

Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery and Divorce Section II - Married to an Unbelieving Spouse

Are you married to a husband who is unconverted? These are matters to be considered by every woman who is married. There has been a prevalent cases of seeking separation and divorces more so in the case of women when a) they come into what they call “present truth” and the husband can’t comply to follow along, b) when a spouse is overtaken with adultery. Many do not want to sit down and establish the problem, seek counsel, and even reconciliation if possible. They want to use the Bible as a whip not a lesson book for redemption.

Ephesians 4:32

*And be ye kind one to another, **tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake **hath forgiven you**.*

When man sinned in the Garden of Eden, redemption plan was put in place. It’s so strange that those who are debtors of redemption would deal with each other in such harsh way. The redemption plan itself is a miniature of marriage. Christ the husband and the church the wife. How does the man Jesus Christ deal with his wife the Church?! Shall we not extend his traits on our dealings with each other? How many times have we fallen and he has picked us up and extended our probation?

Matthew 18

*21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, **how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?** 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, **Until seventy times seven**.*

Does this forgiven spoken here apply only to some termed “lesser” sins and not the perceived “greater” sin of adultery? Remember the same way you mete your fellow being is the same way Christ will measure you

Matthew 5

*7 Blessed [are] the **merciful**: for they shall obtain mercy. 9 Blessed [are] the **peacemakers**: for they shall be called the children of God.*

You don’t want to rush into decisions without prayerfully and in a redemptive manner considering the issue and trying your best in case of dealing with unbelieving spouse and a spouse overtaken with adultery. I don’t need to give an excuse of David and Bathsheba here neither would I want to forget how Abigail was much persevering for all those years with this rogue husband Nabal.

1 Peter 3

*1 Likewise, **ye wives**, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any **obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by***

the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear.

The **sinner may err**, but he is not cast off **without mercy**. His only hope, however, is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. **It is the Father's prerogative to forgive our transgressions and sins**, because Christ has taken upon Himself our guilt and reprieved us, imputing to us His own righteousness. His sacrifice satisfies fully the demands of justice. {FW 103.3}

Every true teacher will feel that should **he err at all, it is better to err on the side of mercy than on the side of severity**. {Ed 293.2}

People always desire the “prerogative” or character of God but I ask which one do you desire; the one of executing judgment in exercise of justice or bearing long with sinners? Let us then be careful lest by thinking we are observers of the letter of the law find out that we didn’t have the spirit of the law which is far more important for our salvation.

The Christian Spouse's Behavior

No Thought of Divorce. **If the wife is an unbeliever and an opposer, the husband cannot, in view of the law of God, put her away on this ground alone**. In order to be in harmony with the law of Jehovah, he must abide with her, **unless she chooses of herself to depart**.--Letter 8, 1888. {TSB 39.1}

A Christian Wife's Obligations. I have some things to say to you from the Lord. The Lord has a work for you to do; it is not a public work, but a very important one, a work in your own home, **to be true to your position as a wife and mother**. No other can do this, your work. {TSB 39.2}

How does a mother behave with the erring ones? Many have taken upon the responsibilities of motherhood without an idea of what it encompasses. The work of the mother is to keep the family close to her in adversity not to scatter them, learn from the hen as a mother. This is not the time to set the children against their father and the husband to set the children against the mother for he is to shield the family from and danger. Husbands, learn from the Lion.

A Wife's First Duty -- Her Home. With this Scripture before you, I ask, For what are you spending your time in Battle Creek? Has God called you to neglect your home? No, no. My sister, the Lord has shown me that you are mistaking your duty. Your husband needs you; your children need their mother. You have stepped out of the path where Jesus leads the way. He is saying to you, "Follow Me," and He will lead you in your own home duties, which are now sadly neglected. The voice of the Lord has not bidden you to separate your interests from that of your husband and children. Your first

duty is in the home. The Spirit of the Lord has not given you a work, or qualified you to do a work, that is contrary to His own Word. . . . {TSB 40.1}

What does it mean to spend your time in “Battle Creek?” Women are busy with their trade, obsessed with some education or some perceived religious duty that they don’t know they were married. This gives way to many husbands to be overtaken in temptation and seek social fulfillment elsewhere. At the same time, these women come to get used to A or B till they start comparing him with their husband. This has wrecked many families.

Proverbs 14

*1 Every wise woman **buildeth her house**: but the foolish **plucketh it down with her hands**.*

Counsel to a Mother. You have a great work, a sacred, holy calling to exemplify the Christian graces as a faithful wife and mother; **to be lovable, patient, kind, yet firm, in your home life; to learn right methods and acquire tact for the training of your own little ones, that they may keep the way of the Lord**. As a humble child of God, learn in the school of Christ; seek constantly to improve your powers to do the most perfect, thorough work at home, both by precept and example. {TSB 40.2}

In this work you will have the help of the Lord; but if you ignore your duty as a wife and mother, and hold out your hands for the Lord to put another class of work in them, be sure that He will not contradict Himself; He points you to the duty you have to do at home. **If you have the idea that some work greater and holier than this has been entrusted to you, you are under a deception. In neglecting your husband and children for what you suppose to be religious duties, either to attend meetings or to work for others, to give Bible readings or to have messages for others, you are going directly contrary to the words of inspiration in the instruction of Paul to Titus. The religion of Christ never leads a wife and mother to do as you have done.** {TSB 40.3}

You may now cultivate the home-making qualities with good effect, for your children are of the age when they most need a mother. The restless spirit naturally inclines to mischief; the active mind, if left unoccupied with better things, will give heed to that which Satan may suggest. The children need the watchful eye of the mother. They need to be instructed, to be guided in safe paths, to be kept from vice, to be won by kindness, and be confirmed in well doing, by diligent training. {TSB 41.1}

The Saviour discerns a value and dignity in every soul, because of the image of God which it bears. He died that your children might have the gift of eternal life. He looks upon them with divine compassion. Their souls may be saved unto eternal life, and they are just as precious as the souls of others. **The Lord has not called you to neglect your home and your husband and children. He never works in this way, and He never will.** You have

before your own door **a little plot of ground to care for, and God will hold you responsible for this work which He has left in your hands.** Through earnest prayer and study, you may become wise in your home, learning the different dispositions of your children and carefully noting their behavior. You may have at home a little school, of which you shall be the teacher. If you seek wisdom from the Lord to understand His way, and to keep it, He will lead you, not away from your home, but back to it. {TSB 41.2}

Poverty No Sin. If you are one of those who are the light of the world, that light is to shine in your home. **Poverty has been your lot, but this you could not help, and it was not sin.** But your mind has been of that cast which has led you to view everything in too intense a light. Here you have lessons to learn at the feet of Jesus; you need to trust more to Jesus, and be less anxious; you need to have genuine faith in the promises of God. Yet you are to be a laborer together with God, cultivating your mind, that you may bring to the education and training of your children a restful spirit, a loving heart, that you may imbue them with pure aspirations, [and] cultivate in them a love for things honest and pure and holy. {TSB 41.3}

I find it disturbing too when a woman will always be demanding the husband to bear the burdens of the finances when she lives only to receive and not to give. Has the husbands been called to be workaholics till their own life is imperiled to satisfy the comfortability of a wife who is looking for every excuse for separation and divorce?

Here are things which should be considered: Will the one you marry bring happiness to your home? Is [she] an economist, or will she, if married, not only use all her own earnings, but all of yours to gratify a vanity, a love of appearance? Are her principles correct in this direction? **HAS SHE ANYTHING NOW TO DEPEND UPON?** . . . I know that to the mind of a man infatuated with love and thoughts of marriage these questions will be brushed away as though they were of no consequence. But these things should be duly considered, for they have a bearing upon your future life. . . . {AH 46.2}

Many a wife think it is the duty of a man to supply everything but this is not so

We need carefully to search our hearts and study our motives. Selfishness may prompt the desire to do what appears to be an unselfish and praiseworthy act. The reason that many urge for desiring to adopt a child - the longing for something on which to center our affections - reveals the fact that the heart is not centered upon Christ: it is not absorbed in his work. When I have heard a wife mourning that her husband did not show her all the affection that she thought he should, I have sent a silent petition to God, that this soul might be refreshed with the Word. From the light that God has given me, I knew that she needed to drink the deep, cool waters of Lebanon, instead of the turbid streams of the valley. When women will feed upon the

Water of Life, they will have far less sentimentalism, and far greater spirituality. They will purify their souls by obeying the truth. If a woman's life is connected with one whom God has chosen, to be a laborer together with God, let her consider that she can make his heart tired, and his soul sad, by her unconsecrated course of action. If self clamors for attention, and unless great devotion is shown her, she becomes unhappy, and she may greatly hinder him in his work. She needs to learn of Christ, who lived not to please himself. He is our example in all things. If the wife is a colaborer with Christ in the work of saving souls, she will keep abreast with her husband in cultivating mind and heart. She will endeavor to stand equal with him in knowledge of the Word of God, and in obedience to all of His requirements. She will keep her own soul refreshed by eating the Word and drinking the waters from the wellspring of life. Then the words she speaks will not be prompted by envy or jealousy. They will proceed from a sanctified heart, that has been daily learning lessons at the feet of Jesus. Thus, instead of making herself a helpless burden, to be the object of her husband's solicitude, and to demand a large share of his attention, the wife may strengthen her husband to do the highest service for God. SpM 115.2 - SpM 115.3

A Home Where Shadows Are Never Lifted.--***The heart yearns for human love, but this love is not strong enough, or pure enough, or precious enough to supply the place of the love of Jesus.*** Only in her Saviour can the wife find wisdom, strength, and grace to meet the cares, responsibilities, and sorrows of life. She should make Him her strength and her guide. Let woman give herself to Christ before giving herself to any earthly friend, and enter into no relation which shall conflict with this. Those who would find true happiness must have the blessing of Heaven upon all that they possess and all that they do. It is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery. My sister, unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God. {AH 67.3}

A Safe Marriage Alliance.--It is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. ***Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love.*** Only where Christ reigns can there be deep, true, unselfish affection. {AH 68.2}

Marriages That Heaven Cannot Bless--Instituted by God, ***marriage is a sacred ordinance and should never be entered upon in a spirit of selfishness.*** Those who contemplate this step should solemnly and prayerfully consider its importance, and seek divine counsel that they may know whether they are pursuing a course in harmony with the will of God. The instruction given in God's Word on this point should be carefully considered. Heaven looks with pleasure upon a marriage formed with an earnest desire to conform to the directions given in the Scripture. {10MR 190.1}

Human love and cannot supply for divine love for it is only self-seeking and the former is what most seek that is why marriages are filled with misery.

Jesus came to our world to rectify [man's] mistakes and to restore the moral image of God in man. **WRONG SENTIMENTS IN REGARD TO MARRIAGE HAD FOUND A PLACE IN THE MINDS OF THE TEACHERS OF ISRAEL. THEY WERE MAKING OF NONE EFFECT THE SACRED INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE. MAN WAS BECOMING SO HARDHEARTED THAT HE WOULD FOR THE MOST TRIVIAL EXCUSE SEPARATE FROM HIS WIFE,** or if he chose, he would separate her from the children and send her away. This was considered a great disgrace, and was often accompanied by the most acute suffering on the part of the discarded one. {10MR 198.3}

Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment. Determine to be all that it is possible to be to each other. Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. **Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance.** Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven. [AH 106.1]

If you inquire about all these separations and divorces, 90% is not because of adultery but trivial things. And when men and women fail in their duties, the children choose sides and the one that is strong wins the affection of children.

God's Care for Children. **Never for a moment suppose that God has given you a work that will necessitate a separation from your precious little flock.** Do not leave them to become demoralized by improper associations and to **harden their hearts against their mother.** This is letting your light shine in a wrong way altogether. You are making it more difficult for your children to become what God would have them and win heaven at last. God cares for them, and so must you if you claim to be His child. {TSB 42.1}

Rights of Husband and Children. When we give ourselves unreservedly to the Lord, the simple, commonplace duties of home life will be seen in their true importance, and we shall perform them in accordance with the will of God. **Oh, my sister, you may be bound about with poverty, your lot in life may be humble, but Jesus does not forsake you because of this, neither does He lead you to forsake your family for this or for any other cause.** God has made you a trustee, a steward, in your home. Seek to educate yourself for this work, and He will be by your side to bless all your endeavors, that by and by, when the reckoning time for the administration of your trust shall come, He may say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." {TSB 42.3}

Your husband has rights; your children have rights; and these must not be ignored by you. Whether you have one talent or three or five, God has given

you your work. Parents are fearfully neglectful of their home duties. They do not meet the Bible standard. **But to those who forsake their homes, their companions, and children, God will not entrust the work of saving souls, for they have proved unfaithful to their holy vows. They have proved unfaithful to sacred responsibilities. God will not entrust to them eternal riches.** {TSB 43.1}

Letters have come from mothers, relating their trials at home and asking my counsel. One of these cases will serve to represent many. **The husband and father is not a believer, and everything is made hard for the mother in the training of her children.** The husband is a profane man, vulgar and abusive in his language to herself, and he teaches the children to disregard her authority. When she is trying to pray with them he will come in and make all the noise he can, and break out into cursing God and heaping vile epithets upon the Bible. She is so discouraged that life is a burden to her. **What good can she do? What benefit is it to her children for her to remain at home? She has felt an earnest desire to do some work in the Lord's vineyard, and has thought that it might be best to leave her family, rather than to remain while the husband and father is constantly teaching the children to disrespect and disobey her.** {TSB 43.2}

Now these are serious matters mentioned above if a woman would get herself in them. This woman has light and she feels she needs to go and do some service away from home and provide an environment for the children that is apt for heavenward. What is the counsel then?

In such cases my advice would be, Mothers, whatever trials you may be called to endure through poverty, through wounds and bruises of the soul, from the harsh, overbearing assumption of the husband and father, do not leave your children; do not give them up to the influence of a godless father. Your work is to counteract the work of the father, who is apparently under the control of Satan.--Letter 28, 1890. {TSB 43.3}

Counsel to the Wife of an Unbelieving Husband. We receive many letters soliciting advice. One mother says her husband is an unbeliever. She has children, but they are taught by the father to disrespect the mother. She is deeply burdened for her children. She does not know what course she can pursue. She then expresses her anxiety to do something in the cause of God, and inquires if **I think she has a duty to leave her family, if she is convinced she can do no good to them.** {TSB 44.1}

I would answer: My sister, I cannot see how you could be clear before the Lord and leave your husband and your children. I cannot think you would feel that you could do this yourself. The trials you may have may be of a very trying character. You may be often pained to the heart because disrespect is shown you, but I am sure that it must be your duty to care for your own

children. This is your field where you have your appointed work. It may be rocky and discouraging soil to work, but you have a Companion in all your efforts to do your duty unflinchingly, conscientiously, notwithstanding all the discouraging circumstances. Jesus is your helper. Jesus came into our world to save lost and perishing souls, and you are to consider that in this work you are a laborer together with God. {TSB 44.2}

I will pause here and say something. Many women just see Ellen White as a prophetess and not a lady, woman, spouse and a wife. She was these things apart from a prophetess. If you haven't studied her biography, her poverty, struggle with James White on family issues and struggle with her children moreso Henry and Edson, please take time and read it. She could have simply walked out of marriage but she didn't.

Home Trials for Jesus' Ear Only. Do not shirk your responsibilities. Be a daily home missionary. Not only teach your children from their babyhood, but train them. Keep a steady, firm hold upon your children. You must not only tell them what to do, but, to the very best of your ability, make their surroundings favorable and sow your precious seed in the love and spirit of Jesus. **Because Satan uses the father of your children to counteract your work, do not be discouraged; do not give up the conflict. Do as you wish them to do. Treat your husband with kindness at all times and on all occasions, and bind your children to your heart with the cords of love. This is your work; this is the burden you have to bear. Talk not your home trials to anyone but Jesus; pour them into His ear.** {TSB 44.3}

I myself is a married man for two years and I have learned these things and now I can advise by experience. What seemed so perplexing in marriage has been so easy when you put Christ first and self out of picture.

Jesus "came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" [John 1:11-13]. His business is still saving even those who are violent opposers of truth and we must have the same attitude with those who wrong us. Read the attitude of the true disciples of Christ:

In view of all that Christ had suffered there, and the unappreciated labor He had put forth, the disciples might have pleaded for a more promising field; but they made no such plea. The very ground where He had scattered the seed of truth was to be cultivated by the disciples, and the seed would spring up and yield an abundant harvest. In their work the disciples would have to **meet persecution through the jealousy and hatred of the Jews**; but this had been endured by their Master, and **they were not to flee from it.**

The first offers of mercy must be made to the murderers of the Saviour. {DA 820.3}

We need more endurance if we would be called Disciples of Christ.

Value of a Christlike Life. Grace is not inherited. ***A very bad father may have a godly son; a Christian father a profligate son. Let mothers take up the burdens made doubly heavy for them by the course of the head of the household. This makes your work plain, to let your light shine in the household where Satan is at work to secure your children to himself. Shall he have them? Let the missionary spirit rise to the emergency and say, "No, no; my children, although they have a godless father, are the purchase of the blood of Christ. I am their mother. I will seek the Lord in faith, in humility, that He will not only save my children, but [also] their father, to repentance." Talk not and plead not for the sympathy of your husband and your children, but simply live the life of Christ. In words, in spirit, in character, in meekness, in patience and forbearance, in cheerfulness, be a signpost pointing out the way, the path that leads heavenward.*** {TSB 45.2}

Be a witness for Christ. Exemplify the strength of the Christian's hope, which is cast into that within the veil. Reveal that the anchor holds you under all circumstances. Let your home be made pleasant and cheerful. Jesus--you must rely on Jesus every moment. Draw your strength from Jesus. He will give you that which you ask in sincerity. If you seek Him with your whole heart, He will be found of you. {TSB 46.1}

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

Cheerfulness Better Than Complaining. Have you felt your lot was hard, and complained and murmured? Then as you received no help in this line, begin another course of action. Speak kindly; be cheerful. Because you have Jesus as your helper, break forth in songs of praise. When tempted, when reviled, revile not again; and labor with your children while there is one out of Christ.

Sow the seed, the living seed, deep into the soil of the heart. Let your words be wisely chosen. Consider yourself as God's appointed missionary, to be the light of your home. {TSB 46.3}

Again I say, It is not like the works of God to call the mother away from her husband and from her children to engage in what she considers higher work. Take right hold of the duties lying directly in your path. {TSB 47.1}

Post of Duty at Home. I am pained when I receive letters from mothers who have children inquiring, "Shall I leave my children to do missionary work?" In the fear and love of God I say, Become a home missionary. Educate yourself in Bible ways and means, that you may be a successful worker in your own home, for, you see, they need to be saved, for they are sinners. **Do not forsake your post of duty because of the unpleasantness of it. There are many living martyrs today who suffer in silence, who trust in God when they are abused with the tongue and who are tantalized, who are hurt and wounded by coarse, harsh denunciations, whose lot seems to be to live and to suffer, receiving comfort only from Jesus who is the Source of their strength. Such souls are missionaries. They are Christ's noble ones, and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. {TSB 47.2}**

Remember, Jesus knows it all--every sorrow, every grief; He will not leave you to sink, for His arms are beneath you. You may be an enlightenment to a whole neighborhood if you are indeed patient, kind, forbearing. IN THIS, MY SISTER, CONSIDER YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED.--Ms 9, 1868. {TSB 47.3}

Secure in God's Promises. It is essential for you to put your trust in God. **I am sorry that in the place where you live you have so little encouragement in religious lines.** There are many who will give you words of sympathy, but they do not bring comfort to the longing, hungry soul, which is bruised and wounded and which needs the healing balm. Never forget that your Saviour lives and reigns. Your grasp on the divine promises must be strong. Human teachers in Christian faith are few. {TSB 47.4}

You may have felt almost discouraged, and may have yielded to the temptation to neglect your religious duties, to shun the cross-bearing life of a Christian; you may have consented to be governed by worldly principles and sentiments; you may have neglected prayer, neglected to confess Christ. If you have done this, do so no more. Remember the words of Christ, "Ye are My witnesses." Your light may have been flickering, but, thank God, it is not too late, even now, to acknowledge the claims the Lord has upon you. {TSB 48.1}

Trust in the Merits of Christ. You are the property of Jesus Christ. He has purchased you at an infinite cost to Himself. His you are by creation and by redemption. Although to you your hope of heaven may be at times

uncertain, yet you know in whom to trust. Your hope of heaven is found alone in the merits of Jesus Christ. You may now gain a living experience in the things of God. Looking unto Jesus by faith, trusting in His merits, doubts of His love will vanish as dew before the morning sun. {TSB 48.2}

Steadfast in Surrender to Christ. Let your surrender to God be full and complete; wait not one day or hour. Make the most now of your probationary time, be it longer or shorter. Just as soon as you cast yourself unreservedly upon Jesus Christ, He accepts you. **Do not in any way conceal the fact that you have chosen truth and all the inconveniences that this choice will involve.** {TSB 48.3}

Never, under any circumstances, even in appearance, consent to leave the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. Be steadfast, immovable to Christian obligations and to your God. {TSB 48.4}

The Witness of a Christian Mother. **But I am not able to write you more. If you love the father of your children, live the life of a Christian at all times and under all circumstances. If you had done this, God would have worked in your behalf. But when you please yourself, and displease your heavenly Father, how can the Lord work in your behalf?** {TSB 49.1}

May the Lord help you, my poor, dear, tempted one, to choose the right way just now. **May He help you to give your husband and children a testimony that you are a Christian in practice, that you love God, that you love Jesus, who gave His life for you.** And as your day is, so shall your strength be. [See Deuteronomy 33:25.]--Letter 76, 1896. {TSB 49.2}

The Winning of a Non-Christian Companion. My sister, our Saviour is a present help in every time of need. Do not distrust Him. Do not take your troubles to human beings; take them to the Lord. You may think that others should sympathize with you in your downcast feelings, but you will sometimes be disappointed. Jesus never disappoints one who comes to Him for help. {TSB 49.3}

Are you one that makes mistakes? Go to Jesus, and ask Him to forgive you, and then believe that He does. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" [1 John 1:9]. Ask the Lord to pardon your errors, then rejoice in Him. **It will not help you in the least to keep mourning over your defects.** Say, "Lord, I cast my helpless soul on Thee, and Thee alone. I will not worry, because Thou hast said, 'Ask, and ye shall receive.'" Believe that you do receive. Believe that your Saviour is full of compassion, full of tender pity and love. Let not little mishaps trouble you. Small mistakes may be ordered by the Lord to save you from making larger mistakes. {TSB 49.4}

No Argument With Satan. Act your part in helping yourself, as all must do who would be blessed. Believe that Christ helps you. **Refuse to speak a**

word of unbelief. When the enemy tells you that the Lord has forsaken you, tell him that you know He has not, for He declares, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." {TSB 50.1}

Jesus says, "Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out" [John 6:37]. Then, my sister, dismiss the enemy. Tell him that you will not dishonor God by doubting His mercy, His goodness, His love. Never argue with Satan, for he has wonderful powers of deception. If, when he went to Adam and Eve, they had kept repeating the words of God, saying "He hath said, and I believe His word, I will not distrust Him," they would not have been overcome. {TSB 50.2}

Singing Better Than Bemoaning. **Instead of bemoaning your weakness and talking unbelief and feeling that you are hardly used, begin to sing.** Talk of the mercy and love of God. To all who labor and are heavy laden Christ gives the invitation, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" [Matthew 11:28-30]. This is the lesson that Christ desires you to learn, and in learning it you will find rest. {TSB 50.3}

Gentle Words. **When discouraging words are spoken to you, do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer.** When you are tried and tempted by unkind words, do not retaliate. Say to yourself, "I will not disappoint my Saviour." Every man who is a Christian is a gentleman; and every woman who is a Christian is a gentlewoman. **The law of kindness is ever on the lips of the Christian woman. She utters no hasty words. To speak gentle words when you feel irritated will bring sunshine into your heart, and will make your path more smooth. A school girl, in answer to a question, said, "Meek people are those who give soft answers to rough questions."** Christ says, "Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." They will be fit subjects for the kingdom of heaven, because they are willing to be taught. {TSB 50.4}

You say that your husband is not yet converted to the truth. Show him in your life the advantage of taking Christ at His word. By patience, forbearance, and kindness you may win your husband to the Saviour. {TSB 51.1}

Life Not a Romance but a Reality. In the power of God's grace you may obtain most precious victories. **You are not to treat your life as a romance, but as a reality.** You are to be a laborer together with God in forming a character that He can approve. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Does the charge end there? No, no, thank God! "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" [Philippians 2:12, 13]. {TSB 51.2}

You are to be a co-worker with Him in the saving of your soul. You are to will to do the will of God. Then do not spend your time and strength in

murmuring, in talking unbelief and finding fault with God. Encourage confidence in Him. Speak kindly of Him. Honor Him who "so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" [John 3:16]. {TSB 51.3}

Discharge of Home Duties. Be sure to perform your smallest duties in the fear and love of God, with faithfulness and cheerfulness. God declares, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" [Luke 16:10]. Faithfully discharge your home duties, and then leave yourself with God, saying, "I commit the keeping of my soul to Him. I will not take the ordering of my life out of His hands. I will leave myself in His keeping." {TSB 51.4}

Study the life that Christ lived while on this earth. He did not disregard the simplest, smallest duty that fell to Him. Perfection marked all that He did. Look to Jesus for help, and this will enable you to perform your daily duties with the grace and dignity of one who is seeking for a crown of immortal life. {TSB 52.1}

All that God expects of you and all other Christians is that you live out your profession. Show that Christ's word is true, that He can keep human beings from sin. Conform your life to His pure, beautiful, holy life. Obey His commandments. This will bring you practical godliness. {TSB 52.2}

Only One Life. **Do not dwell upon the hardships of the Christian life.** Do not talk of your trials, for if you do, you will become more and more inclined to complain of God. Talk of the love of Christ, bringing it into your heart and life. Be thankful that the Lord has spared you, that you have not been cut off without having gained a preparation for entrance into the heavenly kingdom, where there is no sin, no sorrow. You have only one life in which to perfect a Christian character. If you reveal the grace of God in your character, if the law of kindness is ever on your lips, if you constantly thank the Lord for His goodness to you, you are preparing to praise Him in the

The Husband's Wishes Regarding Food. The day we visited you we appreciated much the bountiful repast prepared for us. But you need to study how to prepare nutritious food in the most simple way. **Your husband's wishes regarding the preparation of food should be respected**, and still you may study to prepare appetizing dishes in as simple and healthful a way as possible, so that the fine nerves of the brain will not become weakened and paralyzed, **making you excitable, nervous, and easily provoked.** {TSB 52.4}

My dear sister, you stand in a responsible position in your home. Hold the reins of government with a wise, even hand. Do not allow the members of your family to lose their love and respect for you. Bind them to your heart with the silken cords of love. This you can do if you live close to Jesus. By beholding Him you will be changed into His image, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **God loves you; He loves your husband, and He is seeking to draw him to Himself. He**

desires to take his attention off mere earthly enterprises, and fix them on the eternal riches.--Letter 145, 1900. {TSB 53.1}

You say that your husband is not yet converted to the truth. Show him in your life the advantage of taking Christ at His word. By patience, forbearance, and kindness you may win your husband to the Saviour. {TSB 51.1}

Recap and Further Admonitions

Make a Success of Domestic Life--Counsel to a Mother.--**You should not follow your own inclinations.** You should be very careful to set a right example in all things. Do not be inactive. Arouse your dormant energies. **Make yourself a necessity to your husband by being attentive and helpful. Be a blessing to him in everything.** Take up the duties essential to be done. Study how to perform with alacrity the plain, uninteresting, homely, but most needful duties which relate to domestic life. . . . {CG 74.2}

Try to make a success of your domestic life. **It means more to fill the position of wife and mother than you have thought.** You need the culture and experience of domestic life. You need the variety, the stir, the earnest effort, the cultivation of the will power, that this life brings. {CG 74.3}

From the camp meeting we may take with us a better understanding of our home duties. **There are lessons to be learned here regarding the work the Lord would have our sisters do in their homes.** They are to learn to cultivate politeness of speech when speaking to husband and children. They are to study how they may help to bring every member of the family under discipline to God. **Let fathers and mothers realize that they are under obligation to make home pleasant and attractive, and that obedience is not to be obtained by scolding and threats.** Many parents have yet to learn that no good is accomplished by outbursts of scolding. Many do not consider the need of speaking kindly to the children. They do not remember that these little ones are bought with a price and are the purchased possession of the Lord Jesus. {CG 76.1}

Scolding and fretting, gathering clouds and gloom about the soul, will bring only a shadow and discouragement in the home life. **Mothers do not half appreciate their possibilities and privileges. They do not seem to understand that they can be in the highest sense missionaries, laborers together with God in aiding their children to build up a symmetrical character.** This is the great burden of the work given them of God. The mother is God's agent to Christianize her family. She is to exemplify Bible religion, showing how its influence is to control us in its everyday duties and pleasures, teaching her children that by grace alone can they be saved, through faith, which is the gift of God. This constant teaching as to what Christ is to us, and to them, His love, His goodness, His

mercy, revealed in the great plan of redemption, will make a hallowed, sacred impress on the heart. {8MR 437.2}

Those we love may speak or act unguardedly, which may wound us deeply. It was not their intention to do this, but Satan magnifies their words and acts before the mind in a manner by which he hurls a dart from his quiver to pierce us. **We brace ourselves to resist the one whom we think has injured us, and thus we encourage Satan's temptations.** Instead of praying to God for strength to resist Satan, **we suffer our happiness to be marred by trying to stand for what we term "our rights."** In thus doing, we allow Satan a double advantage. We act out our aggrieved feelings, and by taking this course Satan uses us as his agents to wound and distress those who did not intend to injure us. **The requirements of the husband may sometimes seem unreasonable to the wife, when if she should take the second view of the matter, in as favorable a light for him as possible, if she would calmly, candidly consider, she would see that to yield her own way, and submit to the judgment of her husband, even if it conflicted with her feelings, would save them both from unhappiness, and would give them great victory over the temptations of Satan.** {RH, April 22, 1862 par. 11}

Dealing With Those Overtaken in the Sin of Adultery March 24, 1868

A Statement by Ellen and James White [INASMUCH AS THIS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED JOINTLY BY JAMES AND ELLEN WHITE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HAD THE FULL SANCTION OF ELLEN WHITE.]

*In regard to the case of the injured sister A. G., we would say in reply to the questions of J. H. W., **that it is a feature in the cases of most who have been overtaken in sin, as her husband has, that they have no real sense of their villainy. Some, however, do, and are restored to the church; but not till they have merited the confidence of the people of God by unqualified confessions, and a period of sincere repentance.** This case presents difficulties not found in some, and we would add only the following: {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 1}*

1. In cases of the violation of the seventh commandment, where the guilty party does not manifest true repentance, if the injured party can obtain a divorce without making their own cases and that of their children, if they have them, worse by so doing, they should be free. {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 2}

2. If they would be liable to place themselves and their children in worse condition by a divorce, we know of no scripture that would make the innocent party guilty by remaining. {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 3}

3. Time, and labor, and prayer, and patience, and faith, and a godly life, might work a reform. To live with one who has broken the marriage vows, and is covered all over with the disgrace and shame

of guilty love, realizes it not, is an eating canker to the soul; and yet, a divorce is a life-long, heart-felt sore. God pity the innocent party. Marriage should be considered well before contracted. {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 4}

4. *Why! oh, why! will men and women who might be respectable, and good, and reach Heaven at last, sell themselves to the Devil so cheap, wound their bosom friends, disgrace their families, bring a reproach upon the cause, and go to hell at last? God have mercy. **Why will not those who are overtaken in crime manifest repentance proportionate to the enormity of their crime, and fly to Christ for mercy, and heal, as far as possible, the wounds they have made?*** {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 5}

5. ***But, if they will not do as they should, and if the innocent have forfeited the legal right to a divorce, by living with the guilty after his guilt is known, we do not see that sin rests upon the innocent in remaining, and her moral right in departing seems questionable, IF HER HEALTH AND LIFE BE NOT GREATLY ENDANGERED IN SO REMAINING.*** {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 6}

6. ***As in the days of Noah, one of the signs of these times is a passion for injudicious and hasty marriages. Satan is in this. If Paul could remain single, and recommend the same to others, that he and they might be wholly the Lord's, why not those who would be wholly his, and wish to make a sure thing of avoiding the cares, trials, and bitter anguish, so frequent in the experiences of those who choose the married life, remain as he was? And more, if he chose to remain so, and could recommend it to others, eighteen centuries since, would not to remain as he was, be a commendable course for those who are waiting for the coming of the Son of man, unless evidences were unquestionable that they were bettering their condition, and making Heaven more sure by so doing? When so much is at stake, why not be on the sure side every time?***

James White,
Ellen G. White. {RH, March 24, 1868 par. 7}

The church, men and women need to flee to the word of God and not feelings if they would enter the Kingdom of God. Much more we need to learn of Christ if we would have Adventist homes. It would be better to give up the sol called "our rights" and enter the kingdom than pursue at the peril of losing souls that might have been saved if we had manifested the patience of the saints.

A Reminder

*I saw that those who profess the truth should hold the standard high, and **induce others to come up to it.** I saw that some would have to walk the **straight path alone.** Their companions and children will **not walk the self-denying pathway** with them. **Patience and forbearance should ever characterize the lives of those lone pilgrims, following the***

example of their blessed Master. They will have many trials to endure, but they have a hope that makes the soul strong, that bears them up above the trials of earth, that elevates them above scorn, derision and reproach. Those who possess a hope like this should never indulge a harsh, unkind spirit. This will only injure their own souls, and drive their friends farther from the truth. Treat them tenderly. Give them no occasion to reproach the cause of Christ; but never yield the truth to please any one. Be decided, be fixed, be established, be not of a doubtful mind. {2SG 266.1}

But if your companions and children will not come, if you cannot win them to yield to the claims of truth, make their lives here as pleasant as possible; for all they will ever enjoy will be this poor world. But let not your duty to them interfere with your duty to God. Pursue a straight-forward course. Let nothing they may do or say provoke an angry word from you. You have a hope that will yield you consolation amid the disappointments and trials of life. Your companions and children who will not be induced to tread the narrow, cross-bearing pathway with you, have not this divine consolation. They should have your pity, for this world is all the heaven they will have. {2SG 266.2}

Sami LW – Gospel Sounders Rekindling the Reformation Ministry [GSrrM]

Blessings