

Maxims for Merry Marriage

February 7, 2019



MARRIED PARENTS

Raising up the next generation...

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. {Genesis 4:1-8}

The Youth: An Index for Society

After sin entered the world, we have observed two different groups of children. One group that is obedient and looking forward to the 2nd Advent of the Lord and another doing what they want and hating those that do good. The youth are the index for society. We can clearly see where society is headed by observing child behavior, understanding their ideas and perspectives and noting popular trends. The question parents should be asking is “who raises children in the first place?” Is it television, video games or social media that raises our children for us? Do we leave the responsibility of parenting up to the government, church or care providers? Ultimately, parents are responsible for the well-rounded development of their children. Society’s moral decline is directly related to the lack of well-ordered, healthy, happy homes founded upon the principles of eternal truths from Scripture. What are some helpful hints that we can glean which will help us raise children to carry the everlasting gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people? Keep reading to find out!

Fathers and mothers are responsible for the health, the constitution, the development of the character of their children. No one else should be left to see to this work. In becoming the parents of children, it devolves upon you to cooperate with the Lord in educating them in sound principles. How sad it is that many parents have cast off their God-given responsibility to their children, and are willing that strangers should bear it for them! They are willing that others should labor for their children and relieve them of all burden in the matter. Many who are now bemoaning the waywardness of their children have only themselves to blame. Let these look to their Bibles and see what God enjoins upon them as parents and guardians...

{Adventist Home 187.2-4} –Ellen White

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LESSONS

- ♥ Home Is the Heart of All Activity—Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are “the issues of life”; and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences. {AH 15.1}– Ellen White
- ♥ After sin entered the world, Adam and Eve raised Cain and Abel
- ♥ Abel was good and Cain was wicked
- ♥ The youth are the index for society
- ♥ Parents are responsible for the character development of their children
- ♥ Society’s moral decline is directly related to the lack of well-ordered healthy homes

Principle: Parents Provide the Right Atmosphere

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. {2 Corinthians 3:18}

Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. {Philippians 2:2}

By beholding we become changed. When we study the Bible and behold Christ we are changed. When we behold wickedness, we will change for the worse. Children are very observant and take cognizance of the home atmosphere. Whenever there is disagreement between father and mother, children will recognize it and partake of the same spirit. If parents want their children to be thoughtful, agreeable and kind, parents should make the home atmosphere fragrant with those good qualities. A prominent author, named Ellen White, wrote “the atmosphere surrounding the souls of fathers and mothers fills the whole house, and is felt in every department of the home.” {Adventist Home 16.1}

Principle: Parents Swiftly Correct Their Children

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. {Proverbs 13:24}

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. {Proverbs 22:15}

BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. {Psalm 119:9}

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: {2 Timothy 3:16}

Parents should discipline their children according to Scripture principles. Moreover, the Bible should be used to teach children right from wrong. Ellen White wrote “...When parents fail to require prompt and perfect obedience in their children, they fail to lay the right foundation of character in their little ones...” {Adventist Home 361.2}. Discipline should be given kindly, lovingly, but firmly. {Child Guidance 83.1}. The same manner of discipline is not appropriate for every child {Child Guidance 207.2}. For further study, read Child Guidance and Adventist Home by Ellen White

The elevation or deterioration of the future of society will be determined by the manners and morals of the youth growing up around us. As the youth are educated, and as their characters are molded in their childhood to virtuous habits, self-control, and temperance, so will their influence be upon society. If they are left unenlightened and uncontrolled, and as the result become self-willed, intemperate in appetite and passion, so will be their future influence in molding society. The company which the young now keep, the habits they now form, and the principles they now adopt are the index to the state of society for years to come.

{Adventist Home 15.2} –Ellen White

- ♥ The right atmosphere is a power for good
- ♥ By beholding Christ we are changed
- ♥ Children are observant
- ♥ Parents should make the home atmosphere fragrant with good qualities
- ♥ We want a pleasant atmosphere to pervade the whole home
- ♥ Parents should swiftly correct their children
- ♥ Parents should discipline their children according to the principles laid down in Scripture
- ♥ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God
- ♥ The same manner of discipline is not right for every child
- ♥ Adventist Home and Child Guidance are great books to study



Principle: Be the Example

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. {Matthew 5:16}

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. {1 Timothy 4:12}

More often than not, the child's character and behavior is directly related to the example their parents' set in the home. God has called all parents to be a perfect example of a Christian both within and outside the home. Ellen White wrote that "every Christian home should have rules; and parents should, in their words and deportment toward each other, give to the children a precious, living example of what they desire them to be..." {Adventist Home 16.3}. The lesson here is be what you want your kids to be lest the leaven of hypocrisy permeates your whole family. {Isaiah 32:6, Luke 12:1}

Principle: Administer the Rules of the Home in Wisdom & Love

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. {Proverbs 10:12}

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: {1 Peter 3:8}

Troubles may be rife in a home, but never should patience, gratitude and love cease from being exercised. Home is a place where cheerful words are spoken and kindly deeds done. No matter how unruly children may be, parents should administer the rules of the home in wisdom and love, not with a rod of iron. We are further counselled in the book Adventist Home page eighteen paragraph three "commend your children whenever you can." Moreover, parents should make their children's lives as happy as possible. May the love of God be cherished in every home and everyone inquire of what the Lord has spoken.

The Bible is a Blessing

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. {Deuteronomy 11:18-21}

The home that is beautified by love, sympathy, and tenderness is a place that angels love to visit, and where God is glorified. The influence of a carefully guarded Christian home in the years of childhood and youth is the surest safeguard against the corruptions of the world. In the atmosphere of such a home the children will learn to love both their earthly parents and their heavenly Father. From their infancy the youth need to have a firm barrier built up between them and the world, that its corrupting influence may not affect them. Every Christian family should illustrate to the world the power and excellence of Christian influence.... Parents should realize their accountability to keep their homes free from every taint of moral evil. Holiness to God is to pervade the home.... Parents and children are to educate themselves to co-operate with God. They are to bring their habits and practices into harmony with God's plans.

{Adventist Home 19.2-.5} –Ellen White

- ♥ Parents should be the perfect example of what a Christian is
- ♥ Children should be the perfect example of what a Christian is
- ♥ Parents set the standards in the home
- ♥ Christian homes should have rules
- ♥ Parents should be living examples of what they want their children to be
- ♥ Parents should not be hypocrites
- ♥ Home rules should be administered in wisdom and love
- ♥ We should be compassionate, pitiful and courteous
- ♥ Patience, gratitude and love should never cease from being exercised
- ♥ Cheerful words should be spoken in the home
- ♥ Kind deeds are important
- ♥ Parents should commend their children whenever they can
- ♥ Parents should make their children's lives as happy as possible
- ♥ Everyone should inquire of what the Lord has spoken in the Bible
- ♥ The Bible should be opened up in the home and studied by the family together
- ♥ We should speak the words of Scripture often