

managing colored men. duplicate 118
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Sanitarium, Cal., Aug. 5, 1912.

Wakeman, Ohio.

Dear Sister,---

It has been brought to the attention of Mrs. Ellen G. White that you are in perplexity regarding your duty as relates to the proposal of a worthy young man colored man that you shall unite your life interests with his in marriage, and Mother has been requested to give you counsel regarding this matter.

This morning she gave the matter consideration, and has instructed me to write to you, telling you what light has been given her regarding such matters, and what counsel she has given to young people who were proposing marriage under similar circumstances.

Mother wishes me to say to you that ~~man~~ God will be pleased to have you regard the counsel of your mother and other members of your family. They are in a better position to judge as to the influence which this step will have upon your future happiness than you yourself, and their happiness will be largely influenced by your action in this matter. This constitutes two reasons why you should listen to them.

Further than this Mother says that the influence of such a step upon the church and cause with which you are connected will be serious, and that you should well consider the injury that may be brought to the cause of Christ through such an unwise action. If the young man is noble, worthy, and large hearted, he should be able to see that marriage with a white girl may be the step which the enemy of his soul would be pleased to have him take as a barrier to future usefulness among his own people. Who knows to what noble work God may call him if he will stand firmly to resist self-gratification and give himself as did his Master, to live, to

suffer, and to die for those in the greatest need of his help. It has been proven over and over again among our people and among others that the unwise marriage of different races often cripples the usefulness of both the man and the woman, and thus defeats the purposes of God in their behalf. Therefore it is not for your own sake alone that you should refuse to enter into this proposed alliance, but for the sake of the young man whom you honor, and whose best welfare you greatly desire. I will here quote a few of the statements which Mother has written to persons in a similar position as the young man who has asked you to marry him .

"It is best for you now to stop and consider. Look at the situation as it is. Ask yourself, 'In view of the opportunities and advantages granted me, how much do I owe to my Lord? How can I best glorify Him and promote the interests of my people in the colored States? How can I use to the best advantage the knowledge God has been pleased to give me? Should I not open my Bible and teach the truth to my people? Are there not thousands perishing for lack of knowledge, whom I could help if I will submit myself to God, so that He can use me as His instrument? Have I not a work to do for my oppressed, discouraged fellows?

"Take hold of this matter understandingly. There are those of your own race with whom, if united in marriage, you could do a good work for God. But if you should marry as you now intend, you would put yourself out of the field and out of the work.

"Time is short, and what we do must be done quickly. Resolve to redeem the time. Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost. Rouse yourself from the paralysis of slumber, and no longer seek your own pleasure. Our Saviour lived not to please Himself. Take hold of the work with a new purpose of heart. Say with David,

"My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning; O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee." If you now draw near to God, He will draw near to you.

"O what covetousness, selfish, shortsighted creatures human beings are. Distrust your own judgment, and depend on the judgment of God. Distinguish between what is pleasing and what is profitable. Do God's will submissively. The Southern field is suffering for workers. Will you pass by your people on the other side, or will you with a humble heart work to save the perishing? There is a work you can do if you will humble yourself before God. Trusting in Him, you will find peace and comfort, but following your own way and your own will, you will find thorns and thistles, and you will lose the reward."

You no doubt have heard the argument that with God there is no difference in nationality or in color, yet we find in the Bible that the prejudice of different people was regarded most sacredly by men whom God was guiding, as in the case of Joseph when meeting his brethren. You will also bear in mind that we are not in an ideal world. We cannot change the prejudices and the convictions of those with whom we may be associated. We have to meet them where they are, and you should never overlook the fact that those Bible characters that are held up before us as examples, did not enter into the marriage relation without the approval of their family. This is natural and right.

Praying God to give you power to resist inclination, to kindly but firmly refuse that which your better judgment teaches you will be a life-long source of suffering to yourself and to the one whom you might be connected with, praying that God will enable you to see light in His light, I am

Yours very truly,

W. B. White