christian. Try it and you will be happy here and hereafter.

Everything that mars marriage is wrong. Christians cannot continue in such and go to heaven. You can’t serve God and the devil at the same time. Whomsoever ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey. In marriage we make our own bed and must sleep on it regardless of consequences. The inlaws that intrude on this sacred soil, sowing seed that widens or drives a wedge between hearts joined together by our heavenly Father, are doing that which will damn their souls. Advice should be to heal and draw souls closer together, advice that will plant the inlaw equally in the hearts of man and wife.

Home is what you make it. If you make it a place to eat, sleep, and satisfy the lust of the flesh, it will fade away, but if God’s word controls your hearts it will become a sanctuary.

Some Duties of Christian Wives

Wives are to reverence their husbands—honor and respect (Eph. 5:33). To obey their husbands in every thing (Eph. 5:24). Everything the husband receives from his head, Christ, for his wife. Therefore, the husband has no right to command his wife, in anything, not received from his head, as both are responsible to Christ. Therefore, Paul requires the
wife to obey as it is fit in the Lord (Col. 3:18). This kind of husband, one who has Christ as his head, obedience comes from the soul, with her full assurance of faith and confidence that her obedience is accepted by the Lord. Should her husband happen to be an unbeliever, her subjection should be rendered only when his commands do not demand her to disobey her Lord. Woman must love her husband less than her Lord, therefore duty is due the Lord first. Yet, her conversation should be chaste coupled with fear that she might win her husband to Christ (1 Peter 3:1-5). Adorning her life with a meek and quiet spirit. In this, the believer might save the unbeliever (1 Cor. 7:16). When heirs together in Christ, all duties resting upon Christians are resting upon man and wife, to eschew evil and do good; seek peace and ensue it. Every husband is to have his own wife, and every wife her own husband, each rendering due benevolence unto the other, neither defrauding the other (1 Cor. 7:2-5).

Fornication is a sin against one's own body that defiles not only his body but his marriage. Fornication always defiles the two. It wrecks and destroys home and the soul. The fiend that enters your home and murders your wife only kills her body but leaves her soul untarnished, but the fiend that enters your home and commits fornication kills or destroys her soul in hell, destroys your home, and stabs your heart so deep that it will never be healed in this life. The greatest sin possible for man to commit. Yet homes are destroyed, fiends go free in this life to meet their just dues in hell. I have sympathy for a man that falls on the spur of the moment under the wiles of woman who feels his shame, but has that love in his heart to arise with a remorse of conscience and repentance that brings a change in life, but the soul, that is so depraved, that sex desire is his purpose of life, is a fiend more dangerous to the soul, than a poison snake is to the body. When a fiend, clothed in the garb of a gospel preacher uses the pulpit to pose as a preacher of righteousness, leading silly women to satisfy his lust, he is a hypocrite of hypocrites, a wolf in sheep's clothing, more dangerous to virtue, and the souls of women, the home, and the church, than an old rusty rattlesnake is to the body of man.

Unlawful love destroys many homes. It is so easy to cultivate and grow that one is under its influence before he realizes its power. It not only destroys home, but the future lives of those under its influence.

A brother asked my advice on the following: His wife formed the habit of staying away from worship getting her house cleaned to suit her and have dinner ready when he and the children returned. He was the teacher of the men's class, and a sister the teacher of the women's class. They walked together to and from church, talking about their work. She grew to ask his help in her work. They gradually grew together until he sought her presence and she his. He said his wife has realized his affection for the teacher and wants to cease their association together, but that he finds himself unable to control his love for her.

First, the wife should have given God her worship above household duties, and her husband her presence to and from the church, and at church. She also owed this to her children. The husband should have realized the result of unlawful love; should have looked upon his sister
in Christ to shield and protect Christian relationship, not to destroy and debauch. To leave his wife and children for another woman would disgrace his home, his self, his wife and children—destroy his soul and the soul of a sister in Christ, and in the future would destroy her happiness and his. I told him that if he had no more self-control than to allow unlawful love to remain in his heart, for the sake of his wife and children, sell his farm and leave with his wife and children.

A divorce would not have annulled what God joined together, so their marriage would have been living in adultery. I mention this case because many girls are housed in offices day after day with married men. Constant association may ripen love before you have considered the danger. The danger is a miserable life here and hereafter, a marriage relation that no person can afford to consider for a moment. It destroys two homes and deprives children of a mother's love or a father's care. It means a life of hell here and hereafter. The price is too great to pay. Eternity is a long time to suffer for your sin.

Fathers, "Bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). The father's helpmate, the mother also, is to guide the house (1Tim. 5:14). Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).

Nurture: To rear, train and educate children in the Lord.

Admonish: To gently reprove and warn in the Lord.

Nurture expresses the thing to be done and admonish expresses the manner in which it is done. Herein lies the greatest and most serious responsibility that is possible to rest upon parents. I have heard preachers say, “Before I had children I frequently gave instruction since the responsibility has fallen on my shoulders, I feel incapable, therefore have quit preaching on duties of marriage.” The result is that the young marry ignorant of the responsibilities of marriage. I think that I realize my incapabilities but I also realize my responsibilities. Seeing the need, I send forth this message. The child has a mind or heart composed of intellect, sensibilities, and willpower. The will subdued by force creates a rebellious spirit and destroys the aspirations of youth. Thus, he moves like the ox under the whip.

Since every child has a will of his own, he is not a machine that naturally does what it is made for. As the child with his will desires, purposes and does things, therefore we must put anything up to the child in that way that will finally appeal to the extent that desire arises in his heart, then purpose of heart takes place and his will moves, not by force, but by the manner in which things were presented to the child.

Here is where study of God's word is necessary that we may be able to put the food into the child's heart that will reach the sensibilities, through his intellect that the child may see and know why he should do this or that or not do a thing. This brings the parent constantly to the Bible to learn what God would have them do, and the food that is good for them is good for the child. In learning how to obey God, they learn how
to rear, train up the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Then, the necessity arises that a certain amount of time should be given each day to the study of the only book capable of teaching man how to raise his children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This time should never be less than one hour per day. Eight hours for sleep, eight hours for school, seven hours for eating and recreation and only one hour left for Bible study. Schooling is necessary for the intellect, sleep, food, and recreation for the body, and one hour each left for the soul of the child.

Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath. It irritates, embitters, and so enrages children that it arouses a rebellious spirit to resent your instruction. Causes lost respect for its parent. I have heard parents say, "I can't reprove my children until I get wroth." Said parent is in no condition of mind to correct. Every word and act is repulsive to the child. Love and sympathy should go hand in hand with every correction. Parents should be positive, firm, pleasant in teaching obedience to children. Obedience learned makes it easy, pleasant and desirable to serve parents, country, and God. I heard some one state the lesson this way: Two boys stole some watermelons from a neighbor, the neighbor told the parents. One of the parents, after his son went to bed, went to the child's room with a switch and said, "Son, Mr. So-and-So tells me you stole melons out of his patch." "Yes, I did," said the son. "Don't you know that he would have given you a melon?" "Yes, father." "Have I not taught you that it is wrong to steal?" "Yes, sir." "Why did you do it?" "I do not know." "Well, papa hates to punish his boy. It hurts down deep in my heart. Papa loves his boy. Papa is willing to bear the punishment for your wrong. I have a switch. Take it and give papa a good whipping for your wrong." The little fellow wept, cried and said, "Papa, I can't; I won't ever steal any more." The father took his child in his arms, kissed him, and said, "Papa will trust his boy. Goodnight, my precious child."

Study your child, study the way best to rule him and he will learn his lesson. As last resort, use the rod, but let love and reason be shown but he that spareth the rod hateth his son (Prov. 13:24). Some think they love the child too well to use the rod, but that means that they are not willing to punish self in chastening the child. Chastening is not joyous but grievous to be borne, but brings forth peaceable fruit. The main thing is to keep your temper, show no madness, but affection, that it is a duty owed for the future welfare of the child.

Greed and love for things that satisfy the body have become so rooted in the hearts of fathers and mothers that they think they cannot spare the Lord any time to train their children for him, so they rob the Lord of the last and only hour in twenty-four to satisfy the greed for the body. Whom does time belong to? Who holds the breath of life in his hands? Whom do you owe for every breath you breathe?

How long would you exist without God? Yet, you rob God of all the time he has given you to train your child in his nurture and admonition, and leave the child's spiritual education to others to prepare your child for
heaven, or at least leave it to the church, and expect the church, at most about two hours per week, to train and prepare your child for heaven. Your influence is used to offset the influence of the church. Your influence is used to mould and make the children consider the things of the flesh first, more important than the things that pertain to the soul.

You fail to teach that the fruit of the womb is God's reward, and that children are his delight, and of such is the kingdom of heaven. Your child grows to love the world more and more and the church less, unless the influence of the church overcomes your influence. Most parents play at raising children. May God speed the time when Bible study will be restored in the home. Family worship is almost a thing of the past. How much do you want to go to the home of the soul? Enough to make the preparation for self and children? Then pray to God for forgiveness and quit robbing God of time you owe him, that he has given you to train your children for him.

As children soon arrive at the age of learning away from home as well as at the home, then parental teaching must be sufficient to overcome any wrong teaching. The lack of teaching causes children to do many things that they should not do. I knew of parents in Illinois who raised their boy and girl to strip naked before each other, to bathe together and sleep together. This familiarity destroyed modesty between each other. As soon as maturity was reached, the brother became the father of a child by his sister, and the hearts of a mother and father were broken.

Some years ago I read that over five hundred children in the slums of New York from five to twelve years of age had gonorrhea. With proper home training this condition would not have existed. As soon as children are old enough they should be taught the result and danger of co-habitation. I remember seeing about eight children, from five to nine years, listening to a boy of about twelve. The conversation was so entertaining that they failed to hear my approach. The oldest boy was instructing on sex relation. Their little hearts were drinking in his words. Christian duty is to prepare their children to meet any and all outside instruction. Do not think that because it is your child there is no danger. Teach children modesty to hide their nakedness. Remember Adam and Eve as soon as they received knowledge of nature, they realized they were naked—ashamed to appear in the presence of God and when God called, Adam said, "I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself." They covered their nakedness the best they could by sewing fig leaves together for a dress, but not sufficient to please God; therefore God wanted more clothing than aprons so clothed them with skins. If God had not wanted nakedness hid, he would not have clothed them. Ham gazed unlawfully upon the nakedness of his father and God marked his seed that they should be servants unto others.

God said to Israel, "Ye shall do my judgments and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God. None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness; I am the Lord" (Lev 13:1-30). This chapter teaches who can marry and that man has only the authority to uncover the nakedness of one woman,
his wife. Shewing nakedness is a sex appeal, therefore Christians, regardless of fashion, should hide their nakedness. God speaks. Man should obey: “Woman, thou shalt not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord thy God” (Deut. 22:5). Many women are dressing mannish without thought. God punished the princes of Israel for wearing strange apparel (Zeph. 1:3). Strange apparel is any that the Lord has not commanded.

Under the New Testament, God commands modest apparel. Any other is strange or immodest. As it was an abomination under the Old Testament, much more is it under the New Testament. Teach your children to cover their nakedness by example and command. The mother who is constantly pulling at her skirt to cover her nakedness is not setting a proper example unto her children. Read the prophetic utterances of God through his prophet in Isaiah, third and fourth chapters, and see how many of these things have been and are being fulfilled today, in different countries. Then remember God said, “If we refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” Israel failed and are a persecuted, cursed nation.

We are facing the greatest crisis, both nationally and spiritually, that ever existed among the nations of the earth. Government heads are granting greater authority and recognition to the Pope. She has the pre-eminence in spiritual affairs in the army, a finger in national affairs, her ministers are acknowledged at the courts of the earth—her faith is to control church and state—denominationalism is bowing to her power more day by day—she is becoming more aggressive in her teachings and demands. The church of Christ is the only institution on earth that can expose this monster and curb her false claims, therefore the family and church should be aroused to the necessity of teaching daily, children, and each member of the church, to be prepared to meet the foe. Godliness must shine in our lives as we go forth to battle in the name of our Lord. We must become more aggressive, we must make opportunities and take advantage of them. Christians must teach every phase of duty, that children may be strong mentally, morally, physically, and spiritually. The child that never learns how to obey will never become capable of teaching others how to obey. He will become a person unfit for home, church, or state, prepared to become a servant for the devil.

Children should be taught their relationship concerning their bodies that they may serve the purpose of creation and perpetuation in this life, and be prepared for the life to come. For the lack of proper teaching, I knew two boys who formed the habit of self-abuse until one was sent to an asylum, the other realizing his condition, and unable to control his passion, altered himself with his pocket knife, being ashamed to tell parents his weakness. Should the practice not reach the stages of insanity, the offspring of such will be weak in body and mind, and participants will be unable to satisfy their companion in marriage. A misery unto themselves and a disappointment unto the one they married. It has caused many divorces. These dangers should be taught the child as soon as he is old enough to understand.
Every married couple should have a medical book on sex abuse, relation, and diseases that may result, and have their children read as soon as able to understand. The future of the family, the church, and the nation depends upon teaching children to prepare them for the problems of life. What we are taught is what we are and will be. False teachers always find pupils. Prepare your child to avoid the snares of the devil. False teachers will almost deceive the elect. Not only should you watch and pray, but work, teach, and provide for the things that you are watching and praying for here and hereafter. God never fails to do his part. All failures are on our side of the proposition. Your child will be a success or failure according to the teaching he receives of parents and church over and above the teaching of the world.

Preachers spend their lives teaching people how to obey God in order to go to heaven, and many never teach their children the first lesson in obedience. They are long and loud on Christian duty, but silent as the tomb on child teaching. A preacher who fails to be the head of his house, turning all rule over to his wife, when out in company observes that his children mind him about as well as a young mule would the first time it is worked.

I knew a preacher whose wife would yarn to shield her children from his reproof. She humored her children until her demands could not be met, then they began carrying produce to market to satisfy their wants until finally they robbed all the featherbeds and sold the feathers, and one boy landed in the pen for stealing corn. Such children are shoddy, shirky, undependable in duty, in behalf of man or God—unfit and unprepared to teach their children how to obey. There is nothing in the life of a child—silver, gold, houses and lands or education—worth a copper unless the child learns how to obey. He wastes what parents leave him, and generally wrecks his life here and hereafter. Any parent knows this yet will not deny and punish self, nor take time to raise children in the, nurture and admonition of the Lord. Samuel told Saul that obedience is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Obedience would have preserved Saul's life and kingdom, but disobedience blighted his life. Obedience enters heaven, but disobedience is a home in hell.

The Church

From the fall of man, God began to notify man of Christ's coming, and the family or church over which he would be head. Christ came in the flesh that he should be an example for man to follow. He lived and died for the church, purchased it with his blood. As the church is the purpose and plan of God to save the world, then the church is the most wonderful, grandest, and greatest institution in any age of the world that has ever existed for the benefit of the human family. Yet, so few seem to realize its importance.

Homes for the poor, the insane are wonderful institutions for the nourishment of the body, but they cannot even preserve the body. It must die. The church preserves the soul, to enjoy life here and everlasting life in that home where sorrow will not exist. It knows no death.
Man, think as you never thought, in thinking of the church. Can you think of or even imagine God planning and purposing the church through the ages, then sending his beloved Son to live for it, to die for it, to purchase it with his precious blood, and then not require man to live for it. Christ is our example. He loved the church well enough to sacrifice everything for it. How well, how much do you love it? How much time, talent, and means are you sacrificing for it? Many are called but few are chosen. The faithful live for the church. The unfaithful will be lost. Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, (the time you have lost and future time) because th days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:14-17) In the parable of the sower, three classes of people are lost and one saved (Matt. 13:18-23). In the parable of talents, Jesus, before going back to the Father, called his own servants, (not the devil's), and delivered unto them his goods; to every man according to his several ability (individual ability). The talent or work of the church is resting upon each member according to his or her ability. The one that fails to do the work will be cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:14-30).

Mark illustrates it this way: The Son of man left his house (church in preparation) and gave authority to his servants, to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch. Watch ye, therefore, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh. Should he come suddenly he might find you sleeping (Mar. 13:34-37). Luke reveals when Jesus turned his work over to his servants that he told them to occupy till I come (Luke 19:11-27). The work of the church, whenever and where ever, regardless of how many services, each service is resting upon each other, to the extent of their ability to make each service a success. If I am not at each service, the one I miss, I fail to render my talent according to my ability. Now how long did my Lord say for me to occupy? Until he comes. What has my Lord left in my hands? His work. How? According to my ability. The service that I miss, I fail to do my part of the work in that service, fail to get any credit for work done, fail to make deposit in heaven's saving bank. Another duty could so fall on my shoulders, which required immediate attention. That duty performed would be a reason for my absence from said church service.

Remember, God never accepts an excuse. Be sure you have a reason. In every service we praise God in song and in prayer, in meditation on the things that prepare us for heaven. The Lord's work is so wonderful that every thing done is for our eternal welfare here and hereafter. It makes us better men and women and keeps us close to God. In every service God's eyes are watching over us and his ears are open unto our prayers, and our Master is one in our midst, to own and bless, to our mistakes unto the Father. Angels are also watching. As heaven looks down upon the church assembled, strange any member would allow the things of the world to cause his absence. Love not the world, neither the things of the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. Not a slacker, but a doer of the word receives the blessing (1 John 2:15-17). In doing the Lord's work, we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Rom. 12:1). There are entirely too many dead sacrifices.

Second. We are to lay aside every weight (anything that hinders the Lord's work being done) and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1). The besetting sin of man is unbelief. Man believes he can leave the Lord's work undone and some way or another he will get to heaven. The Lord says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25-27). For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries. Suppose I say that I believe these scriptures, but on Sunday morning I go visiting, or receive company and stay away from the assembly, or anything that you can think of. I allow them to keep me from church. I know the Lord will make no other sacrifice for sins. I know we are to shew forth his sacrifice until he comes again. Now, am I willing to believe that if I do, there awaits me a fiery indignation. If I truly believed all of these scriptures, I would go to worship and avoid God's indignation. It is so easy to believe what suits, or what does not interfere with our desires, where our will does not conflict with God's will, but when we must sacrifice our will to God, rendering our bodies a living sacrifice, in laying aside every thing that hinders our service, then in many ways disbelief enters our hearts.

If you have turned away, turn back and warn others, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We are to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation (Heb. 2:1-4). Paul is writing to Christians. These warnings are recorded that we might be on our guard and not fall from grace. When Christians fail to make the services of the church first and all other things second, they impress others that they do not love the church, that the church is a second affair that does not amount to anything, not worth living for, I can go if I want to, and nobody's business if I do not go. This is why children grow to manhood without realizing that the church is the greatest institution in this world.

Such Christians have no saving qualities, their light shines for the devil, and not the church, like the Irishman's turtle, "Dead and don't know it."

When we consider the unit (man and wife) was produced from the church, and the church contains all these units, then they are so inter-
woven that each depends upon the other for existence and growth that man cannot live for one without living for both. Any family failing in church duty fails in family duty or it is impossible to fail in family duties and not be a failure in church duties. Man cannot render acceptable church service without rendering acceptable family service. A failure in either is a failure with God.

Teaching is binding on both that both may prepare each to grow in grace and a knowledge of the truth; therefore, the head of the house that fails to teach his family is in the same boat with an elder who fails as a teacher in the church. All agree that an elder must be apt to teach because the Bible says so; yes, it also says, "Raise your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The husband that fails is a failure with God.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. While bread is food for our bodies, the word is food for our souls. As it is impossible for our bodies to live without bread, even so the spirit of man must feed upon God's word or perish. As the Lord's day relates to the fleshly family and church, the question arises, Are we respecting it as we should? The day which the Lord hath made is the day he became the head of the corner (Psalms 113:22). He became the head cornerstone on the first Pentecost after his resurrection which was Sunday, the first day of the week. Before his ascension he appeared three times to his apostles on the first day of the week, also sent the Holy Spirit, with his law, for the apostles to start the church, with the great work of saving souls. The early church kept this day as a day of worship. No direct positive evidence specifying exactly how much of the day is to be observed.

He made all days but this day he reserves for his work and worship more so than any other day. As it is his day, we have no right to use it to honor mothers, fathers, or self-glory, nor in worldly ways only in these things that are really essential. On the birthday of the church, the apostles commenced the Lord's work as soon as the day was fully come, continued teaching until 9:00 a.m., when Peter arose and delivered that wonderful sermon that resulted in three thousand souls being saved. After baptizing the three thousand, the record in verse forty-two says, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." They had to do these things first, before they could continue in them. Here we have an example of keeping the whole day in the Lord's work. Examples are for us to follow, therefore it is right and cannot be wrong to keep the whole day in serving the Lord. At Troas, when the disciples came together to break bread upon the first day of the week, Paul preached until midnight, raised the dead, satisfied hunger, and went back upstairs and talked until daybreak.

These examples show that service meant more to the early church than time or things of this life. When Christ was born, the Jewish synagogue worship was where ever Jews lived. Besides the Rabbi's teaching to grown-ups, they had daily Bible schools in every synagogue.
In the Betha Sofer, children from six to thirteen were taught the Scriptures. At thirteen, they entered the Betha Midrash, where the Midrash was taught. These schools were compulsory. Christ was brought up in one at Nazareth, and returned to begin his teaching and preaching. If the Jews made it compulsory, that their children should be taught the Scriptures daily, as Christianity is superior to Judaism, will God accept less of us? A Bible school should be in every home and in every congregation to nurture and for preparation for our salvation, and the salvation of unborn generations.

To Children

God says children are his delight, then children should do their best to please God. To please God, they must obey him. God commands children to obey their parents in all things (Col. 3:20). To disobey your parents, you disobey God. If you disobey God, you fail to love him. If you fail to love him, you cannot go to heaven. Those that fail to go to heaven spend eternity with the old bad man. You don't want the old devil to get you.

God says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for it is right." That which is right cannot be wrong. Children should not want to do wrong. God says, "Children that do right shall live long on the earth." Not only a long life here, but eternal life, when you go to be with God, Christ, angels, mamma and papa. All that obey God will go to God. Be good and go to heaven, be bad and go where all bad people go. Children should not want to be forever away from mamma and papa, then it is best to obey your parents.

Children that obey their parents are a crown, greater than gold, unto their parents in old age. Children must learn how to obey before they can teach others how to obey. Some day you will be grown and have children of your own, and you will need to know how to teach them.

Jesus was a little child once. He obeyed God, his Father, in every thing he was told to do. So his Father made him ruler over all of us. All must obey him, as he is the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him (Heb. 5:9). All who disobey him shall be punished with everlasting destruction from his presence. Everlasting is a longer time than I want to stay away from my Lord.

Once Jesus sat a little boy by his side, and said unto his disciples, who wanted to know who would be the greatest, "Whosoever receiveth this little child in my name receiveth me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great." Again Jesus said, "The greatest shall be your servant." A servant is one who obeys, therefore one who obeys Jesus will be great in the kingdom. Children in order to be great must obey Jesus, but you can't obey Jesus unless you obey your parents, for he commands you to obey them.

If you want every person to love and appreciate you, just be a sweet obedient child. Nobody wants a naughty, disobedient child with their
children, nor in their homes. So remember when you go visiting, as soon as they see you coming, they will say, "Here comes that naughty, disobedient child. He will be prying where he has no business. He does not know what obedience means. I want you children to keep him outdoors as much as possible. He gets on my nerves."

His mother constantly scolds but it is like pouring water on a duck's back—runs off without effect.

Then parents failing to teach the word to their children are raising them to perish, unless someone else comes to the rescue. The father, by his failure, prepares his children to serve the devil, for he accepts any service that disobeys God. The church being the pillar and ground of the truth, too many parents are leaving all teaching with the church. The church may spend three hours per week in teaching, and because of your failure to teach, your child cares nothing about the church nor its teaching, therefore refuses to be taught.

Again, three hours per week is insufficient teaching to develop a well taught child. The child's responsibility is upon your shoulders, too great to leave to others. Your teaching should be the ground work that prepares the child to appreciate and receive church teaching. In other words you are to raise your child for the church. Depending altogether upon the church is like a parent letting a child grow up without training, and after it is too late to send their child away to school for the teachers there to reform and overcome their idle, do-nothing, indolent neglect.

Man serves that which he loves. It becomes the idol of his heart. If his farm, he is its servant. His time and talent are too precious to spare to train children, all day and part of the night must be given the farm, and the poor guy thinks it is all for wife and children, when he is working his wife to death, and creating greed in the hearts of his children for everything but the church. He robs God of the time he owes in training children for the Lord. And when he comes to die he has starved his soul to death and sold it for a farm, that the poor fellow leaves because his title is no good in the next world, and then, whose farm shall this farm be?

What shall it profit man, if he gain the whole world and lose his soul, or what can he give in exchange for his soul?

**Religious Literature**

Parents should take time to read Christian literature to their children if they want them to love and read it. I knew a mother that read her religious paper, but not to her children. The result is that her children will not read religious literature given them. Christians who fail to read are unable to train children for the Lord. No Christian should be without a religious paper. He owes it to his family to help keep it in existence for the good it will do others, and to help the editor keep the paper in existence for unborn generations.
Reading molds and makes the child according to the literature read. The daily press molds the minds of the American people upon the civil issues of life. The influence of the press and radio in this great crisis cannot be estimated. Minds that were all out for peace, now are for war, hoping for a lasting peace. Realizing its power then Christian literature can and will have the same influence over the minds of your family if the same amount of time and money is given Christian literature. Children from five to twelve should be so thoroughly taught to read Christian literature that it becomes the ruling power to create love for home and church until they become so trained, that all powers of the world cannot cause them to walk in the ways of the world.

Most Catholic children are so trained that they won't give ear to other religions. Christian parents are responsible to God to so train their children. You surely will stand before the Lord at the judgment and give account unto him for the careless, neglectful failures, most parents render in training children for him. Parents, as soon as their children can read, should take time to have them read to them. Children should be taught to memorize at least two verses of the Bible a day. I used to memorize ten verses each day. Two verses memorized daily would be seven hundred thirty verses per year. In ten years, the child would memorize seven thousand three hundred verses. In this way you would soon have memorized the entire New Testament.

Most any child could memorize two verses of Scripture in ten minutes. No ten minutes could be better spent. God said to Israel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house and on thy gates (Deut. 6:5-9).

Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he has commanded thee (Deut. 6:17).

In these Scriptures, we see plainly what God required of Israel. Israel became careless, indifferent, and allowed the things of the world to cause their drifting away from this instruction. The result is that God has cast them off, given their name for a curse, hiss, and by word, also a persecuted people. Saddest of all, they were unprepared for the coming of Christ, a stumbling stone unto them. Today, most Christians are as careless and indifferent as Israel. God is no respecter of persons. Unbelief has always been counted unto man for disobedience. We stand by faith. If faith fails, we fall.

For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also not spare thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but towards thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off (Rom. 11:21, 22).
God required the Jews to teach their children four times each day the Bible. As Christianity is far above the Old Testament religion, what will God require of us? Parents must converse daily the Scriptures with their children; that is if we please God. Time wasted is forever lost. Time is the precious moments allotted to us to prepare to meet our God. Failure causes the loss of our souls.

I have been in homes and seen farm journals, a daily paper, tracts of every description except religious literature. Ask them to take a religious paper. They are unable or they cost more than they are worth. Such are not interested. They would not read it if given them. Yet, these people claim to be Christians. Self-deceived creatures, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked, and lukewarm Christians that Jesus will spew out of his mouth. Too bad such people failed to have a grandmother Lois or a mother Eunice that they would have known the holy scriptures from childhood, which would have made them wise unto salvation. Love lost; no desire for heavenly food; no effort to feed the souls of their children; no effort to make the services of the church a success.

They may eat of the Lord's supper and sing, but that is as far as they advance in Christian living. Jesus said, “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Spirit and life only unto those who feed, eat, digest the words of life, otherwise they are death unto death unto man who fails to obey.

We should spend the day teaching our children, or visiting our neighbors and teach them and their children. Remember that the early church went everywhere teaching the word that daily in the temple, and from house to house, they went forth teaching and preaching the gospel. If they did this daily, we surely should spend Sunday, the day set aside for work and worship by our Master. God has given you six days for self, work and pleasure, then you take the Lord’s day and spend it in idle laziness, pleasure, home labor. If you do this, you are robbing Christ of his day, the day set apart for the work and worship of God’s people. We wonder why the Lord’s cause is so weak and in many places ceases to exist. The answer is at our door. We are playing at the Lord's work, refusing to give our time, talent, and means, remaining indifferent to our responsibilities; while false religions compass sea and land to make proselytes, and then make them twofold more the children of hell. The faithful should be more faithful in trying to arouse the unfaithful, that more workers are enlisted as energetic servants in the Lord's vineyard. The Lord says, “Go work in my vineyard.” Don't put it off for tomorrow or some future time, but today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow might cause the loss of some soul that you could have saved.

Suppose, at the judgment day, Jesus should say to me, “See those people there? They are on their way to hell just because you failed to try to save them.” When the Lord of souls should so speak to me, what would be the condition of my heart, or yours, if it were you? I fear that most of us do not realize our responsibilities.

Remember that the Lord's day is his, not ours. We are his servants, not our own. We are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your bodies and your spirits which are God's.