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Conduct In The Church

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CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH

Eph.5:1-3,24-25

I. Conduct in the church.

A. God expects behavior.

5:1-3 "Be ye therefore followers..becometh sa

1. It is not an effortless achievement.

2. Become=suitable, appropriate, decorous.

a. We don't eat peas with a knife, nor tennis shoes in pulpit.

b. Somethings aren't appropriate for Chr.

(1) Preachers used to point fingers now so general we wave our arms.

3. He makes a list

DO

- 4:25 Speak truth
- 28 Labor-good-give
- 29 Speak good to edify
- 32 Kind, tender hearted

DON'T

- 4:25 Put away lies
- 26 Be angry sin not
- 27 Neither give plc to devil
- 28 Stole steal no mr
- 29 No corrupt commu
- 30 Grieve not H.S.
- 31 Bitterness, etc.

5:1 Be followers of God, child.

5:3 Fornication, etc.

2 Walk in love

4 Filthiness, jestic

4 Give thanks

6 Vain words--

8 Walk as C. of light

deceive

11 Reprove them

7 Not partaker

15 Walk circumspectively

11 Unfruitful works

18 Fill with Spirit

of darkness

18 Drunk with wine

4. Yet doing all doesn't make one a Chr. Bible a book of principles not specific rules. Where dope, gambling, etc.

5. Ours in allegiance to 1 country, else traitor; 1 mate, else adultery.

6. Must learn to say "No" yet more than just against something.

7. Unbeliever passes through circle of Chr. usually before converted. What does he see? Gossip, scandal, tale bearing?

8. We don't just stop at fork of road--we make right choice.

9. Moses refused and chose.

Heb. 11:24 "By faith Moses when he was

B. He expects our homes to be right.

Eph. 5:24-25 "Therefore as the church is

Eph. 6:1-4 "Children obey your parents

1. We ~~strike~~ a pose at work--not home!

2. "No victory in a divorce case. Divorces are luxuries. Children are victims".

3. In 60 yrs. U.S. population grew 300%, marriage increased 400%, divorce increased 2000%.

Our courts gave one ever 2 minutes.

4. Home can best be heaven or hell

5. Read what God said about helpmates

Eph. 5:25 Husbands love

28-29 So men ought to love

33 "So love his wife even as him.

a. He's head of wife, provider, protector, companion.

Eph. 5:22 wives submit yourselves

24 Let the wife be (subject) to their own

33 The wife reverence her husband

b. I'd rather see these than how thick or thin see peels potatoes! Who'd divorce one like this!

6. Spoke to children.

Eph. 6:1-2 Children obey your parents

a. Parents have 25 yrs. head start on kids!
Listen to them.

b. Clip on turn him out. clip

c. Obedience to parents 1st step toward
law abiding citizenry.

d. We need always to honor parents--elderly
ones.

(1) Wooden bowl clip.

e. Don't break their hearts.

(1) Clip on boy shot mother →

Has any been
mother been
turned in

f. You honor parents when you become what
godly ones pray for.

g. Crime is today's big business. Daughters
who break up homes and sons who fail to
respect law start at home--that denied
them nothing but discipline. Holtzoff
(Wash.D.C. Judge) "The neurotic adult of
tomorrow are children living in quarrelsome
and broken homes today."

h. Fill our homes with good things.

(1) Omaha clip.

Start → Don't provoke - teach

1. Carlyle clip

2. Shakespeare

Chesterton - Noble to teach other women
but dangerous to teach own (?)

West End Stroller

Evelyn Chappell - PM.

Alvina Richards - Rest,

Portland 7/24/62

Lois Wilkins } Dept

Harriet Poole }

A modern marriage is one in which the wife works so she can afford clothes to wear to the office.

The Starting Line

by **GERALD KENNEDY**, Bishop of the
Los Angeles Area, The Methodist Church

LITTLE HELLS

Carlyle who is not read so much today, and it is a pity, once described the home of one of his neighbors. It was generally rumored that he was referring to the household of Leigh Hunt. He said that "though the world is already blooming (or is one day to do it) in everlasting 'happiness of the greater number,' these people's own houses (I always find) are little Hells of improvidence, discord, unreason." Most of us will know what he means and we have known similar situations. The parents were idealists who dreamed of world redemption through this scheme or another, but their homes were "little hells."

I suppose that the acid test is what people make of their homes. It is not too difficult to pour tea or model a gown at a United Nations' benefit, and there are ladies who do these things with grace and style. But have you met their children? A man can make a stirring address on disarmament which stirs his audience and inspires all who hear him. But what about the response when he

opens the door at night and is met by his family? There's the rub!

Theology that cannot be preached is not much good, in my judgment. Neither is a plan worth much unless it will work at home. I measure all the high-sounding schemes I hear by asking what it would do in the houses on my street. This may be too rough a test, but, at the end of the day, we might as well answer this hard but realistic question. What is going on in society seems sophisticated and gay until you look at it through the eyes of a child or of a parent who is trying to raise that child in the image of God.

In my book, you learn the most about people when you see them at home. Sometimes it is a disillusioning experience to see what a mess people have made of their family life. But there are other times when it lifts up the heart to see what a wonderful father this man is and what joy, respect, and devotion there is in his home. I have known preachers who were never exceptional in their pulpit ability, but they produced sons and daughters who

became people of high character and leaders in their fields. My guess is that they did more in the sight of God than some of the stars. This is where Christianity often makes its greatest witness and where it sometimes makes its most impressive contribution.

HOMELESS WANDERING

Some years ago, Josef Hromadka wrote a book entitled *Doom and Resurrection*. In it he related the sad story of Stefan Zweig's suicide. Zweig was an Austrian and recognized around the world as a great writer. A political refugee, he had found Brazil hospitable and it seemed as if his troubles were about over. He wrote that there were no pressing problems of health or money and that nowhere else in the world would he have found a warmer welcome than in Brazil. Then he gives the reason for his act. "But after one's sixtieth year unusual powers are needed in order to make another wholly new beginning. Those I possess have been exhausted by long years of homeless wandering."

This is a good description of our age, and there are probably more refugees now than in any previous period. We think of them far too little and we are not active enough in opening doors for them and in providing new opportunities. It might be a good thing to stress on the Sunday we think of mothers and homes the plight of the homeless and the motherless. Instead of being merely sentimental about our own families, how about accepting some responsibility for these victims of war and political boundaries?

We are homeless wanderers spiritually. The man who starts off so bravely on his own, after cutting all ties with his heritage, comes one day to an emptiness of life that is desperation. The

hysterias of our time spring from lives that must choose hatred rather than continue enduring emptiness. God made us as a family and, when we sin against the family and the Father, the results are not happy.

This is the Christian's inner secret of joy and strength even when things go wrong. He is not beyond his Father's care, and he is not outside the bounds of His family. Countries or languages or cultures have nothing to do with it, for this fellowship overshadows and includes them all. Who ever escapes a good home? Who can ever cut himself off from loving parents? The Christian finds his help in knowing that he is a member of the family of God more than he realizes at times.

Perhaps we should not close this without a prophetic word from Amos. Being a part of the family means responsibility, and that is why some of us run away from it. God says to us: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities" (*Amos 3:2*).

Put beside this the story of the Prodigal Son and you will see the cost and the reward of being in the Father's house.

INCARNATION

Augustine St. Clare was talking about his mother to his cousin. He said:

The Bible was my mother's book. By it she lived and died . . . Why, Cousin, that mother has been all that has stood between me and utter disbelief for years. She was a direct embodiment and personification of the New Testament, a living fact to be accounted for, and to be accounted for in no other way than by its truth.

Motherhood does not make a woman a saint automatically, but it helps. Most people will remember their mothers as

Men and Marriage

A LAWYER FRIEND in Dublin told me about an 81-year-old client whose wife had died and who had just married again—a woman of 79. When my friend mildly suggested that this seemed a little unusual, the old fellow shook his head and replied, “Ah, for the little they eat I wouldn’t be without one.”

—Don Cook in New York *Herald Tribune*

WHEN A FRIEND whom we had considered a confirmed bachelor finally got married, at 60, we asked why he had waited so long. “Well,” he explained, “if she turns out to be an old nag, I won’t have to live with her very long. But if she turns out to be a kind and understanding companion, she was well worth waiting for.”

—Contributed by Theodore M. Hurwitz

“Does your husband live up to the promises he made during his courtship days?”

“Always. In those days he said he wasn't good enough for me.”

AN OLD farmer and his wife were driving along a road through a hilly country. The team, when they came to a hill, would settle into the collar and pull at a steady stride.

The farmer's wife spoke to her husband and said, "Hiram, I have just been thinking, watching this team settle in the collar and pull steadily along, how wonderful it would be if we could go along through life that way!"

"Maria," Hiram replied, "possibly we could, if we were like this team with only one tongue between us."

An elderly man sat in the corner at mealtime eating out of a wooden bowl. He had lost his regular place at the table because his hands were shakey and he spilled food on the table cloth. One day this man's five year old grandson was hacking away on a square block of wood. "What are you making son", inquired the proud father. "Oh", said the boy, "just a bowl for you and mother to eat out of when I get big!" What a tragedy that children often rise economically and socially above their parents and look upon them with disdain before their aristocratic friends.

Meeting a neighbor in a market place one day a man asked how his wayward son was doing. "Not so good" said the father. "If he were mine I would turn him out" said the neighbor. "Yes" replied the father, "If he were yours so would I. But you see he is not yours, he is mine." Parents are usually the last ones to give up.

Some years ago the papers carried an unusual story telling how a 16 year old boy killed his mother. He became involved in a theft with some other boys. The day approached when he was to appear in court. Lacking the courage to face reality, the lad went into the basement of his house, put a high powered gun to his heart and pulled the trigger. Having pierced his heart the bullet went through the first floor and struck his mother in the back. A few hours later she was dead. Who can number the mothers who die today from wounds inflicted by way of the children. Not instantly nor intentionally but by degrees.

the incarnations of all that is good, more than any other person. This is true even in a day when it is popular to blame everything wrong in yourself on your parents. The responsibility of children and the love for children transforms a woman's life. This in spite of the cares of the day, the sacrifices demanded, the thoughtlessness of youngsters. Saints are born out of trouble rather than out of ease. It is worth thinking about, for it is a living example of Jesus' teaching that we find our lives as we lose them. We cannot pay too much homage to her, but it would be a good thing if we pondered in our hearts how she got that way.

Kin Hubbard, who wrote under the name of Abe Martin, said one time: "Of all the home remedies, a good wife is the best." Amen! Much better than air-conditioning, or a disposal, or wall-

to-wall carpeting, or a fireplace! For here is the kind of remedy that heals the diseases of the heart and conscience. And it is the kind of healing that continues its work when the healer is no longer with us. May God help us to understand some of these truths about mothers while they are here to be loved and cherished.

LOST MOTHERS

A little boy about four years old presented himself at the lost-and-found desk of a department store. His face was smudged with hastily wiped away tears, but he tried to keep his voice steady as he asked: "Has any mother been turned in this morning?"

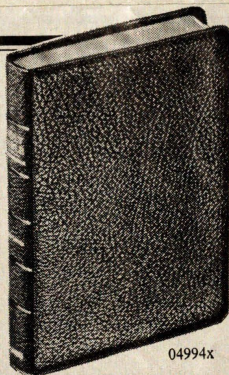
I suppose that mothers can get lost like the rest of us. I read about some of them in the papers and, while it is common to read about all sorts and

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conditions of people who go wrong, it always seems more tragic and disheartening when it is a mother. Hollywood has more than its share of these sad women, but it is not confined to any one place.

The truth is that being a wife and a mother is a full-time job. I do not understand the woman who wants a career, as she calls it, and then turns her children over to others and lets her husband do the best he can without much support. In this I am hopelessly old-fashioned and probably out of step with the times. But I have seen too

many families disintegrate without her firm and gentle hand on their affairs, and there are men who might have made it if they had not been alone. Chesterton once remarked that it seemed a strange idea that there was something noble about teaching other women's children but nothing but drudgery in teaching your own.

These lost mothers are trying to keep active and, in that pursuit, I am for them. But let none of them ever forget that to give the world a good man or a good woman is more than being a stenographer or an actress or a dancer. Strange it is that, when we ourselves are lost, how much it means to have someone near who is not lost.

GROWING PAINS

A geologist from the California Institute of Technology has been studying the West Coast mountains and rocks. Professor Leon Silver has come up with some interesting observations on the age of the land and he has some speculations on how the continents of North and South America have come into being. But I was interested particularly in something he said about earthquakes. According to him, the San Gabriel Mountains are still growing and this is indicated by the fact that earthquakes shake things up now and then. Now get this: he says that earthquakes are the "growing pains" of continents. What do you think of that?

Earthquakes are the growing pains of many things. Take churches, for instance. We ought to pray daily for a shaking up of the church. Or society—when it gets too set, it atrophies and some kind of revolution is demanded. Maybe this is true in our lives, too. Anyway, an earthquake indicates that something is still alive, and that is all to the good.

Wife

1. Submit own husband

2. Subjection - 1 tongue clip

3. Reverence - NOT good enuff clip

(a) NOT of servitude - yet hubby rule for beneficent ends

(b) Wise & loving obedience

Titus 2:5

1 Pet 3:1-6 Sara called G. Lord

(c) Adam 1st formed then Eve

1 Tim 2:13

(d) Woman for man 1 Cor 11:9

little est

Naq or worth waiting for

Husband

Love -

(a) as Christ Church

(b) own flesh - reservation of protest

(c) as self

work wife - clothes to office

For marriage is a matter of more worth
Than to be dealt in by attorneyship
For what is wedlock forced, but a hell
An eye of discord & continual strife
Where as the contrary bringeth forth happiness
And is a pattern of celestial bliss

Shakespeare

Families should pray together and they should honor the word of God. Once when the flood waters of the Mississippi were threatening the city of Omaha certain residents removed everything from their basements and filled them with clear fresh water. The windows were sandbagged so that the fresh water could be brought up to the floor level. There was no chance then for the dirty merky waters to gain entrance for the basements were already filled with clear fresh waters. May we fill our homes and the lives of our children with that which is good, clean and pure.