

Courtship

A Search Study

by RemnantEDU

139 Results for courtship

1 1872 EGW Testimony to the Church

*If you are allured to unite your life-interest with an young, inexperienced girl, who is really deficient in an education in the common, practical, daily duties of life, you make a mistake; but this is small in comparison with her ignorance in regard to her duty to God. She has not been destitute of light. She has had religious privileges, and yet her heart has not felt her wretched sinfulness without Christ. If you, in your infatuation, can turn from the prayer-meeting, repeatedly, where God meets with his people, in order to enjoy the society of one who has no love for God, and sees no attractions in the religious life, how do you expect God can prosper such a union? Be not in haste. Early marriages should not be encouraged. If a young woman, or a young man, have not respect to the claims of God, and heed not the claims which bind them to religion, there will be danger that they will not properly regard the claims of the husband, or the wife. The habit of frequently being in the society of the one of your choice, and that, too, at the sacrifice of religious privileges and of your hours of prayer, is dangerous; and you sustain a loss you cannot afford. The habit of sitting up late at night is customary, but it is not pleasing to God, even if you were both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer love-sick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims your God has upon you as a Christian.*

[PH159 56.1](#)

2 1872 EGW Testimony for the Church. - No. 21

If you are allured to unite your life-interest with an young, inexperienced girl, who is really deficient in an education in the common, practical, daily duties of life, you make a mistake; but this is small in comparison with her ignorance in regard to her duty to God. She has not been destitute of light. She has had religious privileges, and yet her heart

has not felt her wretched sinfulness without Christ. If you, in your infatuation, can turn from the prayer-meeting, repeatedly, where God meets with his people, in order to enjoy the society of one who has no love for God, and sees no attractions in the religious life, how do you expect God can prosper such a union? Be not in haste. Early marriages should not be encouraged. If a young woman, or a young man, have not respect to the claims of God, and heed not the claims which bind them to religion, there will be danger that they will not properly regard the claims of the husband, or the wife. The habit of frequently being in the society of the one of your choice, and that, too, at the sacrifice of religious privileges and of your hours of prayer, is dangerous; and you sustain a loss you cannot afford. The habit of sitting up late at night is customary, but it is not pleasing to God, even if you were both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have

[T21 60.2](#)

3 1872 EGW Testimony to the Church. - No. 21a

If you are allured to unite your life-interest with an young, inexperienced girl, who is really deficient in an education in the common, practical, daily duties of life, you make a mistake; but this is small in comparison with her ignorance in regard to her duty to God. She has not been destitute of light. She has had religious privileges, and yet her heart has not felt her wretched sinfulness without Christ. If you, in your infatuation, can turn from the prayer-meeting, repeatedly, where God meets with his people, in order to enjoy the society of one who has no love for God, and sees no attractions in the religious life, how do you expect God can prosper such a union? Be not in haste. Early marriages should not be encouraged. If a young woman, or a young man, have not respect to the claims of God, and heed not the claims which bind them to religion, there will be danger that they will not properly regard the claims of the husband, or the wife. The habit of frequently being in the society of the one of your choice, and that, too, at the sacrifice of religious privileges and of your hours of prayer, is dangerous; and you sustain a loss you cannot afford. The habit of sitting up late at night is customary, but it is not pleasing to God, even if you were both

Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer love-sick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims your God has upon you as a Christian.

T21a 56.1

4 1875 EGW Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3

If you, my brother, are allured to unite your life interest with a young, inexperienced girl, who is really deficient in education in the common, practical, daily duties of life, you make a mistake; but this deficiency is small compared with her ignorance in regard to her duty to God. She has not been destitute of light; she has had religious privileges, and yet she has not felt her wretched sinfulness without Christ. If, in your infatuation, you can repeatedly turn from the prayer meeting, where God meets with His people, in order to enjoy the society of one who has no love for God and who sees no attractions in the religious life, how can you expect God to prosper such a union? Be not in haste. Early marriages should not be encouraged. If either young women or young men have no respect for the claims of God, if they fail to heed the claims which bind them to religion, there will be danger that they will not properly regard the claims of the husband or of the wife. The habit of frequently being in the society of the one of your choice, and that, too, at the sacrifice of religious privileges and of your hours of prayer, is dangerous; you sustain a loss that you cannot afford. The habit of sitting up late at night is customary; but it is not pleasing to God, even if you are both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer lovesick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian.

3T 44.2

5 1879 EGW Testimony for the Physicians and Helpers of the Sanitarium

*My brethren and sisters, old and young, when you have an hour of leisure, open the Bible, and store the mind with its precious truths. When engaged in labor, guard the mind, keep it stayed upon God, talk less, and meditate more. Remember, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of Judgment." Let your words be select; this will close a door to the adversary of souls. Let your day be entered upon with prayer; work as in God's sight. His angels are ever by your side, making a record of your words, your deportment, and the manner in which your work is done. If you turn from good counsel, and choose to associate with those whom you have reason to suspect are not religiously inclined, although they profess to be Christians, you will soon become like them. You place yourself in the way of temptation, on Satan's battle-ground, and will, unless constantly guarded, be overcome by his devices. There are persons who have for some time made a profession of religion, who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.*

[PH100 86.2](#)

6 1879 EGW Testimony for the Physicians and Helpers of the Sanitarium

*I was conducted to a few rooms from which came the voice of prayer. How welcome was the sound! A bright light shone upon the face of my guide as his hand traced every word of the petition. "The Lord regardeth the righteous, and his ear is open unto their prayer." From still other rooms came the most disagreeable sallies of low wit, and vain talk. Some were making sport of individuals, and even imitating the words uttered in meeting; sacred things were made a subject of jest. Young men and young women were severely criticised; **courtship** and marriage were dwelt upon in a low, disgusting manner. There was scarcely a serious word spoken; the conversation was of a character to debase the mind and taint the morals; and all retired without committing themselves to God.*

[PH100 89.1](#)

7 1880 EGW Lt 59, 1880

*I am sorry that you have entangled yourself in any **courtship** with Nellie Manuel. In the first place, your anxiety upon this question is premature. Sound judgment and discretion will bid you wait for one or two years. But for you to select one to be in your mind and affections that length of time would not be prudent for you, or just to the one to whom you pay your addresses.*

Lt59-1880 (June 8, 1880) par. 2

8 1880 EGW Lt 59, 1880

*I have been shown the evil of these early attachments, especially when a young man is away from the home roof and must select his companion without the discriminating eye of his mother. It is not safe for you to trust to your own judgment. Early anxiety upon the subject of **courtship** and marriage will divert your mind from your work and studies, and will produce in you and the one whom you flatter with your attentions a demoralizing influence. There will be in you both a vain forwardness in manners, and infatuation will seize you both, and you will be so completely blinded in regard to your influence and example that you will, if you continue in the course you have entered upon, expose yourselves to criticism and demand that censure should be passed upon your course.*

Lt59-1880 (June 8, 1880) par. 4

9 1880 EGW Lt 59, 1880

*This **courtship** and marriage is the most difficult to manage, because the mind becomes so bewildered and enchanted that duty to God and everything else becomes tame and uninteresting, and calm and mature thought is the last thing to be exercised in this matter of the gravest importance. Dear youth, I speak to you as one who knows. Wait till you have some just knowledge of yourself and of the world, of the bearing and character of young women, before you let the subject of marriage possess your thoughts.*

Lt59-1880 (June 8, 1880) par. 5

10 1880 EGW Lt 59, 1880

The child, the mere undisciplined immature schoolgirl, the Miss, dependent upon the discretion of parents and guardians, has no reason

to listen to anything like **courtship** or marriage. She should decline all special attentions which would have the least likelihood to lead to any such results, and devote herself intently to making herself as perfect a woman as possible, that her life may be useful, and learn a trade that she will have employment and be independent.

Lt59-1880 (June 8, 1880) par. 9

11 1880 EGW Good Health

*I look with sorrow upon the profitless and wasted lives of young men and young ladies, who, as soon as old enough, can think only of **courtship** and marriage; and I am led to question in regard to their home influences. What kind of education did they receive? Did they have praying mothers? Were they taught that they were responsible for the use and improvement of the faculties God had given them? that they should be a blessing to others, and not only form characters for Heaven themselves, but seek to lead others in the same divine path? The mothers of these youths might have been bending under the heavy yoke of fashion and custom, and for the slavery of fashionable life neglected the training and education of their children. The parents' neglected work will be seen in the characters of the children.*

HR July 1, 1880, par. 9

12 1881 EGW Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4

My brethren and sisters, old and young, when you have an hour of leisure, open the Bible and store the mind with its precious truths. When engaged in labor, guard the mind, keep it stayed upon God, talk less, and meditate more. Remember: "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Let your words be select; this will close a door against the adversary of souls. Let your day be entered upon with prayer; work as in God's sight. His angels are ever by your side, making a record of your words, your deportment, and the manner in which your work is done. If you turn from good counsel and choose to associate with those who you have reason to suspect are not religiously inclined, although they profess to be Christians, you will soon become like them. You place yourself in the way of temptation, on Satan's battleground, and will, unless constantly guarded, be overcome by his devices. There are persons who have for some time made a profession of

religion, who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.

4T 588.3

- 13 1881 EGW Testimony for the Church. - No. 30

*My brethren and sisters, old and young, when you have an hour of leisure, open the Bible, and store the mind with its precious truths. When engaged in labor, guard the mind, keep it stayed upon God, talk less, and meditate more. Remember, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of Judgment." Let your words be select; this will close a door against the adversary of souls. Let your day be entered upon with prayer; work as in God's sight. His angels are ever by your side, making a record of your words, your deportment, and the manner in which your work is done. If you turn from good counsel, and choose to associate with those whom you have reason to suspect are not religiously inclined, although they profess to be Christians, you will soon become like them. You place yourself in the way of temptation, on Satan's battle-ground, and will, unless constantly guarded, be overcome by his devices. There are persons who have for sometime made a profession of religion, who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind, to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.*

T30 95.1

- 14 1882 EGW Testimony for the Battle Creek Church

*It would be well could there be connected with our College, land for cultivation, and also work-shops, under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours of the students are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers. Under the debasing power of sensual indulgence, or the untimely excitement of **courtship** and marriage, many students fail to reach that height of mental development*

which they might otherwise have attained.

PH117 5.1

- 15 1882 EGW Testimony for the Battle Creek Church

*One of the great objects to be secured in the establishment of the College was the separation of our youth from the spirit and influence of the world, from its customs, its follies, and its idolatry. The College was to build a barrier against the immorality of the present age, which makes the world as corrupt as in the days of Noah. The young are bewitched with the mania for **courtship** and marriage. Love-sick sentimentalism prevails. Great vigilance and tact are needed to guard the youth from these wrong influences. Many parents are blind to the tendencies of their children. Some parents have stated to me, with great satisfaction, that their sons or daughters had no desire for the attentions of the opposite sex, when in fact these children were at the same time secretly giving or receiving such attentions, and the parents were so much absorbed in worldliness and gossip that they knew nothing about the matter.*

PH117 38.3

- 16 1882 EGW Testimony for the Church. - No. 31

*It would be well could there be connected with our College, land for cultivation, and also work-shops, under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours of the students are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers. Under the debasing power of sensual indulgence, or the untimely excitement of **courtship** and marriage, many students fail to reach that height of mental development which they might otherwise have attained.*

T31 19.2

- 17 1882 EGW Testimony for the Church. - No. 31

One of the great objects to be secured in the establishment of the College was the separation of our youth from the spirit and influence of the world, from its customs, its follies, and its idolatry. The College was to build a barrier against the immorality of the present age, which makes

*the world as corrupt as in the days of Noah. The young are bewitched with the mania for **courtship** and marriage. Love-sick sentimentalism prevails. Great vigilance and tact are needed to guard the youth from these wrong influences. Many parents are blind to the tendencies of their children. Some parents have stated to me, with great satisfaction, that their sons or daughters had no desire for the attentions of the opposite sex, when in fact these children were at the same time secretly giving or receiving such attentions, and the parents were so much absorbed in worldliness and gossip that they knew nothing about the matter.*

T31 55.4

18 1882 EGW The Signs of the Times

*The rules of this college strictly guard the association of young men and young women during the school term. It is only when these rules are temporarily suspended, as is sometimes the case that gentlemen are permitted to accompany ladies to and from public gatherings. Our own College at Battle Creek has similar regulations, though not so stringent. Such rules are indispensable to guard the youth from the danger of premature **courtship** and unwise marriage. Young people are sent to school by their parents to obtain an education, not to flirt with the opposite sex. The good of society, as well as the highest interest of the students, demands that they shall not attempt to select a life partner while their own character is yet undeveloped, their judgment immature, and while they are at the same time deprived of parental care and guidance.*

ST March 2, 1882, Art. B, par. 2

19 1882 EGW The Signs of the Times

The press is now sending out books in great numbers, that teach the ignorant and unsuspecting how they may serve Satan. There are works breathing the poison of skepticism and infidelity. There are treatises on money-making, that fill thousands of minds with fancies and follies, that fire thousands with an insane desire to amass wealth. There are fascinating volumes, that portray with all the power of human eloquence the lives of those who have made fame their god. And outnumbering all other productions of the press, like the swarms of locusts that darkened the whole land, comes the flood of novels and romances, to cultivate in

the youth a love-sick sentimentalism, to teach them that **courtship** and marriage are the great object of their existence, and to unfit them for the practical duties of a useful life.

ST May 18, 1882, par. 25

20 1885 EGW Counsels to Physicians and Medical Students

*We are in a day when iniquity abounds. There are those who have but little moral sense; self-pollution has been practiced, and the moral powers are benumbed. Such have no just sense of holiness or purity. They are corrupt, and will corrupt others. Miserable wrecks of humanity are everywhere. Some put on a religious garb; but the soul is defiled, and they corrupt other minds. They call evil good, and good evil. They are Satan's most efficient agents, and individuals of this stamp will connect with our institutions and with God's instrumentalities, masking their evil ways under a pretention of godliness. Can we then be too particular, too circumspect? Safety lies in close adherence to rules and regulations in harmony with God's great moral standard of righteousness. And then there are those who, if so disposed, will find ways to secretly carry out their own inclinations, and pursue a course of deception to avoid the censure of those they deem so particular. Some who have influence, who are apparently working for the interest of the Sanitarium, encourage by their own course of action a disregard of rules and of order; and the influence of such persons goes a long way toward encouraging insubordination, especially in the direction of **courtship** and marriage. The parties are unfitted for their duties; they live an unreal life, indulge in too high and romantic visions of bliss, and in their desire to please each other, they become unfaithful. The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They fol*

PH167 38.4

21 1885 EGW Ms 4a, 1885

*The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They follow impulse and blind passion. The **courtship** is carried on in a spirit of flirtation. The parties frequently violate the rules of modesty and reserve, and are guilty of indiscretion, if they do not break the law of God. The high, noble, lofty design of God in the institution of marriage is not discerned; therefore the purest affections*

of the heart, the noblest traits of character are not developed.

Ms4a-1885 (July 27, 1885) par. 78

22 1885 EGW Ms 4a, 1885

*Some who have influence, who are apparently working for the interest of the sanitarium, encourage by their own course of action a disregard of rules and of order; and the influence of such persons goes a long way toward encouraging insubordination, especially in the direction of **courtship** and marriage. The parties are unfitted for their duties; they live an unreal life, indulge in too high and romantic visions of bliss; and in their desire to please each other, they become unfaithful.*

Ms4a-1885 (July 27, 1885) par. 77

23 1885 EGW Ms 4a, 1885

*Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctified affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalted in its nature, and more heavenly than earthly. Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God, unless it is after the exalted scriptural principle.*

Ms4a-1885 (July 27, 1885) par. 79

24 1885 EGW Ms 30, 1885

*We are now having the coldest weather we shall have. The days are now the shortest. They will begin to lengthen very soon. I have written several pages upon the position that should be taken relative to **courtship** and marriage. There are cases that are now difficult to manage. A brother is seeking to obtain the consent of a daughter of Brother Vuilleumier's, to marry him against the judgment of her parents. The daughter is young, and her lover is a man who has never shown respect to his parents and has caused his mother pain and grief because he would follow his own inclination irrespective of the wishes of his mother. Such a man will not understand the wants and wishes of a wife. He will be dictatorial, arbitrary, severe, and consider that the wife's wishes and*

plans must be after his mind. Her independence will be taken away, and she cannot preserve her individual judgment to follow the dictates of her own conscience.

Ms30-1885 (December 21, 1885) par. 14

25 1885 EGW Ms 30, 1885

*It is a beautiful morning. The air is cool and bracing. The sun shines in its glory. We enjoy sitting in the sunshine. I have prepared several talks given during our conference here. I read pages I had written on **courtship** and marriage to Brother Whitney. He wants it put into French and published. I had a talk with Sister Bourdeau in reference to Edith's condition and in reference to her home matters. She was grateful for the conversation, as it would be a help to her when she goes home to Italy. Received a large bundle of letters from Brother Daniel¹. He writes tenderly. May the Lord guide His servant in judgment is my prayer and spare his life until his work is done. He does too much, and we know not how to hinder him. He has an active brain that cannot find repose and rest. Brother Albert Vuilleumier came this evening, accompanied by his daughter Eloise (?). (A copy of a letter sent him, which I wrote from Geneva to Brother², brought him great relief.) He thought best to bring his daughter here to help her brother John. She will have something to take up her mind and be where the persistent efforts of the young man will not call forth her sympathy and lead her to wrong decisions.*

Ms30-1885 (December 22, 1885) par. 16

26 1886 EGW Lt 3, 1886

My brother, you are sailing in a dangerous harbor. You need a pilot. Will you scorn to accept the much-needed help, feeling that you are competent to guide your own vessel? Are you not afraid that it will strike some hidden rock, and that you will make shipwreck of faith? The present I regard as the most important period of your life. If you are indeed the young man that was shown me, your picture flatters you. Your features are sharper than the picture represents, but in other respects it correctly represents the young man presented before me, who was with other

¹Bourdeau

²Vaucher

youth infatuated with the subject of **courtship** and marriage and whose principal burden was to have his own way.

Lt3-1886, par. 4

27 1886 EGW Lt 3, 1886

*The young man who makes the Bible his guide need not mistake the path of duty and safety. That blessed book will teach him to preserve his integrity of character, to be truthful, and to practice no deception. "Thou shalt not steal"³, was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone, yet how much underhanded stealing of affections is done and excused by finite beings. A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of the daughter, who is inexperienced and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are fastened upon the one who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love.*

Lt3-1886, par. 11

28 1886 EGW Lt 3, 1886

*There needs to be an awakening in regard to the matter of **courtship** and marriage. The fifth commandment is held lightly and even positively ignored by the lover's claim. This commandment is the only one to which is annexed a promise. To slight a mother's love, to dishonor a father's care, is a sin which stands registered against many youth. While there are weighty responsibilities devolving upon the parents to guard carefully the future happiness and interest of their children, it is also their duty to make home as attractive as possible. This is of far greater consequence than to acquire estates and money. Home must not lack sunshine. The home feeling should be kept alive in the hearts of the children, that home will be looked upon by them as a place of peace and happiness next to heaven. Then as they come to maturity, they should in their turn try to be a comfort and blessing to their parents. They should not be too ready to leave their parental roof and give their affections and services to a stranger at the very time when they are most needed at home.*

Lt3-1886, par. 19

³Exodus 20:15

29 1886 EGW Lt 3, 1886

Courtship as carried on in this age is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy. It has a bewitching influence upon the minds. I have been shown that had the purposes of many young persons been carried out, there would have been disappointments, estrangements, separation. The enemy of souls has far more to do with match-making than has the Lord whose property they are. Many youth seem to think that marriage is the attainment of perfect bliss; but if these could see one quarter of the heart-aching letters that I have received from men and women who 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 to thousands is the most galling yoke that can be worn. There are thousands that are mated but not matched. The books of heaven are burdened with the woes, the wickedness, and the abuse that are hid under the marriage mantle. This is why I warn the young who are of a marriageable age to make haste slowly in the choice of a companion. The path of marriage life may appear beautiful and full of happiness, but you may be disappointed as thousands of others have been.

[Lt3-1886, par. 21](#)

30 1886 EGW Lt 3, 1886

The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily and be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the facts in the case are it has little to do with **courtship** and marriage nowadays. There is serious, earnest reflection to be done before marriage, if you would not have the most miserable, unhappy reflections after marriage. This step taken unwisely is one of the most effective means of ruining the usefulness of men and women. Life becomes a burden, a curse. No one can so effectually ruin a woman's happiness and usefulness as her own husband. Heaven has registered the words and actions of men who have tyrannized over their wives. And no one can do one-hundredth part as much to chill the hopes and aspirations of a man, no one can paralyze his energies and make life a heart-sickening burden as his own wife, and she may ruin his influence and his prospects. From the marriage hour, many men can date their success or their failure.

Lt3-1886, par. 26

31 1886 EGW Lt 72, 1886

*I have had many letters to write—one matter of a very perplexing character was in regard to **courtship** and marriage. A young man was urging his attentions upon Brother Albert Vuilleumier's daughter. I had letters to write to him and have sent the general part of it for Review. You will see it.*

Lt72-1886 (January 2, 1886) par. 15

32 1886 EGW Lt 120, 1886

*I have had many letters to write—one matter of a very perplexing character in regard to **courtship** and marriage. A young man was urging his attentions upon Brother Albert Vuilleumier's daughter. I wrote letters to him and have sent the general part of it to the Review. You will see it.*

Lt120-1886 (January 2, 1886) par. 17

33 1886 EGW The Review and Herald

Courtship and Marriage

RH January 26, 1886

34 1886 EGW The Review and Herald

*In these days of peril and corruption, the young are exposed to many trials and temptations. Many are sailing in a dangerous harbor. They need a pilot; but they scorn to accept the much-needed help, feeling that they are competent to guide their own bark, and not realizing that it is about to strike a hidden rock that may cause them to make shipwreck of faith and happiness. They are infatuated with the subject of **courtship** and marriage, and their principal burden is to have their own way. In this, the most important period of their lives, they need an unerring counselor, an infallible guide. This they will find in the word of God. Unless they are diligent students of that word, they will make grave mistakes, which will mar their happiness and that of others, both for the present and the future life.*

RH January 26, 1886, par. 1

35 1886 EGW The Review and Herald

*The question is asked, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?” and the answer is given, “By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” The young man who makes the Bible his guide, need not mistake the path of duty and of safety. That blessed book will teach him to preserve his integrity of character, to be truthful, to practice no deception. “Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone; yet how much underhand stealing of affections is practiced and excused. A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty, and demands right-doing under all circumstances. He who makes the Bible the guide of his youth, the light of his path, will obey its teachings in all things. He will not transgress one jot or tittle of the law in order to accomplish any object, even if he has to make great sacrifices in consequence. If he believes the Bible, he knows that the blessing of God will not rest upon him if he departs from the strict path of rectitude. Although he may appear for a time to prosper, he will surely reap the fruit of his doings.*

RH January 26, 1886, par. 5

36 1886 EGW The Review and Herald

*The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. **Courtship**, as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.*

RH January 26, 1886, par. 13

37 1886 EGW Lt 92, 1886

Do not become entangled in love affairs; do not be ready to yield your affections easily. Lay these things open to me ever, and if I see that you would be happy by taking this step, I would not throw obstructions in

*your way. But be very guarded. You will see articles in the Review and Herald upon the subject of marriage. This was written for a young man who was paying his addresses to Brother Vuilleumier's daughter against the wishes of her parents. He was very ardent in his attachment, but he had not shown due respect to his own mother. He was self-willed, critical, arbitrary; and yet he did not reveal this side of his character to her. I wrote him this letter upon **courtship** and marriage with more personal instructions. Brother Albert Vuilleumier brought his daughter to this office. The letter written decided the matter.*

Lt92-1886 (January 29, 1886) par. 3

38 1886 EGW Lt 95, 1886

*Now this is worse to me than the dreaded disease of consumption. But I could not consent to have there be an attachment between you and Reuben. It is just and right that you should open your mind freely to me on this subject of **courtship** and marriage, for this concerns your happiness more than any other event of your life, and you need counsel and advice here more than on any other point. I hope to hear from you often.*

Lt95-1886 (February 26, 1886) par. 11

39 1886 EGW Ms 82, 1886

*Those who give themselves to the work do not know what true religion is if they begin a spirit of **courtship**, as though God had called them to do thus. God never has called them; they do not know anything about His work, or they would have nothing like this. It is the invention of the devil to get hold of them, but they must feel that it is a sacred work they have in their hands and they must do it for time and for eternity. When you have the burden of the work upon you, you will be so afraid that you will not give a right answer to every man that asketh you, that you will have no time for this dallying. This lovesick sentimentalism is a curse everywhere, and when you see it in young people, would you think they are fitted for the work? The command was, "Tarry in Jerusalem, until you receive the Holy Ghost."⁴ You must be so fitted that there will not be any appearance of evil.*

⁴Luke 24:49.

Ms82-1886 (September 1886) par. 14

40 1886 EGW Lt 23, 1886

*When I stated the true importance attached to an engagement, I also said to her, "When you decide to take this step, your proper course will be to disconnect with the office. It will never do for you to manifest your preferences or anything like special attentions in this office. No **courtship** must be carried on here, because the example we have had, and its deleterious influence in the course pursued by Edith, has left its mark upon more than one or two connected with the office. Lovesick sentimentalism is not religion. While no one is at liberty to say you shall not marry, or to control your preferences in this respect as to whom you will choose as a husband, there are things which must be controlled, and among these is the moral tone of the publishing house; and **courtship**, which would suit the inclinations and promptings of the natural heart, practiced in the office, cannot be tolerated. You must separate from the office until this matter has run its course and come to a termination."*

Lt23-1886 (September 23, 1886) par. 4

41 1886 EGW Lt 23, 1886

*I told her that now was an important time in the experience of you both, that Albert was a man with stern, noble qualities which, with proper development and firm Christian principles maintained, would place him in high positions of responsibility in connection with the work and cause of God. I stated to her that I had hoped that Albert would be a man who could be depended upon, that he had great firmness which was in danger of working into stubbornness, but that these qualities under the control of the Spirit of God would fit him for the work in which he was engaged. Again I repeated to her, "Be careful not to lead on a young man and encourage him to entertain love for you, when you do not know whether you love him or not. And when you decide to marry, go away from the office for a time, for **courtship** and lovesick sentimentalism cannot be carried on in this building."*

Lt23-1886 (September 23, 1886) par. 9

42 1887 EGW Ms 29, 1887

Held meetings, one in the morning. Read in the evening matters in

regard to _____, his flirtation and **courtship**. Made some remarks.

Ms29-1887 (February 15, 1887) par. 21

43 1887 EGW Lt 26d, 1887

*I feel deeply burdened over these things, because instead of souls being saved by the missions which are not properly conducted, the influence is to belittle the truth, disgust those who are sensible and discerning. Our missions are not to be a place where young persons and married men and women can carry on a flirtation. They are not schools for **courtship** and marriage. They are not places where men and women are to commingle and talk upon things which have no reference to the truth, or talk in regard to the truth without a true sense of its elevated character, while showing undue familiarity with one another. God reads the heart. The intents and purposes of the heart are open to His all-seeing eye. Nothing is hid from Him.*

Lt26d-1887 (September 27, 1887) par. 3

44 1888 EGW Ms 14, 1888

*We can see that innumerable difficulties meet us at every step. The iniquity that is cherished by young as well as old, the unwise, unsanctified **courtship** and marriages cannot fail to result in bickerings, in strife, in alienations, in indulgence of unbridled passions, in unfaithfulness of husbands and wives,⁵ unwillingness to restrain the self-willed, inordinate desires, and in indifference to the things of eternal interest. God is dishonored and despised; His commandments are trampled upon; and verily there is need of great sobriety of conduct, with firmness as well as courtesy on the part of all who would have our God lift up a standard for us against the enemy, saying, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."*

Ms14-1888 (February 1, 1888) par. 12

45 1888 EGW The Review and Herald

The thought of marriage seems to have a bewitching power upon the minds of many of the youth. Two persons become acquainted; they are infatuated with each other, and their whole attention is absorbed. Reason is blinded, and judgment is overthrown. They will not submit to

⁵in

any advice or control, but insist on having their own way, regardless of consequences. Like some epidemic, or contagion, that must run its course, is the infatuation that possesses them; and there seems to be no such thing as putting a stop to it. Perhaps there are those around them who realize that, should the parties interested be united in marriage, it could only result in life-long unhappiness. But entreaties and exhortations are given in vain. Perhaps, by such a union, the usefulness of one whom God would bless in his service, will be crippled and destroyed; but reasoning and persuasion are alike unheeded. All that can be said by men and women of experience proves ineffectual; it is powerless to change the decision to which their desires have led them. They lose interest in the prayer-meeting, and in everything that pertains to religion. They are wholly infatuated with each other, and the duties of life are neglected, as if they were matters of little concern. Night after night, these young people burn the midnight oil to talk with each other,—in reference to subjects of serious and solemn interest?—O no. Rather of frivolous things, that are of no importance. Satan's angels are keeping watch with those who devote a large share of the night to courting. Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of **courtship** before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of **courtship**. These hours of midnight dissipation, in this age of depravity, frequently lead to the ruin of both parties thus engaged. Satan exults, and God is dishonored when men and women dishonor themselves. The good name of honor is sacrificed under the spell of this infatuation, and the marriage of such persons cannot be solemnized under the approval of God. They are married because passion moved them, and when the novelty of the affair is over, they will begin to realize what they have done. In six months after the vows are spoken, their sentiments toward each other have undergone a change. Each has learned in married life more of the character of the companion chosen. Each discovers imperfections that, during the blindness and folly of their former association, were not apparent. The promises at the altar do not bind them together. In consequence of hasty marriages, even among the professed people of God, there are separations, divorces, and great confusion in the church.

RH September 25, 1888, par. 9

46 1889 EGW Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5

It would be well could there be connected with our college, land for cultivation and also workshops under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours of the students are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers. Under the debasing power of sensual indulgence, or the untimely excitement of courtship and marriage, many students fail to reach that height of mental development which they might otherwise have attained.

5T 23.2

47 1889 EGW Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5

One of the great objects to be secured in the establishment of the college was the separation of our youth from the spirit and influence of the world, from its customs, its follies, and its idolatry. The college was to build a barrier against the immorality of the present age, which makes the world as corrupt as in the days of Noah. The young are bewitched with the mania for courtship and marriage. Lovesick sentimentalism prevails. Great vigilance and tact are needed to guard the youth from these wrong influences. Many parents are blind to the tendencies of their children. Some parents have stated to me, with great satisfaction, that their sons or daughters had no desire for the attentions of the opposite sex, when in fact these children were at the same time secretly giving or receiving such attentions, and the parents were so much absorbed in worldliness and gossip that they knew nothing about the matter.

5T 59.4

48 1890 EGW Lt 6a, 1890

*“They married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”⁶
We see the same infatuation now in regard to marriage. Youth, and even men and women who ought to be wise and discerning, act as if*

⁶Verse 27.

*bewitched upon this question. Satanic power seems to take possession of them. **Courtship** and marriage are the all-absorbing themes. The most indiscreet marriages are formed. God is not consulted. Human feelings, desires, and passions, bear down everything before them, until the die is cast. Untold misery is the result of this state of things and God is dishonored. The marriage vow covers every kind of lustful abomination. The marriage bed is not sanctified or holy. Shall there not be a decided change in reference to this important matter?*

Lt6a-1890 (April 1890) par. 90

49 1890 EGW Ms 19a, 1890

*There are men and women through the country who would have been accepted as laborers together with God if Satan had not laid his snares to entangle their minds and hearts in **courtship** and marriage. Did the Lord urge them to obtain the advantages of our schools and mission that they might sink everything in **courtship** and marriage, binding themselves by a human band for a lifetime? By accepting the work of rearing children in these last days of uncertainty and peril, many place themselves in a position where they cannot labor either in the canvassing field or in any other branch of the cause of God, and some lose all interest to do this. They are content with a common, low level and assimilate to the positions they have chosen.*

Ms19a-1890 (May 1, 1890) par. 15

50 1890 EGW Ms 19a, 1890

*When a conference selects young men and women and aids them in obtaining an education for the canvassing field or any other branch of the work, there should be an understanding as to what they propose to do—whether they design to engage in **courtship** and marriage or to labor for the advancement of the cause of truth. It is of no use to spend time and money in educating workers who will fall in love before they complete their education, and who cannot resist the first temptation in the form of an invitation to marriage. In most cases the labor spent on such persons is wholly lost. When they enter the marriage relation, their usefulness in the work of God is at an end. They increase their family, they are dwarfed and crippled in every way, and cannot use the knowledge they have obtained.*

Ms19a-1890 (May 1, 1890) par. 12

51 1891 EGW Lt 8b, 1891

*Our missions, which should inspire to all that is pure and noble and true, become schools of **courtship** and marriage. Can the Holy Spirit of God be recognized and appreciated by such workers? No, the sacred and the common are placed on a level. They are satisfied with the sensual flow of their affections in the wrong channel. They are not drinking deep at the fountain of truth. They are not pressing forward to the prize of their high calling in Christ Jesus.*

Lt8b-1891 (June 10, 1891) par. 7

52 1893 EGW General Conference Daily Bulletin

*“Many of the marriages contracted in these last days prove to be a mistake. The parties make no advancement in spiritual things; their growth and usefulness ended with their marriage. There are men and women throughout the country who would have been accepted as laborers together with God if Satan had not laid his snares to entangle their minds and hearts in **courtship** and marriage. Did the Lord urge them to obtain the advantages of our schools and missions, that they might sink everything in **courtship** and marriage, binding themselves by a human band for a lifetime? By accepting the work of rearing children in these last days of uncertainty and peril, many place themselves in a position where they cannot labor either in the canvassing field or in any other branch of the cause of God, and some lose all interest to do this. They are content with a common, low level, and assimilate to the position they have chosen. The bewitching power of Satan’s deceptions wrought within the human heart its evil work. Instead of candidly considering the time in which we live, and the work they might do in leading others to the truth, they reason from a selfish standpoint, and follow the impulse of their own unconsecrated hearts. “The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.” The natural appetites and passions become a controlling power, and the result is that spiritual growth ceases; the soul is, as it were, paralyzed.*

GCDB February 6, 1893, par. 12

53 1893 EGW General Conference Daily Bulletin

*“When a Conference selects young men and women, and aids them in obtaining an education for the canvassing field or any other branch of the work, there should be an understanding as to what they propose to do,—whether they design to engage in **courtship** and marriage, or to labor for the advancement of the cause of truth. It is no use to spend time and money in the education of workers who will fall in love before they complete this education, and who cannot resist the first temptation in the form of an invitation to marriage. In most cases the labor spent on such persons is wholly lost. When they enter the marriage relation, their usefulness in the work of God is at an end. They increase their family, they are dwarfed and crippled in every way, and cannot use the knowledge they have obtained.*

GCDB February 6, 1893, par. 10

54 1893 EGW Ms 77, 1893

*I spoke to those assembled in the home of Father Hare. I had a very plain testimony for parents and children. I sought to present the true love for Jesus in contrast with sentimentalism and the cheap love that goes out for **courtship** and marriage. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:1, 2.*

Ms77-1893 (February 28, 1893) par. 24

55 1894 EGW Christian Education

*It would be well could there be connected with our College, land for cultivation, and also work-shops, under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours of the student are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers. Under the debasing power of sensual indulgence, or the untimely excitement of **courtship** and marriage, many students fail to reach that height of mental development which they might otherwise have attained.*

CE 36.3

56 1894 EGW Ms 113, 1894

Temptations come in of **courtship** and marriage. Everyone will be exposed to temptation, and if the youth are not patiently instructed on this point,⁷ great caution whom they accept, they will have great trouble in their future life. Their whole life may be changed by allowing their minds to be filled with plans and methods how they may gain their object. This interferes with their study and with their progress⁸ perfection of character and acquisition of knowledge. The youth are to feel it a positive duty to let this subject alone until they have completed the term of their school life. To advance, constantly learning, is to be their aim and purpose. Young men and women will have no danger in binding up their heart affections with Jesus Christ, to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength while at school.

Ms113-1894 (January 1, 1894) par. 5

57 1894 EGW Ms 15, 1894

You do not want your mind all cobwebbed with **courtship** and familiarity. We are here to fit up to do a work, and if we connect with God, we will stand through the ceaseless ages of eternity. This is why I felt that I could do anything to help on the work. I stand here in this country away from friends and nearly every relation, and if I could do anything to start the truth in the right direction, I would be repaid. I call upon every student in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to stand by my side. I call upon⁹ not to press burden upon my soul so that wherever I am, in New Zealand or here, I am roused up in the night standing before you talking as I am now and urging you to make it a business to serve God; to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. You cannot plan anything until you do this. You will surely be liable to mistake without God.

Ms15-1894 (February 23, 1894) par. 16

58 1894 EGW Lt 76, 1894

The school is not to be regarded as a place for **courtship** or marriage, but as a place where the youth are to be educated and disciplined for practical

⁷exercising

⁸toward

⁹you

life. Flirtation or special attentions between young ladies <and> young men cannot be permitted in the school. Were the rules so lax as to admit of this, the education and home training of many have been so entirely different from what they ought to have been that the school would become demoralized, and parents would feel no safety in sending their children to the school.

Lt76-1894 (March 1894) par. 20

59 1895 EGW Lt 120, 1895

*Last Thursday Willie and May Lacey were united in marriage. Everything passed off pleasantly. The children seemed very earnest that Mother should pray on the occasion, and I complied with their request. The blessing of the Lord was present. Every movement was conducted with the greatest solemnity. She was married from her father's house. You may have seen the son. He has been several years in Battle Creek as a student. His father married an excellent woman with four daughters, all very bright, pretty, intelligent girls. There are two brothers, but they have left home. May has two sisters, bright, promising young girls. So, you see, Willie has connected himself with quite a family; all, every member of the family, dote on May, and they feel highly honored to take in Willie to their family circle. They all highly esteem Willie. He is forty years old, and May is twenty-one. There was no sentimentalism in their **courtship** and marriage. Immediately after their engagement, Willie was called to Auckland, New Zealand camp meeting, and he spent three months visiting the churches.*

Lt120-1895 (May 15, 1895) par. 8

60 1896 EGW Health, Philanthropic, and Medical Missionary Work

***Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts....*

PH066 29.1

61 1897 EGW Special Testimonies Concerning the Work and Workers in the Pacific Press

6. But I will write more upon this point in the future. Now, those who occupy responsible positions should have the most strict rules, rules that

will guard young men and young women from foolish attachments, which will spoil them for their work, spoil all their future prospects in this life. When this state of things commences, young men waiting upon the girls, pairing off, making everything of one and neglecting all others, the first step is to counsel them, then write to their parents to call them from the office to the home roof. This must be done. This spirit of **courtship** and marriage with those in the office ought not to have been permitted, for the influence on others is not wholesome, but demoralizing. I was shown that God is in no way honored or glorified in these marriages, and rules must be made to remove this influence from the office. Our youth must take a more elevated standard in the office if they would perfect Christian character. They should be present at the hour of prayer, at the prayer-meeting, ready and zealous to do service for God. They want to understand the high claims of God upon them. Great learning is not required, genius or eloquence, but a pure, humble heart, longing for righteousness. If these young men and young women were one-tenth as interested in refining the life and in elevating and ennobling the character, that they may do better and holier service for God, as in pleasing and gratifying self, a great and good work would be done by their noble efforts. These youth must habituate themselves to think of something more noble and elevating than themselves. They do not pray, do not watch unto prayer; they are unacquainted with Jesus. They have much to learn and but little time to learn it in; no time to spend in frivolity and gratification of self. If they will see the need of thorough conversion, if they will pray, and watch unto prayer, God will make them wholly his, and they may do much for his cause. But God is dishonored by the thoughts and behavior of many of the young in the office. Those who come to the office with good purposes are spoiled by the unconsecrated influence of some employed there. This must not longer exist. Plain talk and plain action must be taken in these cases.

PH152 16.1

62 1898 EGW Living by Principle

Many of the marriages contracted in these last days prove to be a mistake. The parties make no advancement in spiritual things; their growth and usefulness ended with their marriage. There are men and women throughout the country who would have been accepted as laborers

together with God if Satan had not laid his snares to entangle their minds and hearts in **courtship** and marriage. Did the Lord urge them to obtain the advantages of our schools and missions that they might sink everything in **courtship** and marriage, binding themselves by a human band for a lifetime?

[PHo48 28.4](#)

63 1898 EGW Living by Principle

Courtship, as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.—*The Review and Herald*, January 26, 1886.

[PHo48 22.1](#)

64 1898 EGW Living by Principle

When a conference selects young men and women, and aids them in obtaining an education for the canvassing field or any other branch of the work, there should be an understanding as to what they propose to do,—whether they design to engage in **courtship** and marriage, or to labor for the advancement of the cause of truth. It is no use to spend time and money in the education of workers who will fall in love before they complete this education, and who cannot resist the first temptation in the form of an invitation to marriage. In most cases the labor spent on such persons is wholly lost. When they enter the marriage relation, their usefulness in the work of God is at an end. They increase their family, they are dwarfed and crippled in every way, and cannot use the knowledge they have obtained.—*The General Conference Daily Bulletin*, Vol. V., 162.

[PHo48 27.7](#)

65 1900 EGW Ms 24, 1900

To the young men and young women who are being educated as nurses and physicians, I would say, Keep close to Jesus. By beholding Him you will become changed into His likeness. Remember that you are not training for **courtship** or marriage, but for the service of Christ. You

may have a theoretical knowledge of the truth, but this will not save you. You must know by experience how sinful sin is, and how much you need Jesus as a personal Saviour. Only thus can you become sons and daughters of God. Your only merit is your great need.

Ms24-1900 (April 3, 1900) par. 23

66 1911 EGW Selections from the Testimonies for Students and Workers of our Sanitariums

*“Many of the marriages contracted in these last days prove to be a mistake. The parties make no advancement in spiritual things; their growth and usefulness ended with their marriage. There are men and women throughout the country who would have been accepted as laborers together with God if Satan had not laid his snares to entangle their minds and hearts in **courtship** and marriage. Did the Lord urge them to obtain the advantages of our schools and missions, that they might sink everything in **courtship** and marriage, binding themselves by a human band for a lifetime? By accepting the work of rearing children in these last days of uncertainty and peril, many place themselves in a position where they can not labor either in the canvassing field or in any other branch of the cause of God, and some lose all interest to do this. They are content with a common, low level, and assimilate to the position they have chosen. The bewitching power of Satan’s deception wrought within the human heart its evil work. Instead of candidly considering the time in which we live, and the work they might do in leading others to the truth they reason from a selfish standpoint, and follow the impulse of their own unconsecrated hearts. ‘The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.’ The natural appetites and passions become a controlling power, and the result is that spiritual growth ceases; the soul is, as it were, paralyzed.*

SpTB16 17.1

67 1911 EGW Letters from Ellen G. White to Sanitarium Workers

*To the young men and young women who are being educated as nurses and physicians I will say, Keep close to Jesus. By beholding Him we become changed into His likeness. Remember that you are not training for **courtship** or marriage, but for the marriage of Christ. You may have a theoretical knowledge of the truth, but this will not save you. You must*

know by experience how sinful sin is, and how much you need Jesus as a personal Saviour. Only thus can you become sons and daughters of God. Your only merit is your great need.

SpTB15 21.1

68 1911 EGW Selections from the Testimonies for Students and Workers of our Sanitariums

*They married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. We see the same infatuation in regard to marriage. Youth, and even men and women, who ought to be wise and discerning, act as if bewitched upon this question. Satanic power seems to take possession of them. **Courtship** and marriage is the all-absorbing theme. The most indiscreet marriages are formed. God is not consulted. Human feelings, desire and passions, bear down every thing before them, until the die is cast. Untold misery is the result of this state of things, and God is dishonored. The marriage bed is not sanctified or holy. Shall there not be a decided change in reference to this important matter?*

SpTB16 11.5

69 1911 EGW Selections from the Testimonies for Students and Workers of our Sanitariums

***Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.*

SpTB16 12.1

70 1911 EGW Selections from the Testimonies for Students and Workers of our Sanitariums

*“When a conference selects young men and women, and aids them in obtaining an education for the canvassing field or any other branch of the work, there should be an understanding as to what they propose to do—whether they design to engage in **courtship** and marriage, or to labor for the advancement of the cause of truth. It is no use to spend time and money in the education of workers who will fall in love before they complete this education, and who can not resist the first temptation in the form of an invitation to marriage. In most cases the labor spent*

on such persons is wholly lost. When they enter the marriage relation, their usefulness in the work of God is at an end. They increase their family, they are dwarfed and crippled in every way, and can not use the knowledge they have obtained.

SpTB16 16.1

71 1911 EGW Selections from the Testimonies for Students and Workers of our Sanitariums

*To the young men and young women who are being educated as nurses and physicians I will say, Keep close to Jesus. By beholding Him we become changed into His likeness. Remember that you are not training for **courtship** or marriage, but for the marriage of Christ. You may have a theoretical knowledge of the truth, but this will not save you. You must know by experience how sinful sin is, and how much you need Jesus as a personal Saviour. Only thus can you become sons and daughters of God. Your only merit is your great need.*

SpTB16 20.1

72 1913 EGW Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

*The Adventist Home, 455-471. Messages to Young People, 419, 423, 424, 432. Testimonies For The Church 1:400-405, 512, 513; Testimonies For The Church 2:222, 407, 408; Testimonies For The Church 3:41-47 (**courtship**), 362-367; Testimonies For The Church 4:209, 435, 436, 587-591, 622-624; Testimonies For The Church 5:111-113 (**courtship**), 222, 223, 542-546.*

CT 227

73 1913 EGW Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

*It would be well could there be connected with our college, land for cultivation, and also workshops, under the charge of men competent to instruct the students in the various departments of physical labor. Much is lost by a neglect to unite physical with mental taxation. The leisure hours of the students are often occupied with frivolous pleasures, which weaken physical, mental, and moral powers. Under the debasing power of sensual indulgence, or the untimely excitement of **courtship** and marriage, many students fail to reach that height of mental development which they might otherwise have attained....*

CT 88.1

74 1913 EGW Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

*While at school, students should not allow their minds to become confused by thoughts of **courtship**. They are there to gain a fitness to work for God, and this thought is ever to be uppermost. Let all students take as broad a view as possible of their obligations to God. Let them study earnestly how they can do practical work for the Master during their student life. Let them refuse to burden the souls of their teachers by showing a spirit of levity and a careless disregard of rules.*

CT 100.2

75 1923 EGW Fundamentals of Christian Education

*The rules of this college strictly guard the association of young men and young women during the school term. It is only when these rules are temporarily suspended, as is sometimes the case, that gentlemen are permitted to accompany ladies to and from public gatherings. Our own College at Battle Creek has similar regulations, though not so stringent. Such rules are indispensable to guard the youth from the danger of premature **courtship** and unwise marriage. Young people are sent to school by their parents to obtain an education, not to flirt with the opposite sex. The good of society, as well as the highest interest of the students, demands that they shall not attempt to select a life partner while their own character is yet undeveloped, their judgment immature, and while they are at the same time deprived of parental care and guidance.*

FE 62.2

76 1923 EGW Fundamentals of Christian Education

*Chapter 12—**Courtship** and Marriage*

FE 100

77 1923 EGW Fundamentals of Christian Education

In these days of peril and corruption, the young are exposed to many trials and temptations. Many are sailing in a dangerous harbor. They need a pilot; but they scorn to accept the much needed help, feeling that

*they are competent to guide their own bark, and not realizing that it is about to strike a hidden rock that may cause them to make shipwreck of faith and happiness. They are infatuated with the subject of **courtship** and marriage, and their principal burden is to have their own way. In this, the most important period of their lives, they need an unerring counselor, and infallible guide. This they will find in the word of God. Unless they are diligent students of that word, they will make grave mistakes, which will mar their happiness and that of others, both for the present and the future life.*

FE 100.1

78 1923 EGW Fundamentals of Christian Education

*The question is asked, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?” and the answer is given, “By taking heed thereto according to Thy word.” The young man who makes the Bible his guide, need not mistake the path of duty and of safety. That blessed book will teach him to preserve his integrity of character, to be truthful, to practice no deception. “Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone; yet how much underhand stealing of affections is practiced and excused. A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty, and demands right-doing under all circumstances. He who makes the Bible the guide of his youth, the light of his path, will obey its teachings in all things. He will not transgress one jot or tittle of the law in order to accomplish any object, even if he has to make great sacrifices in consequence. If he believes the Bible, he knows that the blessing of God will not rest upon him if he departs from the strict path of rectitude. Although he may appear for a time to prosper, he will surely reap the fruit of his doings.*

FE 102.1

79 1923 EGW Fundamentals of Christian Education

The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning

exterior of the lover. **Courtship**, as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.

FE 105.2

80 1923 EGW Counsels on Health

From still other rooms came the most disagreeable sallies of low wit and vain talk. Some were making sport of individuals and even imitating the words uttered in meeting; sacred things were made the subject of jest. Young men and young women were severely criticized; **courtship** and marriage were dwelt upon in a low, disgusting manner. There was scarcely a serious word spoken; the conversation was of a character to debase the mind and taint the morals, and all retired without committing themselves to God.

CH 412.4

81 1923 EGW Counsels on Health

If you turn from good counsel and choose to associate with those who you have reason to suspect are not religiously inclined, although they profess to be Christians, you will soon become like them. You place yourself in the way of temptation, on Satan's battleground, and will, unless constantly guarded, be overcome by his devices. There are persons who have for some time made a profession of religion, who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.

CH 416.1

82 1923 EGW Counsels on Health

To the young men and young women who are being educated as nurses and physicians I will say, Keep close to Jesus. By beholding Him we become changed into His likeness. Remember that you are not training for **courtship** or marriage, but for the marriage of Christ. You may have a theoretical knowledge of the truth, but this will not save you. You must

know by experience how sinful sin is, and how much you need Jesus as a personal Saviour. Only thus can you become sons and daughters of God. Your only merit is your great need.

[CH 590.2](#)

83 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*Satan's angels are keeping watch with those who devote a large share of the night to courting. Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of **courtship** before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of **courtship**!*

[MYP 457.2](#)

84 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*Section 15—**Courtship** and Marriage*

[MYP 433](#)

85 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*Chapter 149—Wrong Forms of **Courtship***

[MYP 437](#)

86 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*The habit of sitting up late at night is customary, but it is not pleasing to God, even if you are both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer lovesick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian.—Testimonies for the Church 3:44, 45.*

[MYP 438.2](#)

87 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*In these days of peril and corruption, the young are exposed to many trials and temptations. Many are sailing in a dangerous harbor. They need a pilot; but they scorn to accept the much-needed help, feeling that they are competent to guide their own bark, and not realizing that it is about to strike a hidden rock that may cause them to make shipwreck of faith and happiness. They are infatuated with the subject of **courtship** and marriage, and their principal burden is to have their own way. In this, the most important period of their lives, they need an unerring counselor, an infallible guide. This they will find in the Word of God. Unless they are diligent students of that Word, they will make grave mistakes, which will mar their happiness and that of others, both for the present and the future life.*

MYP 443.1

88 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty and demands right-doing under all circumstances. He who makes the Bible the guide of his youth, the light of his path, will obey its teachings in all things. He will not transgress one jot or tittle of the law in order to accomplish any object, even if he has to make great sacrifices in consequence. If he believes the Bible, he knows that the blessing of God will not rest upon him if he departs from the strict path of rectitude. Although he may appear for a time to prosper, he will surely reap the fruit of his doings.*

MYP 446.2

89 1930 EGW Messages to Young People

*The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. **Courtship**, as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.*

MYP 450.2

90 1932 EGW Medical Ministry

*The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They follow impulse and blind passion. The **courtship** is carried on in a spirit of flirtation. The parties frequently violate the rules of modesty and reserve, and are guilty of indiscretion, if they do not break the law of God. The high, noble, lofty design of God in the institution of marriage is not discerned; therefore the purest affections of the heart, the noblest traits of character, are not developed.*

MM 141.2

91 1932 EGW Medical Ministry

*Some who have influence, who are apparently working for the interest of the sanitarium, encourage by their own course of action a disregard of rules and of order; and the influence of such persons goes a long way toward encouraging insubordination, especially in the direction of **courtship** and marriage. The parties are unfitted for their duties; they live an unreal life, indulge in too high and romantic visions of bliss, and in their desire to please each other they become unfaithful.*

MM 141.1

92 1932 EGW Medical Ministry

*Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctioned affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalting in its nature, and more heavenly than earthy. Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God unless it is after the exalted Scriptural principle.*

MM 141.3

93 1949 EGW Testimony Treasures, vol. 1

My brethren and sisters, old and young, when you have an hour of leisure, open the Bible and store the mind with its precious truths. When

*engaged in labor, guard the mind, keep it stayed upon God, talk less, and meditate more. Remember: "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36. Let your words be select; this will close a door against the adversary of souls. Let your day be entered upon with prayer; work as in God's sight. His angels are ever by your side, making a record of your words, your deportment, and the manner in which your work is done. If you turn from good counsel and choose to associate with those who you have reason to suspect are not religiously inclined, although they profess to be Christians, you will soon become like them. You place yourself in the way of temptation, on Satan's battleground, and will, unless constantly guarded, be overcome by his devices. There are persons who have for some time made a profession of religion, who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts.*

1TT 586.2

94 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Wrong Ideas of **Courtship** and Marriage—The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They follow impulse and blind passion. The **courtship** is carried on in a spirit of flirtation. The parties frequently violate the rules of modesty and reserve and are guilty of indiscretion, if they do not break the law of God. The high, noble, lofty design of God in the institution of marriage is not discerned; therefore the purest affections of the heart, the noblest traits of character are not developed.*

AH 55.1

95 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Results of Unwise **Courtship** and Marriage.—We can see that innumerable difficulties meet us at every step. The iniquity that is cherished by young as well as old; the unwise, unsanctified **courtship** and marriages cannot fail to result in bickerings, in strife, in alienations, in indulgence of unbridled passions, in unfaithfulness of husbands and wives, unwillingness to restrain the self-willed, inordinate desires, and in indifference to the things of eternal interest....*

AH 53.3

96 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Satan's angels are keeping watch with those who devote a large share of the night to courting. Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of **courtship** before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of **courtship**.*

AH 56.2

97 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*There are persons who have for some time made a profession of religion who are, to all intents and purposes, without God and without a sensitive conscience. They are vain and trifling; their conversation is of a low order. **Courtship** and marriage occupy the mind, to the exclusion of higher and nobler thoughts. 10 Testimonies for the Church 4:589.*

AH 51.5

98 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*The young are bewitched with the mania for **courtship** and marriage. Lovesick sentimentalism prevails. Great vigilance and tact are needed to guard the youth from these wrong influences. 11 Ibid., 5:60.*

AH 52.1

99 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Chapter 8—Common **Courtship** Practices*

AH 55

100 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctified affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalted in its nature, and more heavenly than earthly.

Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God, unless it is after the exalted Scriptural principle. 1 Manuscript 4a, 1885.

[AH 55.2](#)

101 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. **Courtship** as carried on in this age is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter. 2 Fundamentals of Christian Education, 105.*

[AH 55.3](#)

102 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Keeping Late Hours—The habit of sitting up late at night is customary; but it is not pleasing to God, even if you are both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer lovesick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian. 3 Testimonies for the Church 3:44, 45.*

[AH 56.1](#)

103 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*Deceptive Practices in **Courtship**—A young man who enjoys the society and wins the friendship of a young lady unbeknown to her parents does not act a noble Christian part toward her or toward her parents. Through secret communications and meetings he may gain an influence over her mind, but in so doing he fails to manifest that nobility and integrity of soul which every child of God will possess. In order to accomplish their ends, they act a part that is not frank and open and according to the*

Bible standard, and prove themselves untrue to those who love them and try to be faithful guardians over them. Marriages contracted under such influences are not according to the word of God. He who would lead a daughter away from duty, who would confuse her ideas of God's plain and positive commands to obey and honor her parents, is not one who would be true to the marriage obligations....

AH 57.3

104 1952 EGW The Adventist Home

*“Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone, yet how much underhand stealing of affections is practiced and excused! A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty....*

AH 58.1

105 1977 EGW Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 1

***Courtship**—Good Common Sense Needed—The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily or be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. **Courtship**, as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.—The Review and Herald, January 26, 1886. (Messages to Young People, 450.)*

1MCP 295.1

106 1977 EGW Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 1

*Noblest Traits to Be Developed—The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They follow impulse and blind passion. The **courtship** is carried on in a spirit of flirtation. The parties frequently violate the rules of modesty and reserve and are guilty of indiscretion, if they do not break the law of God. The high,*

noble, lofty design of God in the institution of marriage is not discerned; therefore the purest affections of the heart, the noblest traits of character, are not developed.—Manuscript 4a, 1885. (Medical Ministry, 141.)

1MCP 295.2

107 1977 EGW Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 1

*Pure Affection More Heavenly Than Earthly—Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctioned affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalting in its nature, and more heavenly than earthly. Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God unless it is after the exalted Scriptural principle.—Manuscript 4a, 1885. (Medical Ministry, 141.)*

1MCP 296.1

108 1977 EGW Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 1

*Danger of Late Hours—The habit of sitting up late at night is customary; but it is not pleasing to God, even if you are both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer love-sick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian.—Testimonies for the Church 3:44, 45 (1872).*

1MCP 296.2

109 1977 EGW Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 1

*Our own college at Battle Creek has similar regulations, though not so stringent. Such rules are indispensable to guard the youth from the danger of premature **courtship** and unwise marriage. Young people are sent to school by their parents to obtain an education, not to flirt with the opposite sex. The good of society, as well as the highest interest of*

the students, demands that they shall not attempt to select a life partner while their own character is yet undeveloped, their judgment immature, and while they are at the same time deprived of parental care and guidance.—The Signs of the Times, March 2, 1882. (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 62.)

1MCP 302.3

110 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*Throughout this book are letters written under the inspiration of God and addressed to young people to help them make the right choices relating to their **courtship** and marriage.*

LYL 6.2

111 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*Make your **Courtship** Last Throughout your Marriage*

LYL 13

112 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctified affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalted in its nature, and more heavenly than earthly. Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God, unless it is after the exalted Scriptural principle.*

LYL 13.1

113 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*Let some of the hours of **courtship** before marriage run through the married life.*

LYL 13.2

114 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of **courtship**. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer lovesick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian.*

[LYL 35.2](#)

115 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*I am sorry that you have entangled yourself in any **courtship** with Elizabeth. In the first place, your anxiety upon this question is premature.*

[LYL 36.1](#)

116 1983 EGW Letters to Young Lovers

*“Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone; yet how much underhand stealing of affections is practiced and excused. A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty, and demands right doing under all circumstances.*

[LYL 49.2](#)

117 1987 EGW The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials

*The school is not to be regarded as a place for **courtship** or marriage, but as a place where the youth are to be educated and disciplined for practical life. Flirtation or special attentions between young ladies and young men cannot be permitted in the school. * See Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 101 and 6 Biography 382-386. Were the rules so lax as to admit of this, the education and home training of many have been so entirely different from what they ought to have been that the school would become demoralized, and parents would feel no safety in sending their children to the school.*

[1888 1222.2](#)

118 1989 EGW Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

*Consultation With God—The words of Christ should ever be borne in mind: “As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.” They married wives, they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. We see the same infatuation in regard to marriage. Youth, and even men and women, who ought to be wise and discerning, act as if bewitched upon this question. Satanic power seems to take possession of them. **Courtship** and marriage is the all-absorbing theme. The most indiscreet marriages are formed. God is not consulted. Human feelings, desires, and passions bear down everything before them, until the die is cast. Untold misery is the result of this state of things, and God is dishonored. The marriage bed is not sanctified or holy. Shall there not be a decided change in reference to this important matter?—Letter 6a, 1890.*

TSB 16.2

119 1989 EGW Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

*Long Engagements Not Wise—I am sorry that you have entangled yourself in any **courtship** with Nellie A. In the first place, your anxiety upon this question is premature. Sound judgment and discretion will bid you wait for one or two years. But for you to select one to be in your mind and affections that length of time would not be prudent for you or just to the one to whom you pay your address.*

TSB 19.3

120 1989 EGW Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

*I have been shown the evil of these early attachments, especially when a young man is away from the home roof and must select his companion without the discriminating eye of his mother. It is not safe for you to trust to your own judgment. Early anxiety upon the subject of **courtship** and marriage will divert your mind from your work and studies, and will produce in you and the one whom you flatter with your attentions a demoralizing influence. There will be in you both a vain forwardness in manners, and infatuation will seize you both, and you will be so completely blinded in regard to your influence and example that you will, if you continue in the course you have entered upon, expose yourselves to criticism and demand that censure should be passed upon your course.*

TSB 20.1

- 121 1989 EGW Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

*This **courtship** and marriage is the most difficult to manage, because the mind becomes so bewildered and enchanted that duty to God and everything else becomes tame and uninteresting, and calm and mature thought is the last thing to be exercised in this matter of the gravest importance. Dear youth, I speak to you as one who knows. Wait till you have some just knowledge of yourself and of the world, of the bearing and character of young women, before you let the subject of marriage possess your thoughts.*

TSB 20.2

- 122 1989 EGW Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

*Need of Mature Judgment—Maturity of judgment will give you much better discernment and power of discrimination to know the truth. Your character needs forming, your judgment needs strength before you entertain the thought of marriage. You are not now prepared to judge of another, and do not be betrayed into committing a grievous indiscretion, if not crime, for which the bitter regrets and tears of afterlife will bring no relief. The child, the mere undisciplined immature schoolgirl, the Miss, dependent upon the discretion of parents and guardians, has no reason to listen to anything like **courtship** or marriage. She should decline all special attentions which would have the least likelihood to lead to any such results, and devote herself intently to making herself as perfect a woman as possible, that her life may be useful, and learn a trade that she will have employment and be independent.*

TSB 21.1

- 123 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

*The ideas of **courtship** have their foundation in erroneous ideas concerning marriage. They follow impulse and blind passion. The **courtship** is carried on in a spirit of flirtation. The parties frequently violate the rules of modesty and reserve, and are guilty of indiscretion, if they do not break the law of God. The high, noble, lofty design of God in the institution of marriage is not discerned; therefore the purest affections of the heart, the noblest traits of character, are not developed.*

18MR 300.2

124 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 9 [Nos. 664-770]

*Those who give themselves to the work do not know what true religion is if they begin a spirit of **courtship**, as though God had called them to do thus. God never has called them. They do not know anything about His work, or they would have nothing like this. It is the invention of the devil to get hold of them, but they must feel that it is a sacred work they have in their hands and they must do it for time and for eternity. When you have the burden of the work upon you, you will be so afraid that you will not give a right answer to every man that asketh you, that you will have no time for this dallying. This lovesick sentimentalism is a curse everywhere, and when you see it in young people, would you think they are fitted for the work? The command was, "Tarry in Jerusalem, until you receive the Holy Ghost." You must be so fitted that there will not be any appearance of evil.*

9MR 255.2

125 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 13 [Nos. 1000-1080]

*The school is not to be regarded as a place for **courtship** or marriage, but as a place where the youth are to be educated and disciplined for practical life. Flirtation or special attentions between young ladies and young men cannot be permitted in the school.¹⁰ Were the rules so lax as to admit of this, the education and home training of many have been so entirely different from what they ought to have been that the school would become demoralized, and parents would feel no safety in sending their children to the school.*

13MR 145.2

126 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

And then there are those who, if so disposed, will find ways to secretly carry out their own inclinations, and pursue a course of deception to avoid the censure of those they deem so particular. Some who have influence, who are apparently working for the interest of the sanitarium, encourage by their own course of action a disregard of rules and of order;

¹⁰SEE Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 101 and 6 Biography 382-386.

*and the influence of such persons goes a long way toward encouraging insubordination, especially in the direction of **courtship** and marriage. The parties are unfitted for their duties; they live an unreal life, indulge in too high and romantic visions of bliss, and in their desire to please each other, they become unfaithful.*

18MR 300.1

127 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

*Not one word should be spoken, not one action performed, that you would not be willing the holy angels should look upon and register in the books above. You should have an eye single to the glory of God. The heart should have only pure, sanctified affection, worthy of the followers of Jesus Christ, exalted in its nature, and more heavenly than earthly. Anything different from this is debasing, degrading in **courtship**; and marriage cannot be holy and honorable in the sight of a pure and holy God unless it is after the exalted Scriptural principle.*

18MR 301.1

128 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

*My brother, you are sailing in a dangerous harbor. You need a Pilot. Will you scorn to accept the much-needed help, feeling that you are competent to guide your own vessel? Are you not afraid that it will strike some hidden rock, and that you will make shipwreck of faith? The present I regard as the most important period of your life. If you are indeed the young man that was shown me, your picture flatters you. Your features are sharper than the picture represents, but in other respects it correctly represents the young man presented before me who was, with other youth, infatuated with the subject of **courtship** and marriage, and whose principal burden was to have his own way.*

18MR 303.4

129 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

The young man who makes the Bible his guide need not mistake the path of duty and safety. That blessed Book will teach him to preserve his integrity of character, to be truthful, and to practice no deception. “Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables

*of stone, yet how much underhanded stealing of affections is done and excused by finite beings! A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of the daughter, who is inexperienced and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are fastened upon the one who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love.*

18MR 306.2

130 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

*There needs to be an awakening in regard to the matter of **courtship** and marriage. The fifth commandment is held lightly and even positively ignored by the lover's claim. This commandment is the only one to which is annexed a promise. To slight a mother's love, to dishonor a father's care, is a sin which stands registered against many youth. While there are weighty responsibilities devolving upon the parents to guard carefully the future happiness and interest of their children, it is also their duty to make home as attractive as possible. This is of far greater consequence than to acquire estates and money. Home must not lack sunshine. The home feeling should be kept alive in the hearts of the children, that home will be looked upon by them as a place of peace and happiness next to heaven. Then as they come to maturity they should in their turn try to be a comfort and blessing to their parents. They should not be too ready to leave their parental roof and give their affections and services to a stranger at the very time when they are most needed at home.*

18MR 309.3

131 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

***Courtship** as carried on in this age is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy. It has a bewitching influence upon the minds. I have been shown that had the purposes of many young persons been carried out, there would have been disappointments, estrangements, separation. The enemy of souls has far more to do with match-making than has the Lord, whose property they are. Many youth seem to think that marriage is the attainment of perfect bliss; but if these could see one quarter of the heart-aching letters that I have received from men and women who 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.

18MR 310.2

132 1990 EGW Manuscript Releases, vol. 18 [Nos. 1301-1359]

*The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, and be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the facts in the case are¹¹ it has little to do with **courtship** and marriage nowadays. There is serious, earnest reflection to be done before marriage, if you would not have the most miserable, unhappy reflections after marriage. This step, taken unwisely, is one of the most effective means of ruining the usefulness of men and women. Life becomes a burden, a curse.*

18MR 313.1

133 1991 EGW Counsels for the Church

*Satan's angels are keeping watch with those who devote a large share of the night to courting. Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of **courtship** before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of **courtship**.*

CCh 117.5

134 1991 EGW Counsels for the Church

*The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. **Courtship** as carried on in this age is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter.*

CCh 117.2

135 1991 EGW Counsels for the Church

¹¹that

*“Thou shalt not steal” was written by the finger of God upon the tables of stone, yet how much underhand stealing of affections is practiced and excused! A deceptive **courtship** is maintained, private communications are kept up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love. The Bible condemns every species of dishonesty.*

CCh 118.4

- 136 1998 EGW Daughters of God
Courtship and Marriage Serious Step

DG 189

- 137 1998 EGW Daughters of God
*Ellen White’s grandniece, Addie Walling, was like a daughter to her. A distant cousin of Addie’s apparently was interested in courting her. Mrs. White outlined her reasons for her lack of enthusiasm for such a **courtship**.*

DG 189.3

- 138 1998 EGW Daughters of God
*Now this is worse to me than the dreaded disease of consumption. But I could not consent to have there be an attachment between you and Reuben. It is just and right that you should open your mind freely to me on this subject of **courtship** and marriage, for this concerns your happiness more than any other event of your life, and you need counsel and advice here more than on any other point. I hope to hear from you often.—Letter 95, 1886.*

DG 190.3

- 139 1998 EGW Daughters of God
*The child, the mere undisciplined immature schoolgirl, the Miss, dependent upon the discretion of parents and guardians, has no reason to listen to anything like **courtship** or marriage. She should decline all special attentions which would have the least likelihood to lead to any*

such results, and devote herself intently to making herself as perfect a woman as possible, that her life may be useful, and learn a trade that she will have employment and be independent.—Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce, 21(1880).

DG 213.4