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"Elmshaven" St. Helena, California
November 9, 1936.

Box 4929
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Brother

A day or two ago I received your Air Mail letter of Nov. 5, telling us that in the Atlanta church there are some who are starting fanaticism over the social purity question, that it should be practiced to the extent that no more children should be born. You tell me that you discussed this matter with Elder Spicer at the Fall Council, and that he told you Sister White had spoken regarding this, that it was not of God.

This is a subject, Brother Lysinger, which Mrs. White did not write much about. In talking with our older workers, however, I find that a number of times she gave counsel when they were called upon to meet the fanatical teachings of those who felt a special burden to advocate theories and practices which have no substantiation either in the Bible or in the Spirit of prophecy.

You are no doubt familiar with Sister White's teaching that families should not be too large and that children should not be born in to the world when the parents were either physically or financially unable to give them a heritage which was due them and to train them to serve the Lord.

In the year 1885, when Sister White was in Europe and viewed the thin line of workers on that great Continent, she was led to counsel in an article written for the Review that missionaries should be selected for these great unentered fields, who were not handicapped by large families. The reason for this is self evident and it is a problem which we face today. Perhaps I should copy in this letter what she has written on this subject as it is the plainest statement which we have from her pen dealing with this matter.

"In sending missionaries to distant countries those men should be selected who know how to economize, who have not large families, and who, realizing the shortness of time and the great work to be accomplished, will not fill their hands and houses with children, but will keep themselves as free as possible from everything that will divert their minds from their one great work. The wife, if devoted, and left, free

to do so, can, by standing by the side of her husband, accomplish as much as he, God has blessed woman with talents, to be used to His glory in bringing many sons and daughters to God; but many who might be efficient laborers are kept at home to care for their little ones.

"We want missionaries who are missionaries in the fullest sense of the word; who will put aside selfish considerations, and let the cause of God come first; and who, working with an eye single to His glory, will keep themselves as minute men to go where He shall bid, and to work in any capacity to spread the knowledge of the truth. Men who have wives that love and fear God and that can help them in the work, are needed in the missionary field. Many who have families go out to labor, but they do not give themselves entirely to the work. Their minds are divided. Wife and children draw them from their labor, and often keep them out of fields that they might enter were it not that they think they must be near their home. Let missionaries be missionaries; let them leave their own and their wives' hands and hearts free, taking their homes with them where they go, and great good will be accomplished." -- R. & H. Dec. 8, 1885.

On the other hand, any one who reads Mrs. White's writings cannot but observe her teachings that children are a heritage from the Lord and there are many beautiful statements made about the well ordered Christian home. I will cite a few references on these points,--5T 424; 2T 417; MH 356; CT 143-4.

In addition to these there is a beautiful statement found in an article from Sister White's pen in the Review and Herald of June 13, 1882, which I shall copy in this letter,-

"Children are committed to their parents as a precious trust, which God will one day require at their hands. We should give to their training more time, more care and more prayer. They need more of the right kind of instruction....

"Remember that your sons and daughters are younger members of God's family. He has committed them to your care, to train and educate for Heaven. You must render an account to Him for the manner in which you discharge your sacred trust." -- R. & H. June 13, 1882.

You are also familiar, no doubt, with the statement that the work of parents in training their children for God is recognized as the highest type of service for their Master. - See COL 195-6.

The place of children in the home is brought out clearly in "Patriarchs and Prophets", page 84 and in 2T 230, 231, 647, 649, 650.

The times in which we were living were recognized very clearly by Sister White and she speaks of it as being a time of peril for children. A few of these statements might be referred to. You will find them in CT 326; 5T 324; MH 380.

In speaking of the counsel which was given regarding families which were too large, we would refer you to 2T 93-4; 379-80.

There have been, from time to time, those who have arisen in the church who have ^{the} believed and have taught that anything short of absolute abstinence in marital relation is sinful. Some have endeavored to bolster their convictions and teachings by statements from the Spirit of prophecy. There is not, however, the support in her writings which uphold their teachings and while excesses are clearly condemned, yet there is not in any of Mrs. White's writings the support for the contention that the sexual act, itself, is condemned as sinful. The condemnation of excesses may be found in 2T 252; 380-1; 391; 414-5; and 472-80.

B All through the years there have been those who have arisen, from time to time, teaching extreme positions in the marital relation; and while we do not have in written form Sister White's counsel to those who took these positions and led out in teaching them, yet from the lips of older workers we have the testimony that when she was asked for counsel in meeting these situations, she pointed out that such teachings were man-made and would often lead to gross immorality. This was witnessed by the workers in the earlier years and we have seen it ^{out} working in our own time. For there have been among us ministers who taught the most extreme positions in regard to this matter who while teaching these positions and maintaining them in their own homes, have been living in adultery with those outside of the home.

In one instance, ^{when} in 1894, a woman claiming to have visions advocated these same theories, Sister White was led to write not only regarding her work, but regarding a similar work which was brought in in the earlier days. Of this she wrote in 1894:

"In our first experience in the infancy of this cause, we had to meet similar manifestations, Many such revelations were given, and we had a most disagreeable work in meeting this element and giving it no place. Some things stated in these revelations were fulfilled, and this led some to accept them as genuine.

C "Young, unmarried women, would have a message for married men, and in no delicate words would tell them to their face of their abuse of the marriage privileges. Purity was the burden of the messages given, and for a while everything appeared to be reaching a high state of purity and holiness. But the inwardness of these matters was opened to me: I was shown what would be the outcome of this teaching.

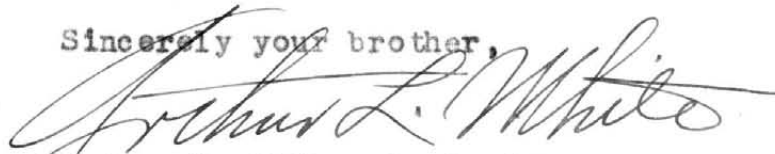
"Those who were engaged in this work were not a superficial, immoral class, but persons who had been the most devoted workers. Satan saw an opportunity to take advantage of the state of things, and to disgrace the cause of God. Those who thought themselves able to bear any test without exciting their carnal propensities, were overcome, and several unmarried

men and women were compelled to be married." --
E.G.White Letter 103-1894

So, Brother Lysinger, while I am not able to place in your hands definite and pointed statements from Sister White's pen, which would meet the situation in the Atlanta church, yet I think that from what I have given you and from the experiences which Mrs. White mentions, as just quoted, you can see clearly where she stood and our understanding of her teachings in this matter. If this is of service to you, I shall be glad.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely your brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur L. White". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

ALW:lfw.