

## **SHOULD SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BE SIGNING SEPARATION OR DIVORCE PAPERS**



Nothing concerning Christians [Christian Family] should be brought before people who are not of the same faith. [i.e. courts/unbelievers]. This in principle should apply to spouses who are having problem with their marriages. It is clear from Bible and the Writings that the course of Matthew 18 should be followed or the one who is spiritual strong accept to be defrauded in such cases. I am not even convinced that a spouse should sign divorce or separation papers where there has been no adultery or gross misconduct respectively. If the one who has turned against plain counsels of the Bible and wants to leave, let them leave but you should not be partisan to their apostasy by agreeing to sign any papers.

**ANOTHER GRAVE EVIL THAT HAD ARISEN IN THE CHURCH WAS THAT OF BRETHREN GOING TO LAW AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.** Abundant provision had been made for the settlement of difficulties among believers. Christ Himself had given plain instruction as to how such matters were to be adjusted. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee," the Saviour had counseled, "**GO AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT BETWEEN THEE AND HIM ALONE: IF HE SHALL HEAR THEE, THOU HAST GAINED THY BROTHER. BUT IF HE WILL NOT HEAR THEE, THEN TAKE WITH THEE ONE OR TWO MORE, THAT IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED. AND IF HE SHALL NEGLECT TO HEAR THEM, TELL IT UNTO THE CHURCH: BUT IF HE NEGLECT TO HEAR THE CHURCH, LET HIM BE UNTO THEE AS A HEATHEN MAN AND A PUBLICAN.** Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 18:15-18. {AA 304.1}

To the Corinthian believers who had lost sight of this plain counsel, Paul wrote in no uncertain terms of admonition and rebuke. "Dare any of you," he asked, "having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, **ARE YE UNWORTHY TO JUDGE THE SMALLEST MATTERS?** Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. **IS IT SO, THAT THERE IS NOT A WISE MAN AMONG YOU? NO, NOT ONE THAT**

**SHALL BE ABLE TO JUDGE BETWEEN HIS BRETHREN? BUT BROTHER GOETH TO LAW WITH BROTHER, AND THAT BEFORE THE UNBELIEVERS.**

Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. **WHY DO YE NOT RATHER TAKE WRONG?** . . . Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" {AA 304.2}

Satan is constantly seeking to introduce distrust, alienation, and malice among God's people. We shall often be tempted to feel that our rights are invaded, even when there is no real cause for such feelings. Those whose love for self is stronger than their love for Christ and His cause will place their own interests first and will resort to almost any expedient to guard and maintain them. Even many who appear to be conscientious Christians are hindered by pride and self-esteem from going privately to those whom they think in error, that they may talk with them in the spirit of Christ and pray together for one another. **WHEN THEY THINK THEMSELVES INJURED BY THEIR BRETHREN, SOME WILL EVEN GO TO LAW INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE SAVIOUR'S RULE.** {AA 305.1}

**CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT APPEAL TO CIVIL TRIBUNALS TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES THAT MAY ARISE AMONG CHURCH MEMBERS. SUCH DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE SETTLED AMONG THEMSELVES, OR BY THE CHURCH, IN HARMONY WITH CHRIST'S INSTRUCTION.** Even though injustice may have been done, the follower of the meek and lowly Jesus will suffer himself "to be defrauded" rather than open before the world the sins of his brethren in the church. {AA 305.2}

**Lawsuits between brethren are a reproach to the cause of truth. Christians who go to law with one another expose the church to the ridicule of her enemies and cause the powers of darkness to triumph. They are wounding Christ afresh and putting Him to open shame. By ignoring the authority of the church, they show contempt for God, who gave to the church its authority.** {AA 306.1}

**Grounds for Separation**

A Demon-controlled Wife. Dear Brother D: I hoped the change which seemed to take place in your wife at the meeting in Chicago would be lasting, and was so grateful to our heavenly Father when I heard her confession, for I thought that a most severe task was lifted from my shoulders; but the burden is still upon me. **I know that she is not changed for the better.** The dangers and difficulties which she will create if her whims are gratified, are almost incredible to those who do not understand the spirit which actuates her. . . . {TSB 76.1}

**However earnestly her husband may endeavor to pursue a straightforward course to serve God, she will be his evil angel, seeking to lead him away from righteousness.** In her own estimation she is the idol he must worship; in fact, she is Satan's agent, seeking to occupy the place where God should be. She has followed the impulses of her own unconsecrated heart until Satan has almost complete control of her. . . . {TSB 76.2}

**Unless there is a change, a time will come soon when this lower nature in the wife, controlled by a will as strong as steel, will bring down the strong will of the husband to her own low level.** In this case it is not the woman whom Brother D is dealing with, but a desperate, satanic spirit. **The Lord has a work for Brother D to do; but if he is overcome by these outbursts on the part of his wife, he is a lost man, and she is not saved by the sacrifice.** {TSB 76.3}

His best course with this child-wife, so overbearing, so unyielding, and so uncontrollable, **is to take her home, and leave her with the mother who has made her what she is. Though it must be painful, this is the only thing for him to do, if he would not be ruined spiritually, sacrificed to the demon of hysterics and satanic imaginings. Satan takes entire control of her temper and will, and uses them like desolating hail to beat down every obstruction. Her husband can do her no good, but is doing himself incalculable harm, and robbing God of the talents and influence He has given.** {TSB 77.1}

**God has placed the husband at the head of the family, and until Sister D shall learn her place and duties as a wife, it will be best for him not to be connected with her in any way. The wife is to respect and obey, but if she utterly refuses to keep the marriage vow, she will be more and more the sport of Satan's temptations; and if her husband consents to keep her by his side, to wear out his life, he will become discouraged and unfitted for the Lord's service. He is under no obligations to keep one by his side who will only torture his soul. I was shown that he has already been losing his manhood, and has been influenced and molded by his wife. Their marriage was a snare of Satan.** {TSB 77.2}

Priority of God's Claims. **Sister D is determined to rule or ruin.** I was shown that she has so thoroughly yielded herself into Satan's hands that her husband fears for her reason, but he will make one of the gravest mistakes of his life if he permits himself to be controlled by Satan **through the device of his wife.** I tell you plainly, she is controlled by demons, and if these evil spirits have their way, your liberty, Brother D, your manhood, is gone; you are a slave to her caprices. . . . She is just as much possessed by a demon as was the man who tore and cut himself when Jesus cast out the devils. . . . Brother D must let Satan rage, and not allow himself to be cut off from religious privileges because his wife desires it. {TSB 77.3}

**If she runs away, let her go. Even if she threatens to take her own life, do not yield to her wicked demands. Even if she should carry out her threat, it would be better to look upon her silent in death than to allow her to murder not only her own soul but that of her husband, and be the means of destroying many others.** {TSB 78.1}

Permanent Nature of Marriage Vows. Brother D, you have been terrified by the violence of your wife, but the course for you to pursue is the straightforward path of truth, righteousness, and wisdom, having the fear of God always before you. Satan is already exulting over his success. {TSB 78.2}

Sister D, I would not present this matter as I do were there not another life so closely bound up with yours, and the life of one whom God has chosen to be His servant. This marriage ought not to have been, but the step has been taken, and for your husband the work of overcoming is now tenfold more severe than if he had never seen you. Will you think seriously over this question, whether his usefulness shall be destroyed and his life become a failure because of your course? . . . Your husband should not merge his identity in you. The marriage vow that binds the husband to the wife must remain unbroken, but he has vows to his Lord, to love Him with the whole heart, the undivided affection.-- Letter 34, 1890. {TSB 78.3}

### **Grounds for Divorce**

Adultery the Only Reason for Divorce. ***A woman may be legally divorced from her husband by the laws of the land and yet not divorced in the sight of God and according to the higher law.*** There is only one sin, which is adultery, which can place the husband or wife in a position where they can be free from the marriage vow in the sight of God. ***Although the laws of the land may grant a divorce, yet they are husband and wife still in the Bible light, according to the laws of God.*** {TSB 78.4}

I saw that Sister Jones, as yet, has no right to marry another man; but if she, or any other woman, should obtain a divorce legally on the ground that her husband was guilty of adultery, then she is free to be married to whom she chooses.--AH 344. {TSB 79.1}

***Among the Jews a man was permitted to put away his wife for the most trivial offenses, and the woman was then at liberty to marry again. This practice led to great wretchedness and sin. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus declared plainly that there could be no dissolution of the marriage tie except for unfaithfulness to the marriage vow. "Everyone," He said, "that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery"*** (Matthew 5:32, R.V.). {TSB 79.2}

When the Pharisees afterward questioned Him concerning the lawfulness of divorce, Jesus pointed His hearers back to the marriage institution as ordained at creation. "Because of the hardness of your hearts," He said, Moses "suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so" (Matthew 19:8). He referred them to the blessed days of Eden, when God pronounced all things "very good." Then marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity. Then, as the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall "leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one" (Genesis 2:24), He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time. That which the Eternal Father Himself had pronounced good was the law of highest blessing and development for man.--MB 63. {TSB 79.3}

***Change Disposition, Not the Marriage Status.*** I have received a letter from your husband. I would say that there is only one thing for which a husband may

lawfully separate from his wife or a wife from her husband, **and that is adultery.** {TSB 80.1}

***If your dispositions are not congenial, would it not be for the glory of God for you to change these dispositions?*** {TSB 80.2}

A husband and wife should cultivate respect and affection for each other. They should guard the spirit, the words, and the actions so that nothing will be said or done to irritate or annoy. Each is to have a care for the other, doing all in their power to strengthen their mutual affection. {TSB 80.3}

I tell you both to seek the Lord. In love and kindness do your duty one to the other. The husband should cultivate industrious habits, doing his best to support his family. This will lead his wife to have respect for him.--AH 345. {TSB 80.4}

**Like Israel of old, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is torn between the philosophy of the people around us and the commandments of God. As a result, there is inconsistency between churches and between different pastors. It doesn't take much study, however, to convince us that this inconsistency is not the result of inconsistency or ambiguity in the Scriptures. Rather, it's the result of the desire to be like the nations around us. It's the result of being influenced by the philosophy of the world.**

It is true in Old Testament times divorce and remarriage on grounds other than adultery was permitted. We read this in Deut. 24:1, 2.

***“When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give [it] in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's [wife].”***

This was pleasing to the carnal nature of man, and the Pharisees of Jesus' day were opposed to any light that might jeopardize its status. Jesus did not enhance his popularity with the Pharisees when He told them that it was never God's plan that the oneness of the marriage relationship should be broken by divorce. He pointed out that Moses permitted it because of the low moral concepts of the Israelites at that time after 400 years of slavery and pagan influence. Notice His words in Matt. 19:8, 9.

***“He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”***

It is difficult to imagine how any Christian would want to reject the teachings of Jesus to live by Deut. 24. It would surely be the result of a hard and stubborn heart. Like every other one of God's good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but it is the purpose of the gospel

to restore its purity and beauty. We don't even have to leave the Old Testament to learn how God really feels about divorce. Notice Mal. 2:13-17 RSV:

***“And this again you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor at your hand. You ask, ‘Why does he not?’ Because the Lord was witness to the covenant between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Has not the one God made and sustained for us the spirit of life? And what does he desire? Godly offspring. So take heed to yourselves, and let none be faithless to the wife of his youth. For I hate divorce, says the Lord the God of Israel, and covering one’s garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless.”***

We know that John the Baptist lost his life because of preaching that divorce and remarriage was sin. John was a fearless man. He was the herald of Christ. He called for repentance, a forsaking of sin in no uncertain terms. Position or wealth of the sinner did not cause John to change or soften his rebuke of sin.

Nothing but the violation of the marriage bed can break or annul the marriage vow. Divorce laws of our society are so liberal today that a man can divorce his wife for wearing a clothe he don't like, and a woman can divorce her husband because he doesn't recognize her birthday.

Incompatibility in marriage is nothing new. It was a problem in Christ's time too. The disciples asked Jesus about it, and He gave them an answer. We find this in Matt. 19:10-12.

***“His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, all men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother’s womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.”***

Just what do these words of Jesus mean? A literal interpretation would make them contradict the whole tenor of Scripture. The idea of bodily mutilation is abhorrent. Jesus seems to be simply saying, if you cannot get along with your mate, you may separate, but you must live alone the rest of your life. Note also that Jesus said that all men could not receive his words. “He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” Just who are those able to receive it? Are they not those who claim to be His followers? Therefore, these words were spoken to His church, to be received by His church.

Paul's counsel is the same as Christ's on the problem of incompatibility, 1 Cor. 7:10, 11:

**“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.”**

He has the same counsel where the incompatibility is produced when one is an unbeliever. Notice 1 Cor. 7:12, 13.

**“But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.”**

Paul goes on to say in verse 15 that, if the unbelieving mate wants a divorce, the Christian is not to resist it yet there is no hint that he should sign divorce papers against the plain thus saith the Lord through the scriptures. In such a case the counsel of verse 11 would still apply. The Christian would have to remain unmarried and if it happens that the one who has left marries then they are the one who are committing adultery.

There has been a haste in marrying which has filled heaven with woes:

***Few have correct views of the marriage relation. Many seem to think that it is the attainment of perfect bliss; but if they could know one quarter of the heart-aches of men and women that are bound by the marriage vow in chains that they cannot and dare not break, they would not be surprised that I trace these lines. Marriage, in a majority of cases, is a most galling yoke. There are thousands that are mated but not matched. The books of heaven are burdened with the woes, the wickedness, and the abuse, that lie hidden under the marriage mantle. This is why I would warn the young who are of a marriageable age, to make haste slowly in the choice of a companion. The path of married life may appear beautiful and full of happiness; but why may not you be disappointed as thousands of others have been? {RH, February 2, 1886 par. 1}***

Similar counsel concerning unwise marriages has been given to the church by the servant of the Lord:

***“There are many unhappy marriages because of so much haste. Two unite their interest at the marriage altar, by most solemn vows before God, without previously weighing the matter, and devoting time to sober reflection and earnest prayer. Many move from impulse. They have no thorough acquaintance with the dispositions of each other.... If they move wrong in this matter, and their marriage life proves unhappy, it cannot be taken back. If they find they are not calculated to make each other happy, they must endure it the best they can.”*** *Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, Page 120.*

*“Is it the will of the Lord that this sister should be in this state and God be robbed of her service? No. **Her marriage was a deception of the devil. Yet now she should make the best of it, treat her husband with tenderness, and make him as happy as she can without violating her conscience; for if he remains in his rebellion, this world is all the heaven he will have.**”* Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, Page 100.

Some may say that there are many ways that a husband or a wife may treat each other that may be even worse than adultery. Should not these give a person the right to divorce and remarry? We can only reply that our all-wise God gave only one reason for divorce and remarriage. We may wonder why He did not give others. We may think He should have. But as good as our judgment may be, we must admit that it is human judgment. Man has not been given the privilege of making moral law or exceptions to God’s laws. God’s word does permit separation or divorce in severe cases of incompatibility.

Since Jesus plainly states that anyone who divorces and remarries for any other reason than fornication is guilty of living in adultery, the church has no alternative but to act in harmony with the decree of heaven. In 1 Cor. 6:9, 10 the Apostle Paul points out adultery as one of the sins that will keep a person out of heaven and in 1 Cor. 5:5-13 he ordered a man put out of the church because of such a sin:

The Seventh-day Adventist church has been given the following counsel:

*“This statement (Matt. 18:18) holds its force in all ages. On the church has been conferred the power to act in Christ’s stead. It is God’s instrumentality for the preservation of order and discipline among His people. To it the Lord has delegated the power to settle all questions respecting its prosperity, purity, and order. Upon it rests the responsibility of excluding from its fellowship those who are unworthy, who by their unchristlike conduct would bring dishonor on the truth. Whatever the church does that is in accordance with the directions given in God’s word, will be ratified in heaven.”* Gospel Workers, Pages 501, 502.

There is also a big difference between the divorce and remarriage of a Christian who knows the truth of God’s word and a non-Christian or even a Christian who is a member of a church that does not teach the importance of keeping God’s commandments.

**“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not to him it is sin.” James 4:17.**

**“Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: But now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.” John 9:41.**

Many of the woes that plague the married ones are lack of each party understanding their roles in the family hence crossing each other’s sphere resulting into discontent.

## **Duty of Husband**

- *Genesis 2:24. Leave father and mother for wife.*
- *Deuteronomy 13:6-8. Husband should never allow his wife to turn him from God.*
- *Deuteronomy 24:5. First year of married life, husband should remain at home and "cheer" up his wife.*
- *Proverbs 5:18. Rejoice with his wife.*
- *Ecclesiastes 9:9. Live joyfully with her. The Ministry of Healing, 374, 375.*
- *Ephesians 5:25-33. "Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it." The Ministry of Healing, 360.*
- *Colossians 3:19. Be not bitter against family.*
- *Proverbs 31:28. Commend and praise where due.*
- *1 Peter 3:7. Honor the wife. Testimonies for the Church 5:180, 181; The Ministry of Healing, 373, 374.*
- *Malachi 2:14, 15. God is witness if any deal treacherously with their wives.*
- *1 Corinthians 7:12-16. Convert wife by godly life.*

*The man who lives up to God's requirements will have a happy home. He can kneel with his wife and together their prayers will ascend unhindered to the throne. [The above taken from Bible Hand Book by Haskell, Steven Nelson page 61-62]*

## **Duty of Wife**

- *Genesis 3:6, 17-24. The wife should never, like Eve, ask her husband to disobey God. The Ministry of Healing, 361.*
- *Proverbs 12:4. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.*
- *Ephesians 5:23. Husband the head of the wife.*
- *Ephesians 5:33. Wife reverence the husband.*
- *Titus 2:4, 5. Love and obey the husband.*
- *Colossians 3:18. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as it is fit in the Lord." If a husband commands a wife to disobey God, then obedience could not be fit in the Lord.*
- *Proverbs 19:13; 21:9, margin. A contentious wife makes and unhappy home.*
- *Proverbs 21:19, margin. Better dwell in the desert than with such a woman.*
- *Proverbs 31:10-12, 26. A husband can safely trust a virtuous woman who speaks kindly.*
- *1 Corinthians 7:13, 16. Godly life may win unbelieving husband.*
- *Those we love may speak or act unguardedly, which may wound us deeply. It was not their intention to do this, but Satan magnifies their words and acts before the mind in a manner by which he hurls a dart from his quiver to pierce us. We brace ourselves to resist the one whom we think has injured us, and thus we encourage Satan's temptations. Instead of praying to God for strength to resist Satan, we suffer our happiness to be marred by trying to stand for what we term "our rights." In thus doing, we allow Satan a double advantage. We act out our aggrieved feelings, and by taking this course Satan uses us as his agents to wound and distress those who did not intend to injure us. The requirements of the husband may sometimes seem unreasonable to the wife, when if she should take the second view of the matter, in as favorable a light for him as possible, if she would calmly, candidly consider, she would see that to yield her own way, and submit to the judgment of her husband, even if it conflicted with her feelings, would save them*

*both from unhappiness, and would give them great victory over the temptations of Satan. {RH, April 22, 1862 par. 11}*

*If every young woman was taught these principles by her parents, she would be careful to select for a husband a man she could reverence and obey. The Ministry of Healing, 357, 358. God takes the marriage relation to represent the connection between Himself and His people. Ephesians 5:31-33; Jeremiah 3:14; Hosea 2:19, 20; Jeremiah 31:32. [Taken from Bible Hand Book by Haskell, Steven Nelson page 62- 63]*

### **The awful work of a married woman [mother]**

**The mother is God's agent to Christianize her family.** She is to exemplify Biblical religion, showing how its influence is to control us in its everyday duties and pleasures, teaching her children that **by grace alone can they be saved, through faith, which is the gift of God.** This constant teaching as to what Christ is to us and to them, His love, His goodness, His mercy, revealed in the great plan of redemption, will make a hallowed, sacred impress on the heart. AH 235.2

As you faithfully do your duty in the home, **the father as a priest of the household, the mother as a home missionary,** you are multiplying agencies for **doing good outside of the home.** As you improve your own powers, you are becoming better **fitted to labor in the church and in the neighborhood.** By binding your children to yourselves and to God, fathers and mothers and children become laborers together with God. 3TT 106.3

**No Work Is Greater or Holier**—If married men go into the work, leaving their wives to care for the children at home, **the wife and mother is doing fully as great and important a work as the husband and father.** Although one is in the missionary field, **the other is a home missionary, whose cares and anxieties and burdens frequently far exceed those of the husband and father.** Her work is a solemn and important one.... The husband in the open missionary field may receive the honors of men, while the home toiler may receive no earthly credit for her labor. **But if she works for the best interest of her family, seeking to fashion their characters after the divine Model, the recording angel writes her name as one of the greatest missionaries in the world. God does not see things as man's finite vision views them.** AH 235.1

Home Missionary Work by Mother—**God does not call mothers away from home missionary work which will leave their children under the control of influences that are demoralizing and ruinous to the soul.** Are not her children in need of missionary labor? Are not her children worth earnest and prayerful effort? **Shall she neglect home missionary work for a larger field? Let her try her skill in her own home—take up her appointed, God-given work. If she has utterly failed, it is because she has not had faith or may not have presented the truth and lived the truth as it is in Jesus. Let her, after years of apparent failure, try again other methods, seeking counsel of God.** Present His promises on your knees before Him. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" James 1:5, 6. TSB 46.2

**We must come back to our point, which is not to urge you all to give yourselves to mission work, but to serve God more in connection with your daily calling.** I have heard that a woman who has a mission **makes a poor wife or a bad mother; this is very possible, and at the same time very lamentable;** but the mission I urge, is **not at all of this sort.** **Dirty rooms, slatternly gowns, children with unwashed faces are swift witnesses against the sincerity of those who keep other vineyards and neglect their own.** I have no faith in **that woman who talks of grace and glory abroad, and uses no soap and water at home.** **Let the buttons be on the shirts, let the children's socks be mended, let the house be as neat as a new pin, and the home be as happy as home can be.** **Serve God by doing common actions in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill them up with holy service.** Spurgeon ."

I am delighted to find the following in that invaluable work entitled "the young lady's counselor," By Rev. Daniel Wise, A. M.; It can be obtained at any Methodist Book Rooms: HR July 1, 1873, par. 9 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 10

**"Permit me, by way of illustrating another feature of this question, to lead you into the sitting-room of a respectable and pious lady. She is neatly but plainly attired, and is busy,** with the aid of a servant, dusting and cleaning the room. The door-bell rings, and the girl hastens to see who is the visitor. She finds the lady's pastor at the door, and, **without ceremony,** ushers him into the sitting-room. **The lady's face is suffused with blushes, as she confusedly lays aside her dusting-brush and offers her hand to the minister,** saying, 'sir, I am ashamed you should find me thus.'

**"Let Christ, when he cometh, find me so doing,' replies her pastor.**

'What! Sir; **do you wish to be found in this employment?**' earnestly inquired the astonished lady.

**"Yes, madam, I wish to be found faithfully performing the duties of my mission, as I have found you fulfilling yours.'**

**"And was not the minister right? He recognized a great, but a despised, truth. He saw as high a moral importance in the humble task of the lady as in the missions of Gabriel to the ancient prophets; for both did the will of God in their respective spheres, and diversity of sphere does not necessarily involve real inferiority in the employment.**

**The lady in her home could exhibit an affection as true, and an obedience as sincere, as the angel in his sphere. It would be difficult to show wherein her employment was morally and necessarily inferior** to his, inasmuch as the character of an act derives all its moral greatness, not from the sphere of the actor, but from its **conformity to the will of God.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 10 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 15

"Do you perceive the bearing of my illustration upon the question of woman's sphere? **It shows you that your sex is not necessarily inferior to the other, because it is called, by God and nature, to act in a different sphere. Your exclusion from the stage of public life does not imply your inferiority**—only the diversity of your powers, functions and duties. Indeed, it would defy the loftiest powers to show wherein the work, the mission of the sphere of woman, is a whit beneath that of her more bustling and prominent companion, man.

**"What is the sphere of woman? Home, the social circle. What is her mission? To mold character, to fashion herself and others after the model character of Christ.** What are her chief instruments for the accomplishment of her great work? The affections. Love is the wand by which she is to work moral transformations within her fairy circle. Gentleness, sweetness, loveliness and purity are the elements of her power. **Her place is not on life's great battle fields. Man belongs there.** It is for him to go forth armed for its conflicts and struggles, to do fierce battle with the hosts of evil that throng our earth and trample upon its blessings. **But woman must abide in the peaceful sanctuaries of home, and walk in the noiseless vales of private life. There she must dwell, beside the secret springs of public virtue. There she must smile upon the father, the brother, the husband, when, returning like warriors from the fight, exhausted and covered with the dust of strife, they need to be refreshed by sweet waters drawn 'from affection's spring,' and cheered to renewed struggles by the music of her voice.** **THERE SHE MUST REAR THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT AND STATESMAN, THE SELF-DENYING PHILANTHROPIST AND THE OBEDIENT CITIZEN. THERE, IN A WORD, SHE MUST FORM THE CHARACTER OF THE WORLD, AND DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF HER RACE.** **How awful is her mission! What dread responsibility attaches to her work!** Surely, she is not degraded by filling such a sphere. **Nor would she be elevated, if, forsaking it, she should go forth into the highways of society and jostle with her brothers for the offices and honors of public life. Fame she might occasionally gain, but it would be at the price of her womanly influence.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 15 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 17

"Fancy yourself far out at sea, in **a noble ship, contending with a furious storm.** Beneath is one wild whirl of foaming surges; above, the array of lightnings, like the swords of cherubim, wide brandished, to repel aggression from heaven's gates.' Behold, amidst this scene of grandeur, **the stormy petrel gliding up the face of a huge wave, darting above the foam of a breaker, or sweeping along the watery valleys as composedly and as naturally as it ever swept over the same sea in an hour of calm.** Behold, too, **another bird,** whirling and darting above the spray with a **cry of seeming despair;** now flying before a monster sea, and anon **struggling to keep its wet and weary wings from folding into helpless inaction.**

**"Tell me, lady, why this little trembler is in so pitiful a plight, while the stormy petrel gambols freely among the waves. You cannot answer. Then listen. The petrel is in its appropriate sphere. The little trembler is a land-bird, tempted, at first, by sunny weather,** to wander among the islands, and driven, at last, by a strong wind to sea. **He is out of his sphere; and hence his quiet has fled, his song is silenced and his life endangered. God made him for**

**the land. The grove is his home, and his sphere is among the flowers.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 17 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 20

**"It is thus with the entire creation. Everything has its appointed sphere, within which alone it can flourish. Men and women have theirs. They are not exceptions to this truth, but examples of it. To be happy and prosperous, they must abide in them. Man is fitted for the storms of public life, and, like the petrel, can be happy amid their rudest surges. Woman is formed for the calm of home. She may venture, like the land bird, to invade the sphere of man, but she will encounter storms which she is utterly unfitted to meet; happiness will forsake her breast, her own sex will despise her, men will be unable to love her, and when she dies she will fill an unhonored grave.** HR July 1, 1873, par. 20 - HR July 1, 1873, par. 21

I hope everyone catches these magnanimous phrases from EGW

1. Mother is God's **agent to Christianize** family
2. Mother is a **home missionary**
3. No work is **greater or holier than the mother's work**
4. Her work is of the **most solemn important**
5. She is the **greatest missionary in the world**
6. God **does not call mothers away from home**
7. Home missionary is her **God-given work**
8. She should serve God by **doing common duties at home with a heavenly spirit**
9. **The sitting room is an index of a pious Christian lady**
10. She is a **candidate of heaven if Christ finds her in the common labor of home missionary**
11. There is a **high moral importance in the humble task of a mother at home just as the work of Angel Gabriel in the field** (amazing and fascinating)
12. She is **excluded from combat field yet her work not inferior but greater than that of her husband in the field**
13. Her work is to **smile to her husband, brother and father to her children when he comes back** (this will make him forget all the troubles of the day)
14. At the peaceful sanctuary of home, **she forms and shapes the character of the nation and determines the destiny of her race.**
15. **Her joy and happiness is swept away like the little trembler bird if she seeks to occupy a sphere God has not assigned her**

What an incredibly awful mission for a married woman!? No work in the world, president, bishop, pope or a prophet can match her work. Yet how pathetic anyone should aim so low to venture into a sphere not belonging to them. No wonder the Bible says:

*1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, **with shamefacedness and sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 15 **Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.***

The reason why maybe people joke a lot about marriage is lack of understanding that it is part of the third angel's message. Probation is soon to close and plagues are to follow. If there was an institution which is to be restored on earth is family ties because it is in this that the larger eternal family is made.

### **Example of the Israelites - Lesson from Israel**

*Just before the firstborn were slain in Egypt, the Lord instructed the Israelites **TO GATHER THEIR CHILDREN INTO THEIR HOUSES** with them, and to strike the lintel and the two side posts of their doors with blood, so that when the destroying angel went through the land, he would recognize the houses thus marked as the dwelling places of Christ's followers, and pass over them. **TODAY WE MUST GATHER OUR CHILDREN ABOUT US, IF WE DESIRE TO SAVE THEM FROM THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF THE EVIL ONE.** The conflict between Christ and Satan will increase in intensity until the end of this earth's history. We are to have faith in the blood of Christ, in order that we may pass safely through the perilous times just before us.....If we work diligently upon the plan of addition, we shall not be barren in a knowledge of Christ. We should, however, take heed to ourselves, lest we fall because we do not cherish and cultivate the Christian graces. "He that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." This scripture brings to view those who are in a divided state, those who talk as they please, those who indulge appetite and passionate speech, failing to take themselves in hand. Such persons have no moral strength to carry out the principles that would bring to them, as overcomers, the crown of life. They are like a man who has forgotten that he has been purged from his old sins. {PCP 29.3-6}*

*The destroying angel is soon to go forth again, not to destroy the first-born alone, but "to slay utterly old and young, both men, women and little children" who have not the mark. Parents, if you wish to save your children, separate them from the world, keep them from the company of wicked children; for if you suffer them to go with wicked children, you cannot prevent them from partaking of their wickedness and being corrupted. It is your solemn duty to watch over your children, to choose the society at all times for them. Learn your children to obey you, then can they more easily obey the commandments of God, and yield to his requirements. Don't let us neglect to pray with, and for our children. He that said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," will listen to our prayers for them, and the seal, or mark, of believing parents will cover their children, if they are trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. {RH, September 19, 1854 par. 13}*

*Exodus 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring [them] out of this place: 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.*

*Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

The law of Moses given at Horeb forbids any form of adultery and falsity in marriage and family circle. Before God destroys this earth. The sanctity of the family circle will form part of the third angels message and be sounded to the world.

***The special work of parents is to make the laws of God plain to their children and to urge their obedience to them, that they may see the importance of obeying God all the days of their life.*** This was the work of Moses. He was to enjoin upon parents their duty to give to their children an example of strict obedience. ***AND THIS IS THE WORK THAT ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE MUST BE DONE IN THE HOME LIFE TODAY. IT IS TO ACCOMPANY THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE.*** {CG 558.1}

The mouth of the Lord has spoken through the prophetess, let all those who believe in her inspiration accept this as truth. Not only did it come from a prophetess but a lady, wife, mother and companion of a ministering husband. The issues families face are not even about social misfit, misplaced priorities and want of attentions and lack of enough information which leads to spiritual dearth. Spouses may know a lot of verses and quotes but fail to understand them for lack of humility and reading accompanied by the Holy Spirit. If all had taken their sphere with joy and delight as the command from the Lord, many woes experienced today and written in the books of heaven would not be there and if perhaps there, they would be given. We may fight for years for something that would only take a minute to solve by someone swallowing their pride and making a decided u turn to their rightful sphere then all other things falls in place.

*1Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

Great blessings and privileges are ours. We may secure the most valuable heavenly treasures. ***Let ministers and people remember that gospel truth ruins if it does not save.*** The soul that refuses to listen to the invitations of mercy from day to day can soon listen to the most urgent appeals without an emotion stirring his soul. {5T 134.1}

## **Blessings**