

Readings from the Word of God

13 September 2020

Exodus 20:16 (NKJV)

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Matthew 18:15 (NKJV)

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

Married Love §271

[A]lthough states of coldness separate the minds of married partners in the world today, we know that they continue to live together and have children. This would not be the case if appearances of love were not possible as well, which at times simulate or imitate the warmth of genuine love. ... [T]hese appearances are necessary and useful...—without them homes would not hold together, and so neither would organised societies.

In addition to this, some conscientious persons may labour under the idea that disagreements of minds and resulting internal estrangements between them and their partner are attributable to some fault in themselves, so that they are to blame, on which account they grieve in heart. But because internal differences are not in their hands to remedy, it is enough for them to assuage distresses arising from conscience by shows of apparent love and favour. Friendship may even return as a result, which carries within it married love on the part of the one, if not on the part of the other.

Marriages in the world are generally contracted on the basis of outward affections.

Nevertheless, marriages in the world are to continue to the end of one or the other's life.

Luke 6:32-36 (NKJV)

³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Married Love §216

People who are in a state of true married love look to eternity in their marriage, while the opposite is the case with those who are not in a state of married love.

What the state of married partners in heaven is like when thought of eternity leaves their minds and an idea of marriage as something temporary occurs instead, for me came to light from the following experience:

A married couple from heaven was once granted permission to be with me, and some clever-talking scoundrel then managed to take away their thought of eternity in regard to marriage. On being deprived of this thought they began to lament, saying that they could not go on living and that they felt a sense of distress as never before. When their fellow angels in heaven perceived

this, the scoundrel was sent away and cast down. As soon as this happened, immediately their thought of eternity returned to them, and rejoicing with a heartfelt joy on account of it, they tenderly embraced each other.

On another occasion I listened to two partners who one moment entertained a thought of eternity in respect to their marriage, and the next moment a thought of it as something temporary. The reason was that an internal dissimilarity existed between them. As long as they had the thought of eternity, they were happy together; but when they began to think of their marriage as something temporary, they said it was no longer a marriage—the wife declaring that she was no longer a wife but a mistress, and the husband that he was no longer a husband but a lecher. When their internal dissimilarity was revealed to them, therefore, the man left the woman and the woman left the man. Afterwards, however, because they each had an idea of eternity in respect to marriage, they were matched with partners of a character similar to their own.

It is the same in the case of marriages on earth. When married partners there love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of its being terminated by death. Or if they do think about this, they grieve, until strengthened again with hope by the thought of its continuing in the life to come.

“O Precious Sign” Lyrics

O precious sign and seal of heav'nly union,
from day to day thy meaning dearer grows;
an emblem thou of holy love conjugal.
From God in heav'n that love in blessing flows.

With jewels fair His bride and wife adorning,
our Lord hath set a crown her brow above.
Its gems are radiant, and to her He giveth
that priceless pearl of life, conjugal love!

Shine bright, thou golden ring, with gleam and glitter,
from fire that melts and welds the twain in one;
a perfect union, all the dross consuming.
Behold one angel when its work is done!