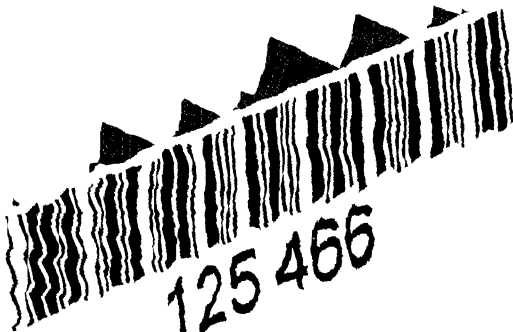




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FAMILY  
LIFE

*in Focus*

EARL RINEY

Copyright, 1953  
BROADMAN PRESS  
Nashville, Tennessee

In Gratitude to  
ELIZABETH ROWLAND RINEY  
My Wife and Helper

*Printed in the United States of America*  
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## Preface

Epigrams of the kind offered here have a variety of uses. Concise, summary quotations are often employed in sermons and other public addresses. Brief "filler" items are regularly used in many printed bulletins and on church bulletin boards.

In fifty years of preaching, the compiler employed epigrams in all of these ways, and for some years he has been supplying the "Selected Short Sermons" (epigrams) printed in *Church Management*, the "Bulletin Board Slogans for the Month" in *The Minister's Manual* (Doran's) published by Harper and Brothers, for a period of seven years, the "Selected Short Sermons" in the *Word and Way*, the Missouri state Baptist weekly paper, and, for various periods, epigrams in a number of newspapers.

In these sentences on family life the compiler does not claim complete originality, but they are, nevertheless, largely his own.

EARL RINEY



# Introduction

When Earl Riney was pastor of the Roanoke Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri, I learned that he made it an important part of his ministry to write little, one-sentence sermonettes. These appeared in his church paper and on the outdoor bulletin board of his church. They seemed to have an appeal, and I suggested that he write a column for *Church Management*. That was in 1940. Since then, month by month, they have appeared in each issue.

One way a publisher judges the popularity of the material his magazine carries is to check the items quoted from it in other publications. I found that these little sermonettes found their way into many papers. Some times credit was given; some times it was not. What difference did it make? Their gospel message was reaching readers. That was what both of us wanted.

I have been pleased to see the extension of his service through the book *Lines for Living* and now through this new *Family Life in Focus*. It is a privilege to write this introduction. I believe that every reader will appreciate the message of these epigrammatic sermonettes. I hope that they will appear on many bulletin boards in the country.

To the endorsement of the booklet I want to add a few words about its author. While our fellowship has

been largely by correspondence, I have found him loyal and persistent, just the kind of friend one needs. When his monthly contributions reach me, I feel that they truly represent the spirit of the author.

WILLIAM H. LEACH

Editor, *Church Management*

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# Age

1. Life's evening takes its character from the day that preceded it.
2. Is there anything more attractive than the serene expression of one who has lived right?
3. Every morning is a fresh beginning.
4. We must not allow our regard for the past to make us fearful of facing the future.
5. One of the surest ways to grow unhappy is to start missing old things; one of the surest ways to grow happy is to discover new things.
6. Don't spend your last days "playing safe." Make new friends, read, keep ahead of your time.
7. Three essentials of happiness are something to do, something to hope for, and somebody to love.
8. Most of us make our memories, day by day, by small deeds.
9. Sentimentality is living with the past; faith is living with the future.
10. Memories of good deeds wrought are priceless.
11. A cultivated memory into which there has poured the holiest and best becomes one of the richest treasures of the soul.
12. Memory may be the treasure chamber of the soul.
13. The dreams of age are the bright spots of youth in retrospect.

14. The measure of life is not its span but the use made of it.
15. Some people's spirits grow gray before their hair.
16. Real youth is a matter of the spirit, not of the almanac.
17. Some people are old in their twenties; others are young in their seventies.
18. Some crops do not mature in one year.
19. Why dread old age? What have the years to bring but larger floods of love and light, and sweeter songs to sing?
20. You cannot tell how old a man or woman is by the number of years lived.
21. With careful use, an old machine and an old man may run on for years and do good work.
22. A man's age and surroundings may attack his happiness, but they cannot destroy it.
23. An active blade never rusts.
24. Ruts long traveled become comfortable.
25. Life begins after the pension age.
26. To say that youth is happier than maturity is like saying that the view from the bottom of the tower is better than the view from the top.
27. A middle-aged man may be described as one who is neither in college preparing for life nor in California preparing for death.



# The Breadwinner

1. The man who is too big for the little job eventually finds himself too little for the big job.
2. Easy street is a blind alley.
3. The trouble with a lot of men who would have their dreams come true is that they dream too much in business hours.
4. It is easier to keep up than to catch up.
5. Extraordinary work is often done by an ordinary person with extraordinary zeal.
6. Never speak evil of your competitors.
7. It takes the plowshare of drudgery to turn over the furrow of success.
8. Perpetual hurry will get you to one place ahead of time, the cemetery.
9. Self-satisfaction is the first step to defeat.
10. There is no elevator to success. Take the stairs and climb.
11. Many a man has crushed his aspirations in some mean occupation just because there was money in it.
12. When a man makes his job important, it returns the favor.
13. Even in this age of scientific lubrication, good old-fashioned elbow grease cannot be improved upon.
14. Today is yesterday's tomorrow.

# Children

1. The small things of life are the great things of life.
2. The future of the child is determined in the home.
3. A great artist can paint a great picture on a small canvas.
4. Home influence makes or breaks the average child.
5. Anyone can plant radishes; it takes courage to plant acorns and wait for the oaks.
6. The unloved child is dangerous.
7. The child who knows better than his parents is father to the man who knows better than God.
8. No child has a fair chance in life unless he is taught prayer and the great truths about God and the future life.
9. The child who wants more than his share does not always change when he grows up.
10. It is easier to teach unselfishness to several children than to one.
11. The boy who is not trained to be on time is not trained.
12. The enjoyment of rights should rest on the performance of duties.
13. All play and no work makes Jack a bad boy.
14. Scold less; encourage more.
15. Books rank high in the shaping of character.
16. Make responsibility the price of privilege.

17. Never give a child a task he has not the ability to perform.
18. Father and mother have the training of the child—more than pastor, teacher, librarian, or friend.
19. Responsibility is a great teacher.
20. Children who are brought up are rarely “sent up.”
21. Many children expect their parents to be seen but not heard.
22. We run everything with switches but children.
23. Children should never be whipped in anger.
24. Though father and mother may disagree privately on some phase of child care, they should present a “united front” to Junior or Sister when correction is necessary.
25. The child unschooled to honor father and mother may grow up to be the husband or wife who wrecks a home.
26. The value of the delinquent child is not in what he is but in what he may become.
27. Few children can be corrected by sarcasm.
28. Discipline is the great test of love and wisdom.
29. A child is a potential dictator.
30. Don't always be accusing your child of meanness. He may take it as a suggestion to get into some.
31. Appreciation meets a human need surpassing the need of bread.
32. The wise parent never allows one child to be compared with another.
33. Speculative theory can never take the place of sympathy and love.

34. Discouraging a child's questions may paralyze his thinking.
35. Parents should respect their children's rights.
36. A child's honest error is not to be ridiculed.

# Churchgoing

1. Churchgoing as a family custom awaits the aggressive leadership of men.
2. Men who talk of worshiping God in nature are usually found looking for him with rod and gun.
3. Give an hour to the development of your real self. Go to church.
4. You can worship God by sending the children to Sunday school and staying at home yourself—but you don't.
5. A weak man may make his boy go to Sunday school, but a strong man will make himself go to church.
6. The church today, in spite of all the criticism of its methods and work, is exerting a tremendous influence in the molding of children.
7. A church without enthusiasm for its children is hopeless.
8. A church that does not take a vital interest in children is unworthy of the name Christian.
9. Preacher, don't shoot too high. Take good aim, and even the children will understand.
10. More people talk about the preacher than about the kingdom.
11. Let us not try to make religion consist in acts of philanthropy alone, forgetting the claims the Almighty has on us.

# Counsel for Youth

1. Never for long does anyone have life entirely on his own terms.
2. If everyone undertakes to do as he pleases, no one can do as he pleases.
3. Maturity means the development of responsibility.
4. The only disaster without remedy is to quit trying.
5. Each person can lift or lower every other person he touches.
6. You can never bury your influence.
7. Play the game and be fair. If you win, don't boast. If you lose, don't complain.
8. These are the good old days that today's young people will be longing for a few years from now.
9. If you would live long and prosper, get in the habit of counting your blessings while you are young.
10. Truth is not always popular, but it is always right, and that is enough.
11. Many of our choices are eternal.
12. The choices we make determine the characters we develop.
13. It is easier to fall for anything than to stand for something.
14. The few days that we have on earth are too precious to be trifled with.

15. Choosing the wrong friends can wreck a boy's or girl's chances completely.
16. Character never calls for compromise.
17. You are known by your choices.
18. A man whose yes is yes and whose no is no is in touch with something eternal.
19. The grace of God still enables men to live straight in a crooked world.
20. It matters everything what you believe, for what you believe will determine what you are.
21. Our problem is not to define God; it is to act like sons of God.
22. Do not wait until the airplane of your life is a wreck before listening to the Sky Pilot on how to steer.
23. To determine definitely to put God first is to find a great life stabilizer.
24. Thoughts are seeds of future deeds.
25. We become like our thoughts.
26. When by yourself, watch your thoughts; when in the family, watch your temper; when in company, watch your tongue.
27. Ugly thoughts make ugly faces.
28. You can be deceived by yourself as well as by others.
29. Great men do not feel great; small men do not feel small.
30. The man who is all wrapped up in himself has a very small package.
31. You are as big as the things that annoy you.
32. Those who pride themselves on being hard-boiled are only half-baked.

33. An empty man may be full of himself.
34. Think what a man ought to be, and be that.
35. What you will be you are now becoming.
36. Fine character is an achievement, not a gift.
37. It is the way you show up at the showdown that counts.
38. Be ashamed to die before you have helped win one victory for humanity.
39. There is always room at the top because so many who get there go to sleep and roll off.
40. Get your direction before you try for distance.
41. Freedom is achieved through discipline.
42. Much of the restlessness of our day is born of sheer aimlessness.
43. Believe that you can do better, and you can.
44. If you would do something great in life, you must be something.
45. Mountains are made to be climbed.
46. More men have become great by study and industry than by inheritance.
47. Service is a yardstick by which greatness is measured.
48. Christ's life is the model for all who would make their lives sublime.
49. To make your dreams come true, wake up.
50. Some are born with silver spoons in their mouths; others have to stir for themselves.
51. First, vision; then work; then accomplishment.
52. When it is finally settled that a thing is impossible, watch some fellow do it.



53. The great truths are the simplest; so are the great men.
54. The first test of a really great man is his humility.
55. An example is the best argument.
56. The members of the smart set never get that way by listening to one another.
57. Better a man dissatisfied than a pig satisfied.

# Courtship

1. How can we say that love is blind when it sees people even better than they are?
2. Just a minute, please. Will you be happy when you get what you are after?
3. The problem: to find a girl pretty enough to attract you and dumb enough to love you.
4. Friendships made at church are likely to be more wholesome than those made at some other places in the community.
5. If you want to get a correct slant on somebody, observe what he does when he has nothing to do.
6. A man who is satisfied with a little in himself may demand much of others.
7. Many a girl remains single because she goes to sleep while some man talks about himself.
8. True beauty is soul deep.
9. No disguise can long hide love where it exists, or feign it where it does not.
10. Some girls, like fireflies, glow only when they are on the wing.
11. The heart has eyes that have never been discovered by the brain.
12. To be loved, be lovable.
13. Be thoughtful about short engagements.
14. Love grows, and all growth requires time.

15. Many a man flirts with a girl he wouldn't marry, and then marries a girl who wouldn't flirt with him.
16. Can the two of you learn to disagree agreeably?
17. Every castle on the earth was once a castle in the air.
18. Don't judge a girl's cooking by the cake she sends to the church social.
19. Keep your eyes wide-open before marriage and half-shut afterward.
20. Every young man should learn to cook before marriage—it is not good for a fellow's health to go to work without breakfast.
21. Women's styles may change, but their designs remain the same.
22. Give a young couple enough rope, and they will soon be tied.
23. Help your daughter to a date.

# Criticism

1. Those who criticize most sharply accept criticism most ungraciously.
2. Criticizing another's garden doesn't keep the weeds out of your own.
3. May our eyes be keener when we look upon our own faults than when we survey the faults of others.
4. To find fault is easy; to do better yourself is difficult.
5. Why expect so much of others? Most of them may be just as weak as you are.
6. Your criticism of another may be open to criticism.
7. Hunt for the good points in that cousin of yours, remembering he has to do the same in your case.
8. It is well once in a while to try to see others as they see themselves.
9. Correct your own faults when you see the errors of others.
10. Criticism that springs from ignorance or malice should be quietly and resolutely ignored.
11. Many a knocker needs to be bumped.

# The Dark Hours

1. There is no sympathy so deep and strong as that which springs from a common suffering.
2. The common verities of life include both joy and sorrow.
3. In your Gethsemane, flowers and thorns grow together.
4. The stars are constantly shining, but we do not see them until the dark hours come.
5. When God gives us a cross to bear, he also gives us strength.
6. The chamber of sickness is the chapel of devotion.
7. Many a life has been redeemed through a great sorrow.
8. The deeper the sorrow, the less tongue it has.
9. They who reject suffering do not love.
10. We do not suffer disappointments alone; others have known the heartsickness of deferred hopes.
11. Sometimes in hours of helplessness, one strong cry to God does more for a man than all his learning.
12. At times we must force ourselves to recall our resources rather than our burdens.

# The Day's Routine

1. The loftiest motives may regulate the simplest duties.
2. Doing our best is being faithful in daily duties so that God will build us into his eternal purpose.
3. One of the ways to get ready for tomorrow is to be faithful in the use of today.
4. Little services that we think of as hindrances may be the highest duties that God assigns us for the day.
5. Duty may be a great mountain road to God.
6. The best way to get rid of duties is to discharge them.
7. God does not reward us because of our apparent success, but because of our fidelity.
8. The secret of victorious living is to discover new joy in old tasks.
9. It is not ability but faithfulness that God rewards.
10. The consciousness of being useful adds buoyancy to life.
11. Loyalty can transform a mediocre life into a thing of beauty.
12. The smallest life can be wonderfully beautiful in its own place.

# Education

1. The heart of education is the education of the heart.
2. Should there be moral, as well as intellectual, tests for teachers?
3. Education is largely a matter of attention.
4. Does education pay? Does it pay to sharpen tools before working with them?
5. Education that does not ennoble its recipient is a curse instead of a blessing.
6. One of the most dangerous features of irreligious culture is its tendency to elevate cleverness above goodness.
7. Education without God is like a ship without a compass.
8. He who thinks he knows it all has the most to learn.
9. He is best educated who is most useful.
10. Common sense is more important than education, but a combination of the two is irresistible.
11. One pound of learning requires ten pounds of common sense to apply it.
12. He who would learn should teach others.

# Enemies of Christian Living

1. Sin is not only breaking a law; it is wounding a loving heart.
2. Explanations of sin do not change its reality.
3. Put off till tomorrow what should not be done at all.
4. There is more happiness in tears of repentance than in the laughter of a cynic.
5. Secret sins do not stay secret.
6. It is better to retrace a wrong step than to go on being unwilling to admit that it is wrong.
7. Smoking puts a girl under a cloud.
8. When the tempter has inserted the germ of envy into a life, he must be highly satisfied, for it drags after it a whole brood of evil spirits.
9. No one can pull himself out of trouble with a corkscrew.
10. It is wrong to say that a man is just human when he lives like an animal.
11. Some people live in the basement of their beings, leaving the upper stories unoccupied.
12. Man's law recognizes crime after it is committed; God recognizes it while it is still in the mind.
13. Virtue that parleys is near surrender.
14. It is far easier to keep character than to recover it after it is lost.



15. People may know you by the things that shame you.
16. It is human to hate those you have wronged.
17. Sin is the costliest thing in the world.
18. The trouble with a skeleton in the closet is that it does not have sense enough to stay there.
19. Some folk pray to be delivered from temptation and then run deliberately into it.
20. When the Bible speaks of Sunday as a day of rest, it does not mean resting up from a wild Saturday night.
21. Some men wake up and find themselves famous; others stay up all night and find themselves notorious.
22. A good time is pleasure that is not followed by regret.
23. Recreation on Sunday should be what really recreates and is not inconsistent with worship.
24. Don't let your vacation be a moral holiday.
25. You will never be seen where you do not go.
26. Sinful pleasure represents the perversion of some divine blessing.
27. He who forgives most freely is best revenged.
28. While you are meditating revenge, the devil is meditating a recruit.
29. Revenge is not sweet; it is a burning poison.
30. No life is open to God if it bitterly nurses its resentments.
31. The person with a grievance is almost sure to have distorted vision.

32. Those who do not forgive others should never sin themselves.
33. To be vindictive is to make ourselves the slaves of our enemies.
34. If you distrust everybody else, others begin to distrust you.
35. We blame too much wickedness on our nerves; after all, they couldn't be so mean without some help from us.

# The Family Finances

1. A safe rule for avoiding financial trouble is:  
Never become indebted for more than can easily be repaid out of income.
2. A good credit record, achieved by prompt payment of bills, is a valuable asset to any married couple.
3. Don't put in so much time preparing for a rainy day that you have no time to enjoy the sunny ones.
4. Buying what you do not need is an easy road to needing what you cannot buy.
5. A budget is indispensable to "putting away for a rainy day."
6. "Living on love" is not entirely practical. Before marrying, be sure you can supply yourself with the minimum essentials.
7. Sometimes it seems to father that life is a game, with tax receipts as prizes.
8. Every wife should know about her husband's finances.
9. No matter how small the couple's earnings, the wife should have an allowance to use just as she pleases, with no questions asked.
10. Some form of health and hospital insurance is always a wise precaution.
11. Education is almost as expensive as ignorance.
12. At commencement exercises, a father remarked, "I worked my way through college, and now I have worked my son's way through."

# Father

1. Jesus taught us that if we take fatherhood at its best and lift it up into the infinite, we will then have some conception of God.
2. No man is ever so tall or so straight as when he bends over to lift a little child.
3. Even though a father is away from the children most of the day, he should share both the responsibilities and the fun.
4. You cannot be a Christian and not make an honest effort to provide for your family.
5. When children are small and demand lots of care and attention, a father should pitch in and help when he can.
6. When Dad tells son, "Father made me work," it proves that grandfather was smarter than father.
7. The fewer children you have, the more disadvantages you may be able to give them.
8. Life's big responsibilities are mostly the "little ones."
9. By our own failures and follies we can handicap our children.
10. Make friends with your children.
11. To train a child in the way he should go, go that way yourself.
12. Some fathers are willing to give their children everything except themselves.

# Grandparents

1. More than anything else, grandparents need to be needed.
2. Grandparents plus God can live lives that run full force into eternity.
3. Grandparents should retire to live, not to die.
4. The happiest grandparents are those who have spent their lives working, giving, living for others and for God.
5. Grandparents should have faith in God and remember that life is like a river that flows on forever.
6. Grandparents! Will old age make you crabbed, or consecrated and cheerful?
7. A grandparent to be pitied is the one who has worked all his life, resenting the necessity of working, and then sits down at the first opportunity and just waits for death.
8. A few grandparents become sick and helpless in order to make others step around.
9. Grandchildren's actions are often modeled after what they see their grandparents do.
10. Give the grandparents a break.
11. It is a great source of satisfaction to a grandparent to bear his own burden without feeling depressed or mistreated.

12. Serenity comes to those who live with an unfaltering faith in an unfailing God.
13. All creative power is on your side. Do not despair.

# Home

1. Home—the father's kingdom, the mother's world, and the child's paradise.
2. No nation is better than the home life of its people.
3. The hearthstone is still the nation's cornerstone.
4. We too easily forget that the home is the mother institution in a world that has become an intricate mass of institutions.
5. A Christian home—where each lives for others and all for God.
6. When the atmosphere of peace pervades our homes, our hearts are filled with quiet gladness.
7. Home is the abode where joys are doubled by comradeship, and pains are halved by sympathy.
8. A house can be bought, but a home must be made.
9. You can sell a house, but you cannot sell a home—except by infidelity or disloyalty.
10. Home isn't built in a day.
11. Home—where the faults and failings of human beings are covered with the soft mantle of charity.
12. From the family, Jesus drew symbols for the kingdom of God.
13. The influence of home is all that keeps many people straight and respectable.
14. Make your home more than just a refueling place for the kids.

# Husbands

1. No man rises too high for his wife to call him down.
2. A man can be most commanding when he has an unsolved moral problem in his own life.
3. Your wife may be your balance wheel.
4. Many husbands confess (but not to their wives) that they are starved for love.
5. Beware of comparing your wife unfavorably with your mother.
6. Husbands often forget the small courtesies that attracted the wife before marriage.
7. Though legally the head of the family, the husband should not insist that every question be decided his way.
8. A husband who gets what he wants by grumbling, shouting, "getting in a huff," or becoming morose often loses more than he gains.
9. A man does not truly love his wife until he loves the bill for her new winter coat.
10. A good son makes a good husband.
11. Some men like to cook; others cook in self-defense.
12. A husband likes a compliment from his wife now and then, but is too proud to ask for it.
13. Some men give their wives ten cents for church for the same reason that they buy a lightning rod.



# Joyful Living

1. No one is perfect, but everyone should try to be.
2. To see beauty and good we must have beauty and good within ourselves.
3. Good will and cheerfulness are no hindrances to a useful life.
4. Cheerfulness oils the machinery of life.
5. It is well to let a little sunshine out as well as in.
6. Joy is not only a duty to yourself; it is a ministry to others.
7. The smile is a universal language.
8. To be unable to laugh is nothing less than a calamity.
9. Being grateful for small measures is the measure for larger souls.
10. Joy is not in things; it is in us.
11. The Christian, more than any other person, should live on the sunny side of life.
12. Joy is something that is multiplied when it is divided.
13. Happiness must be used daily. You cannot preserve it.
14. Happiness is something that can be kept only by giving it away.
15. Happiness is a perfume that we cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on ourselves.

16. The pleasures we give to others are the ones we enjoy most.
17. Hate less; love more.
18. Frown less; laugh more.
19. Preach less; practice more.
20. Talk less; think more.
21. Regret less; aspire more.
22. Whine less; pray more.
23. Cheer yourself along. You cannot be happy hissing yourself.

# Kindness

1. Take every chance you can get to be kind because some day there will be no more chances.
2. Never be too busy to be kind.
3. Simple acts of kindness, generosity, love—these are the keys that unlock life's bountiful storehouse.
4. To exercise your soul, spend five minutes every morning thinking of some good deed to do—and then do it.
5. Today's good deed makes tomorrow's good deed the readier done.
6. Speak kind words about others, and you will hear kind words about yourself.
7. Every day that you are kind and helpful to somebody is a day of progress for you.
8. Heaven helps the helpers.
9. In little ways, chiefly of remembrance, we can all do something to make others happy.
10. Long after a shower, the surface may be dry, but the earth at the tree roots moist; so do kind words sink into the heart and keep it fresh.
11. The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.
12. A good way to be happy is to make other people glad.

# Love

1. You can no more sustain a healthy family life without love than you can walk without bones in your body.
2. Make life a ministry of love, and it will always be worth living.
3. Sometimes the more love we give away, the more we have.
4. Love makes the burdens of life lighter.
5. When faith grows faint and feeble and hope droops her wings, love toils on.
6. It is as impossible for love to thrive without service as for a plant to grow in a vacuum.
7. Love never recognizes obstacles; fear never recognizes opportunities.
8. No time given to the service of love is ever wasted.
9. Service is love made visible.
10. No one can love who has not served.
11. There is a darker tragedy even than being unloved—that is to cease to love.
12. Love is eager to believe the best and never lets the loved one down.
13. Like the widow's handful of meal and cruse of oil, love does not fail with use, but ever increases.
14. The heart has its reasons which the intellect cannot understand.

15. Love can make any wilderness blossom as the rose.
16. If there is anything better than being loved, it is loving.
17. To know that somebody loves you—knows you as you are and knows everything that has happened in your life and still loves you—can change life forever.
18. The cat and the love you give away will come back to you.

# Marriage

1. Marriage is partly getting the right person and partly being the right person.
2. In marriage the eye finds, the heart chooses, the hand binds, and only death looses.
3. Christian marriage is costly in its demands.
4. Marriage vows are more easily spoken than observed.
5. Marriage is a co-operative affair; its burdens are pretty well divided.
6. The existence of love at the time of marriage does not mean that scores of obstacles will not have to be hurdled later.
7. Peace in marriage stems from mutual understanding, mutual trust, and mutual helpfulness.
8. Keep the honeymoon light alive in your eyes.
9. Mix religious faith with marriage for happiness.
10. Honest acceptance of responsibility is the duty of every married person.
11. Prepare for marriage, and you will be happy in marriage.
12. What you get from marriage depends on what you bring to it in the way of attitudes and emotional patterns.
13. You have to work at marriage to make it successful.
14. The man or woman who marries for money alone may get that instead of happiness.

15. One doctor said that half of his patients were neurotic because they were married, and the other half because they were not.
16. I will take married life even with its tears.
17. Give young love financial aid.
18. Husband and wife should have a definite goal in life, and should be agreed that both are working in the best possible way to achieve it.
19. The husband makes the living, but the wife makes the living worth while.
20. Neither husband nor wife should ever make the other the object of joke or ridicule.
21. If you love each other, don't neglect to say so.
22. Neither husband nor wife should be required to make all the decisions.
23. Agree to differ, and resolve to love.
24. Familiarity often hangs a veil over the face of the beautiful.

# Mother

1. The greatest of all educational institutions is the mother.
2. The Creator has ordained the mother to be the builder, the protector, and the trainer of her infant child.
3. The spirit of the mother makes the spirit of the home.
4. Something must be wrong with American motherhood when the age of most criminals is about eighteen years.
5. Christian motherhood is a partnership with God.
6. Absent mothers are still with us in power.
7. A loving mother is God's tenderest image in humanity.
8. A Christian mother is the greatest single influence under God.
9. A mother's love is always the most beautiful of joys.
10. The Protestant madonna is not the virgin Mary but our own Christian mother.
11. Are you the man your mother thought you would be?
12. Sometimes a loving and fastidious mother spills her daughter's confidences and opens her daughter's mail.



# Parents

1. Your name carved on a tree may disappear, but impressions made on a child will remain when time shall be no more.
2. The child and his conscience reflect the relation of the child and his parents.
3. Adjusting to elders is a problem for youth, as it was for their parents before them.
4. Other people's troubles may not seem so bad as yours, but their children usually seem a lot worse.
5. The younger generation does not need critics as much as it needs examples.
6. A small amount of real appreciation can make palatable a large amount of advice.
7. The parent's life is the child's copybook.
8. Parents should preach by their lives, and teach by their acts.
9. You don't correct the emotions or attitudes of the members of your family by retaliation.
10. Patience is of all virtues the most difficult.
11. Few parents admit that children grow up.
12. If some parents paid no more attention to their lawns than they do to their children, they would be living in a jungle of weeds.

# Religion in the Home

1. A home in which Christian faith is strong is a fortress for the soul and a base of operations for noble living.
2. Homes can be lighthearted and full of laughter and yet have their foundations deep in the reverence and love of God and of all things worthy and of good report.
3. Is a blessing asked at your table? It may be as important as what goes on your table.
4. Some well-fed bodies house undernourished souls.
5. Bible reading and prayer in the home supply each member with a steady flow of sustaining spiritual power.
6. Families should not try to live without God's help.
7. Daily prayers are the best remedy for daily cares.
8. From day to day family life needs the help of God.
9. When we have family worship, we link ourselves with the inexhaustible power that controls the universe.
10. The man who piously attends Christian meetings and yet is irritable in his own home lacks something in his Christian character.
11. Man and wife have little chance for success in marriage if they do not make a real effort to find the spiritual values in life.

12. When in doubt, pray.
13. The family that offers God second place offers him no place.
14. How much have your children found in their home to remind them of God?
15. Sainthood has one secret—to hold the will of God higher than one's own.
16. He who is wrong with his brother cannot be right with his Father.
17. Real Christianity is always contagious.

# Relatives

1. A man is not an optimist just because he can look on the bright side of his relatives' trouble.
2. Some girl's future mother-in-law is rearing a son to become the husband and father for a future happy home.
3. What a daughter-in-law sees depends largely on what she looks for.
4. Aunt Dorcas has learned to take life as she finds it, but not to leave it so.
5. When an uncle walks straight, we like to have him 'round.
6. The uncle who is a big gun doesn't waste time shooting off.
7. Even your cousins will avoid you if you are always telling them about your hard luck.
8. Some in-laws who talk from morning to night are always suggesting how they suffer in silence.
9. An in-law may be entirely moral and impossible to live with.
10. Our niece is very exacting. She expects a great deal of everybody except herself.
11. One reason for Niece's poor memory is her lack of attention.
12. The test of Niece's manners comes when she encounters bad ones.

13. Cousin John isn't happy, but he thinks it easier to change others than himself.
14. The most trying person in the world is the brother or sister who is not trying.
15. The man who butts in is usually the goat.
16. When Cousin Tillie is not as happy as she would like to be, she tries to make others happy.
17. Do not nose around too much. You are your brother's keeper but not his bookkeeper.

# Right Living at Home

1. The Christianity we practice abroad must be the Christianity we preach and practice at home.
2. Professing Christians are sometimes guilty of boorish manners, especially in the home.
3. Practice courtesy at home.
4. Do you ever stop to think how much more comfortable home life would be if we were all as polite to our families as to the strangers with whom we have business relations?
5. A person should be tactful, diplomatic, well-mannered, and friendly to his own family as well as to outsiders.
6. Some men who are well-behaved in business relationships have emotional fits at home.
7. Kindness sometimes goes a long way when it ought to stay at home.
8. Each member of the family should live his own life in the most peaceful manner possible.
9. Conceal thy domestic ills.
10. Humdrum is not where you live but what you are.
11. There are people whose conduct in public is correct but whose behavior at home is contemptible.
12. Charity begins where you are.

# Sense of Values

1. It is good to have the things that money can buy, but make sure you do not lose the things that money cannot buy.
2. The relative magnitude of things should be considered in the light of eternity.
3. Material influences born of business pressure can spoil the spiritual life of the American home.
4. ~~Not~~ how much we have, but how much we enjoy makes happiness.
5. A large life can be lived on a little capital.
6. He is no great heir who inherits not his ancestor's virtues.
7. A man's true wealth is the good he does.
8. Better something to live for than much to live on.
9. Don't worry about your station in life—someone will tell you where to get off.
10. It is a great thing to know a trifle when you meet it.
11. We stamp our own values upon ourselves and should not expect to pass for more.
12. Many a poor man goes to his home with a gladder heart than many a rich man.

# The Spoken Word

1. The blunt word may have a cutting edge.
2. A sharp tongue is no indication of a keen mind.
3. The easiest thing to find is fault and the hardest thing to keep is still.
4. Bright people don't cast reflections.
5. There is a frankness that speaks the truth but does not speak it in love.
6. Bees cannot make honey and sting at the same time.
7. The most dangerous chasm is sarcasm.
8. What greedy ears receive, loose tongues betray; but no one can repeat what you don't say.
9. It costs nothing but a bit of effort to speak as you wish to be spoken to.
10. The man or woman who does not enjoy decent conversation will not enjoy heaven.
11. Fine characters never use coarse talk.
12. The lips and the life should speak the same language.
13. The neighbors may be willing to hear both sides if both sides have scandal to tell.



# Threats to Marriage

1. Inadequate and unworthy ideas of marriage threaten the sanctity of American home life.
2. Remember it takes two to make a marriage a failure.
3. The longer selfishness, carelessness, and indifference have their way in a marriage, the harder it will be to undo the results.
4. Jealousy is a confession of failure for either husband or wife.
5. A jealous man or woman sees everything out of focus.
6. Couples who keep on paying attention to each other seldom pay alimony.
7. Little things make big divorces.
8. The most pitiful aspect of divorce is that it achieves nothing.
9. Divorce not only fails to solve your problems; it adds to their number.
10. Adam and Eve are not the only couple who lost a good home by listening to the advice of snakes.
11. The marriage tie should not be a slipknot.
12. The deadliest danger in marriage is nagging.
13. It takes cords of love to keep folks tied.
14. The light of marriage dies when love is done.
15. Keep sweet, and you are seldom in a pickle.
16. It takes two to make up after a quarrel.

# Troubles

1. Christ came not to make life easy but to make men great.
2. Fire is a test of gold; adversity, of strong men.
3. Circumstances tell in life, but they need not rule life.
4. Difficulties are the despair of the weak, the opportunity of the strong.
5. The gem cannot be polished without friction, or a child of God without adversity.
6. When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the saints and heroes of the past have had the same experience.
7. We must learn to take the responsibility for our own failures.
8. No failure need be final.
9. Defeat should be used as a step toward something better.
10. God sets a Canaan over against every wilderness.
11. Don't stop trying; remember it is usually the last key you try that opens the lock.
12. Some people not only expect the worst but make the most of it when it comes.

# Wives

1. It is much easier for a wife to get along with her husband if she can get along on his salary.
2. Salt is what potatoes taste so bad without.
3. You never know a man until you learn to catch his curves.
4. Real charm and grace do not fade as beauty does.
5. How often it happens that a woman in later life lives for her children rather than for her husband!
6. A great affection can preserve and restrain and guide a man.
7. Fine clothes do not make the woman, but they sometimes break the husband.
8. The wife has the inside track in the race for her husband's interest.
9. Charming wives are happier. Be charming.
10. Often a wife still hopes about a man when every other voice is crying shipwreck.
11. There are many widows because man's life span is at present shorter than a woman's.
12. A wife who pouts, cries, sulks, or teases to get her way has not truly prepared herself for marriage.
13. It is more important to keep the wrinkles out of your disposition than out of your face.
14. A man hopes that his lean years are behind him; a woman, that hers are ahead.
15. Six women served at the missionary tea; two remained to wash the dishes.







