

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Special Fellowship

**Treasuring Our Teenage Years and
a Proper View of Marriage in God's Economy**

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 2:21-22; 3:15-17; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:17-20; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; 4:12;
1 Thes. 4:1-7; Heb. 13:4; Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-9

I. Treasuring the teenage years for the Lord—2 Tim. 2:21-22; 3:15-17:

- A. The teenage years are the golden years of a human being; these seven years are golden and crucial; they are a deciding factor for our whole human life:
 - 1. We should not waste one day of our teenage years; every day, every hour, every minute, and every second have to count.
 - 2. If we cannot do well in these seven years to lay a good foundation for our human life, especially in our education, we are through.
- B. In our human life there are many aspects, including education, health, our body, morality, ethics, and our relationship with the Lord:
 - 1. Of all these, our relationship with the Lord is first; even this should be built up while we are a teenager.
 - 2. We should love the Lord, seek Him, and pursue after Him, particularly in these seven years; after these years it is hard to have a proper start, even in seeking after the Lord.
- C. This is also true in learning a language; it is hard for anyone over nineteen to learn another language; after we are past our teens, we can no longer do anything like this:
 - 1. If we want to get the best grades, do it during our teenage years; if we want to love the Lord in the top way, do it now, because after our teenage years, it is hard to start.
 - 2. After the teenage years, we are good for beginning nothing; therefore, love the Lord in these years.
- D. In pursuing after the Lord the smartest young person is the one who always treats one day as if it were thirty; we should not waste an hour or a minute within the seven years of our teens, especially in loving the Lord and seeking after Him.
- E. We should budget our time, our energy, and even our breathing; if we do this, we will not miss anything in the spiritual realm; we will get what we should get:
 - 1. Many Christians meet defeat because they did not lay a good foundation; they have become nothing because they did not lay a foundation that was good enough for them to be successful in their human life.
 - 2. If we expect to have success in the spiritual field, in seeking the Lord, we must treasure our golden years, our teenage years; we should get into the Bible as much as we can; pray as much as possible, and function in the meetings with as much as we have; exhaust ourselves.
 - 3. Regardless of what we do, in our teenage years we should not do anything in a light way; as long as we can be deeply impressed that our teenage years are the golden years, that is good enough.

II. In the Lord's recovery today all the saints need a renewed mind so that they would not be fashioned according to this age, especially in the matter of marriage—Rom. 12:1-2:

- A. The unbelievers live in the vanity of their minds, being darkened in their understanding because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart, and are past feeling, having no feeling in their conscience—Eph. 4:17-19:

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1. Being past feeling means not caring for one's conscience; but instead of regarding his conscience, fallen man gave himself over to lasciviousness—Eph. 4:19.
 2. After man fell, God ordained that man should be under the ruling of his conscience; we should be full of feeling concerning our purity, even being a pattern in purity—1 Tim. 4:12.
- B. In the normal relationship between males and females in the church life, the governing principle is purity—1 Tim. 5:1-2; 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:22.
- C. In the church life contact between the sisters and the brothers is unavoidable; hence, to be protected from any defilement a proper relationship must be maintained in sanctification and honor—1 Thes. 4:1-7; Heb. 13:4.

III. The principle of marriage is oneness: one husband for one wife—Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-9:

- A. God created us not as complete men but as “male and female”—Gen. 1:27; 2:18.
- B. God ordained that one male and one female are to be joined and yoked together as one flesh and are not to be separated by man—Matt. 19:4-6.
- C. Fornication means to violate God's governing and controlling principle, resulting in confusion—cf. 1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 13:4.
- D. The apostles exhort us not to run together with the unbelievers in the overflowing indulgence of lusts—1 Pet. 4:2-7; Eph. 4:17-20.
- E. Nothing damages the saints and the church life more than fornication—1 Thes. 4:3; Heb. 13:4.
- F. “My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous”—1 John 2:1:
1. *If anyone sins* indicates that the regenerated believers can still sin; though they possess the divine life, it is still possible for them to sin if they do not live by the divine life and abide in its fellowship—1 John 2:1.
 2. If we confess our sins, He, according to His word and based on the redemption through the blood of Jesus, forgives us because He must be faithful in His word and righteous in the blood of Jesus; otherwise, He would be unfaithful and unrighteous.
 3. Our confession is needed for His forgiveness; such forgiveness of God, which is for the restoration of our fellowship with Him, is conditional; it depends on our confession—1 John 1:7, 9.