

MARRYING THE RIGHT PERSON

From the Series "Relationships, God's Way"

"Never should God's people venture upon forbidden ground. Marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by God. But too often the unconverted heart follows its own desires, and marriages unsanctioned by God are formed. Because of this many men and women are without hope and without God in the world. Their noble aspirations are dead; by a chain of circumstances they are held in Satan's net. Those who are ruled by passion and impulse will have a bitter harvest to reap in this life, and their course may result in the loss of their souls.

Those who profess the truth trample on the will of God in marrying unbelievers; they lose His favor and make bitter work for repentance. The unbelieving may possess an excellent moral character, but the fact that he or she has not answered to the claims of God and has neglected so great salvation is sufficient reason why such a union should not be consummated. The character of the unbelieving may be similar to that of the young man to whom Jesus addressed the words, 'One thing thou lackest'; that was the one thing needful." {*Adventist Home*, White; pg. 63}

"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.**

"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up, until the affections of one who is inexperienced, and knows not whereunto these things may grow, are in a measure withdrawn from her parents and placed upon him who shows by the very course he pursues that he is unworthy of her love.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." {*Letter to Young Lovers*, White; pg. 49}

Covenant Challenges (Based upon God's Promises to Us)

- 1) Covenant that you will submit and surrender your life to the love of God so that you may have a successful marriage!
- 2) Covenant that you will only marry a person that is of the same faith as you!
- 3) Covenant men, that when you are ready to get married, you will ask the permission of your girlfriend's parents before you ask for your girlfriend's hand in marriage.
- 4) Covenant women, that you will only marry the man who is respectful enough, to ask for your parent's permission in order to marry you.

Suggested Reading: *Letters to Young Lovers*; Ellen White