

LeRoy Sept 3. 1840.

Center for Adventist Research
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan

My dear Blessed Wife - I write you this morning because my heart is full, & because I have very much that I wish to say to you. I have been praying for you this morning, & have had a precious reason. I have also been looking at my obligations as a husband, & they have appeared to me in a different light than ever before. I have been reading the 5th chap. of Ephesians from the 22nd verse & have been praying that the Holy Spirit may teach me all things that I ought to know & guide me into all truth, so that I may truly understand, & have grace to make me as a husband all that I ought to be. I think my dear Wife, that the Lord has given me some new light on this subject. I read that "the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, & He is the Saviour of the body." In the first chap. of Eph. 23rd verse, the apostle calls the church Christ's body. Christ then is the Saviour of his own body the church. Or the church is Christ's body, & of that body He is the Saviour. In this sense He is the head, & the husband is the head of the wife in the same sense. So says the apostle. Hence the direction in the 25th verse - "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, & gave himself for it, that He might sanctify & cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy & without blemish. Here we are taught that Christ had such a desire for the purity of His church, that He gave himself for it, for the purpose of making it pure; for the purpose of sanctifying & cleansing it, that it might become glorious, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy & without blemish. For this purpose of purifying His church, He died on the cross, & to this same purpose He now gives Himself in heaven of that Spirit, through the word, His church might be once pure. Now the highest blessing in the universe, My dear Wife, is perfect purity; for where there is perfect purity there will be perfect peace. & joy in God. Now Christ loved His church so well, & desired her perfect purity & peace so much, that He gave himself for her, first on the cross, & now on the throne of intercession in heaven, where He ever liveth, & where He entered for us, (as Paul says to the Hebrews) that from thence He might send forth His Holy Spirit, to sanctify & cleanse His church, & thereby comfort her. Christ called the Holy Spirit the Comforter. But how can the church be comforted in her sins? She must have purity in order to have peace. Christ therefore so loved the church, that He has given Himself for her purification. He has laid down His life for that purpose, & now lives for that same purpose.

in heaven, having, as the apostle says to the Hebrews, "entered into the heavens, there to appear in the presence of God for us." Is it not a delightful thought my dear wife, that Christ both died for us, & now lives to make us pure, that by being pure, we may live in the enjoyment of His love?

And now my dear wife, as Christ loves His body the church, so He requires me to love you, & as Christ gave himself for the perfect purity & peace of His church & now lives for that end, so He would have me give myself to you for that purpose, that I may seek your perfect purity & peace with Christ; & He would have me ready to lay down my life, if need be, in labors & sacrifices on your account, so that you might be presented to Christ, "glorious, ~~not~~ sanctified & cleansed with the washing of water by the word, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy & without blemish." The thought of being thus presented to Christ my dear is to me unspeakably delightful. Christ first forgives all our sins, & then washes & makes us clean. He would have me do the same. My dear wife - I do with all my heart. In all things, in which you have ever done or said or felt anything which was not right toward me, it is forgiven from my inmost heart, & in the arms of my love & faith & prayer I do daily bring you to Christ our dear Saviour, & ask Him, & trust in Him to make you like "the King's daughter all glorious within." As for myself dear, & also for you, I do desire that we may have in our consciences, "this testimony, that we please God." I do long my wife, that the Blessed Saviour may be able to look upon you & say, "thou art all fair my love, there is no spot in thee." How precious the thought, that we may confide in Him to cleanse us, until He can say this. Nothing would make you so happy ^{in your relationship} ~~as~~ me my dear, as to know that in my sight you were everything that I could desire. My dear wife I can & do say with a sincere heart, thou art all ^{fair} my love, there is no spot in thee. I feel that my heart embraces you this moment, with a pure & warm & unrestrained & unbounded love - & now all my desire is that our Blessed Saviour may be able to say that you are "all fair" in His view. No part sin of yours will hinder your Saviour from saying this, when once you trust yourself fully in His hands to be cleansed. Nor does any failing of yours, my love, prevent me from saying it, because every failing of yours is completely washed away by the love which I bear toward you, & now if I could show you in myself, a character, that would so completely win your affections to me, that you could never for an instant bear the thought of doing even in thought anything to grieve me,

I should ~~do~~ then do the very thing which Christ stands
ready to do - viz - to make to you such manifestation
of His amazing love, as shall so completely win all
your affections to Himself, that you would not for
the world do or say or desire anything which is not
in the highest sense well pleasing to Him. In this
way you will behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
& be changed into the same image from glory
to glory even as by the ~~the~~ Spirit of the Lord. For this
dear wife I do daily pray & trust in Christ, & will
also pray that I may never again do or desire a
anything which shall not tend in the highest degree
to your perfect purity & peace with Christ. One of
the greatest blessings you need my dear, is a husband
that shall be everything to you which the grace
of God in Christ Jesus can make him. Will you
not go to Christ, my love, & ask Him & trust in
Him to make me just such a husband, & I will go
to Christ to make you just such a wife as He sees
will be the highest blessing to me. And the
thought strikes me, that we might
have a little holy ambition here, to
see how much of the precious grace of
God we can call down upon each other
by our prayers & our faith in Christ. The Lord help
me I will not fail to do this every day. Let me assure
you, precious wife, that all my heart is yours,
& I will comfort myself with the assurance I feel,
that your kind & tender & generous affections are all
my own, & we will both be comforted with the
assurance that Christ is all our own, & that
we are altogether His. Commend me to Jesus our Beloved
& our Friend & join your prayers & faith with mine
for the dear pledges of our love.

The Lord is with me here, & is opening a wide
field of labor & usefulness. There is a circle of Christians
around me here who are indeed holding up my
hands by their prayers. For eloquence & fervency &
earnestness of wrestling with God, I have never
heard such prayers in my life. The field is wide &
white to the harvest. There is already as much
work laid out for me here, as I could do for several
months instead of weeks. In my next I will give
you more of a description of the state of things.
I am now waiting with great desire to hear from
you. A line from my own dear wife & an assurance
of Her love would indeed be a cordial. Love to the dear child-
ren, & to the dear ~~old~~ ^{whole} heart full to your dearer self. Charles Fitch

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