

Can Christ Save The Body - The Home

“I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, ‘Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. **A great work must be done for the remnant.**” *Early Writings* 119

“It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; **they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship.** The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. *Steps To Christ* 17

1 Peter 3:1-5

Peter is addressing the current state of society and the need of the people of God to be peculiar and zealous of good works—setting a holy example of what the gospel of Christ can do for all who embrace its principles of truth. “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34.

As Peter speaks to the church of his day, his message comes down to us. He sees that the home would be and has been a special point of Satan’s attack. By weakening the family firm, the church and society would fall an easy prey. Therefore, he seeks to put a hedge, a sacred circle, around the home.

“There is a **sacred circle** around every family which should be preserved. **No other one has any right in that sacred circle.** The husband and wife should be all to each other. The wife should have no secrets to keep from her husband and let others know, and the husband should have no secrets to keep from his wife to relate to others. The heart of his wife should be the grave for the faults of the husband, and the heart of the husband the grave for his wife's faults.” *Adventist Home* 177

Marriage was not seen by many of Peter’s day as a holy institution. Even in the church the home was no longer viewed as a necessity for a strong stable church. Christ speaks to this in His address to the pharisees in Mark 7:9-13, Matthew 5:31,32. Paul speaks to this fact in his letter to the church in Rome. Romans 1:18-32. However, the home is a great stabilizer for any society.

“Intimately connected with these laws affecting religion, was that which **reduced the union of marriage**—the most sacred engagement which human beings can form, and the permanence of which leads most strongly to the consolidation of society—to the state of a mere civil contract of a transitory character, which any two persons might engage in and cast loose at pleasure.... If fiends had set themselves to work to discover a mode of most effectually destroying whatever is venerable, graceful, or permanent in domestic life, and of obtaining at the same time an assurance that the mischief which it was their object to create should be perpetuated from one generation to another, they could not have invented a more effectual plan than the degradation of marriage.... Sophie Arnoult, an actress famous for the witty things she said, described the republican marriage as ‘the sacrament of adultery.’”—Scott, vol. 1, ch. 17.
Great Controversy 270

“The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are ‘the issues of life’ (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.” *Ministry of Healing* 349

“**One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached.** Such a family gives evidence that the parents have been successful in following God's directions, and that their children will serve Him in the church.” *Adventist Home* 32

Peter, in his epistle to the new believers, covers every phase of their Christian experience that will make them the object of public scorn. He addresses the fact that one of the ways in which the peculiarity of the follows of Christ is seen is in our appearance.

“As the truth is brought into practical life, the standard is to be elevated higher and higher to meet the requirements of the Bible. This will necessitate opposition to the fashions, customs, practices, and maxims of the world. Worldly influences, like the waves of the sea, beat against the followers of Christ to sweep them away from the true principles of His meekness and grace; but we are to stand as firm as a rock to principle.” *Testimonies Vol. 6* p.146

“To PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF GOD from the corrupting influence of the world, as well as to promote physical and moral health, the dress reform was introduced among us. It was not intended to be a yoke of bondage, but a blessing; not to increase labor, but to save labor; not to add to the expense of dress, but to save expense. It would distinguish God's people from the world, and thus serve as a barrier against its fashions and follies. He who knows the end from the beginning, who understands our nature and our needs,—our compassionate Redeemer,—saw our dangers and difficulties, and condescended to give us timely warning and instruction concerning our habits of life, even in the proper selection of food and clothing.” *Testimonies Vol. 4* p.634

“A person's character is judged by his style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of simple and appropriate attire. Chaste simplicity in dress, **when united with modesty of demeanor**, will go far toward surrounding a young woman with that atmosphere of sacred reserve which will be to her a shield from a thousand perils.” *Education* 248

“Many are ignorantly injuring their health and endangering their lives by using COSMETICS. . . . When they become heated, . . . the poison is absorbed by the pores of the skin, and is thrown into the blood. Many lives have been sacrificed by this means alone.—H. R.” *Healthful Living* 189

There has always been a class of people who while professing godliness has tried to bring in a worldly standard. [The “mixed multitude” among the Israelites - Numbers 11; Achan - Joshua 7:1, 20, 21.] Paul says they “mind earthly things” (Philippians 3:17-19). He tells Timothy that in the last days there would be those who would try to mingle themselves among the true believers who are not changed in heart and life but would “have a form of godliness” (2 Timothy 3:5). Christ mentions them as persecuting God's true believers believing they are doing God's service (Matthew 24:9; John 16:2).

As mentioned, Peter is here describing the differences between true believers and the world. In Revelation 12:1-17 John identifies the church, the people of God in the last days; while in chapter 17, he identifies the worldly church, that has aligned itself with the powers of the earth, as Jezebel did in the time of Elijah to further her false religion. This woman in Revelation 17 follows that pattern and becomes the persecuted of the people of God.

There is an obvious difference in dress, demeanor and message that these churches are giving to the world. One refuses to be espoused to one husband, while the other is devoted to Christ and makes the foundation for the relationship the word of God. As we use God's word for the standard of faith, we can see clearly whose we are—the world's or Christ.

This difference is shown to us by Christ in the teaching of the two ways in Matthew 7:13, 14.

“Those who travel in the narrow way are **talking of the joy and happiness they will have at the end of the journey**. Their countenances are often sad, yet often beam with holy, sacred joy. **They do not dress like the company in the broad road, nor talk like them, nor act like them. A pattern has been given them.** A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief opened that road for them, and traveled it Himself. His followers see His footsteps, and are comforted and cheered. He went through safely; so can they, if they follow in His footsteps.

“In the **broad road** all are occupied with their persons, their dress, and the pleasures in the way. They indulge freely in hilarity and glee, and think not of their journey's end, of the certain destruction at the end of the path. Every day they approach nearer their destruction; yet they madly rush on faster and faster. Oh, how dreadful this looked to me!

“I saw many traveling in this broad road who had the words written upon them: “Dead to the world. The end of all things is at hand. Be ye also ready.” **They looked just like all the vain ones around them, except a shade of sadness which I noticed upon their countenances. Their conversation was just like that of the gay, thoughtless ones around them; but they would occasionally point with great satisfaction to the letters on their garments, calling for the others to have the same upon theirs.** They were in the broad way, yet they professed to be of the number who were traveling the narrow way. Those around them would say: “**There is no distinction between us. We are alike; we dress, and talk, and act alike.**” —*Testimonies Vol. 1* p.127, 128