

## PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Greetings - and warm and loving salutations! That's what its all about isn't it? Without love and good will all else would be "like sounding brass and tinkling cymbals." The Bible tells us that and our own beloved guide The URANTIA Book tells us in almost the identical words of the Bible. That's easy to do here though isn't it? I can't imagine any of us not loving each other and wanting to help one another, can you?

Our topic today is Preparing for Marriage and Family. All through The URANTIA Book we are advised to do this, and today I am presenting a fervent and heartfelt plea that together we plan for study groups devoted to preparing for FAMILY. That doesn't mean for a minute that we should stop any of our excellent on-going study groups. They are all so needed, and doing so much good. But this is something EXTRA - something very needed, something so important that it is the basic ground-work and foundation for every thing else we may attempt to do.

Let's see what our great guide The URANTIA Book has to say about this. I'll select only a very few of the many many admonitions they give us about FAMILY LIFE.

Among them they state, P. 1328, that Jesus was to live a life for the instruction and edification of every human and superhuman.

P. 821 - The Garden of Eden was given to upstep life on this planet and the home life and training of children was copied from that of Jerusem - all far above that of present day homes. *They required 2 years of training for marriage & family*

On P. 1581, we are told: "The family occupied the very center of Jesus' philosophy of life - here and hereafter. He based his teachings about God on the family. He exalted family life as the HIGHEST HUMAN DUTY." He devoted more than half of his whole bestowal on this planet to serving as an earthly father to 8 brothers and sisters. SHOW CHART

The pattern of the whole universe is that of a family. Or let us say the family is based on the pattern of the universe - the triangle Father-Son and Spirit.

Father mother children - on down through the eons of ages to our own Local Universe with Michael, the Universe Mother Spirit and all of their children. On down, down to the lowliest family pattern on our very lowly planet.

You may be saying to yourselves "But I have already reared my family, or I don't plan to have a family, or" - - - but I reply: This thing is much bigger than you or me. I've reared my family too and don't I wish that I had, had this marvelous guide, The URANTIA Book. I believe it is so important that I am dedicating the rest of my life to this cause - to help prepare young people for marriage and family.

Stop to think what it means that the Creator of our whole local universe spent nearly a score of years - 20 years as an earthly father helping with all of the little tots - even assisting at the birth of baby Ruth, who was born after Joseph's death.

And isn't it the wonder of the ages that we cannot take one step forward on the long eternal journey until we have served as a parent? Either on this very first step or the very next step on the Nursery Worlds or the Mansion Worlds. Consider a long long eternal line if you possibly can stretch your imagination even close to that - we each one must have that experience of parenthood on either the very first or second step!

They tell us about Life on a Neighboring Planet, P. 820:2, and they state definitely that this was given us to help us upstep life on this planet. Yet - consider this carefully - Nearly 25 years have gone by and we have yet to initiate any of those steps to uplift life here, even in our little URANTIA study groups or book clubs. (Someday we will be accountable for "talents") So that is one of the missions that Chick and I are dedicated to. Let us examine some of those guides:

P. 812: Permission to marry on a Neighboring Planet is only granted after one year's notice of intention and then after both bride and groom present certificates showing they have been duly instructed in the parental schools regarding the responsibilities of married life. Wouldn't we love to look at their courses and know what those tests include? Chick has prepared two excellent "starters" though he did them tongue in cheek and said maybe 100 years from now we would begin to

initiate them. My thesis is that we have begun. President Carter announced a new office for ~~FAMILIES~~ just this last October 1979. So we are beginning to follow some ideas used on a Neighboring Planet.

There the home is the basic institution of civilization. It is expected that the most valuable part of a child's education and character training will be secured from his parents and at home, and fathers devote almost as much attention to child culture as do mothers. All sex instruction is administered in the home by the parents or by legal guardians. Moral instruction is offered by teachers during rest periods in the school shops, but not so with religious training which is deemed to be the exclusive privilege of parents, religion being looked upon as an integral part of home life.

Innumerable helps are given to us throughout The URANTIA Book and I have collected them all to be used in our training study sessions for Marriage and Family. They point up the desperate need for very early training of children and in order to do this the parents must first be trained. So many young people tell me: "Julia I have to get my own head together before I feel right about trying to train children." How wise - and how true.

Page 928:8 - "The real test of marriage, all down through the ages, has been that continuous intimacy which is inescapable in all family life. TWO PAMPERED AND SPOILED YOUTHS, EDUCATED TO EXPECT EVERY INDULGENCE AND FULL GRATIFICATION OF VANITY AND EGO, can hardly hope to make a great success of marriage and home-building - a LIFELONG PARTNERSHIP OF SELF-EFFACEMENT, COMPROMISE, DEVOTION, AND UNSELFISH DEDICATION TO CHILD CULTURE."

And here is our challenge; let us meet this assignment:

929: And in so far as the social group falls short of providing marriage preparation for youths, to that extent must divorce function as a safety valve which prevents still worse situations during the ages of rapid growth and the evolving mores . . . the great inconsistency of modern society is to exalt love and to idealize marriage while disapproving of the fullest examination of both. (The Marriage Institution.)

Jesus exalted family life as the highest human duty (quote) and he lived it more than half of his entire bestowal on this earth, serving as father to 8 brothers and sisters. SHOW CHART

Vern Grimsley often points out on his radio talks that "Transformed individuals can create a transformed world". I'd like to change that to our particular goals and state "That transformed parents will create transformed families."

On P. 909, in The URANTIA Book, we are told: "Modern civilization is at a standstill in spiritual development and the safeguarding of the home institution." Note that statement - that spiritual development and HOME are tied hand in hand and that both are at a standstill. We have only to look around us to see the great and sad truth in that poignant statement. But here are some cold statistics to confirm it:

\*\* Gallup poll studies show that 50% of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce. And sadder to relate, the highest divorce rate is in Southern California. Orange County reports that 70% of their marriages end in divorce. The 1979 Almanac states that the divorce rate has increased every year for the past 11 consecutive years. No wonder young people are filled with fears - those in marriage and those contemplating marriage. The great news to report is that young people are reaching out for ways to build and create successful marriages and homes. Our goal is to begin with small study groups or URANTIA Book clubs to explore these topics. (Incidentally the divorce rate on a Neighboring Planet, just a stage higher than ours, is only one tenth that of ours) Simply due to their training before marriage and family.

The URANTIA Book states, P. 939, "As are the families of the race or nation, so is its society. If the families are good, the society is likewise good. The great cultural stability of the Jewish and Chinese people lies in the strength of their family groups."

On P. 943, we read that the family is considered "man's supreme evolutionary acquirement and civilization's only hope of survival."

Let's prepare for its success.

put  
up  
front