

Please Pray

- ✳️ **The Life-Study Messages Pursuit:** (1) Pray that we would all enter into the reality of being the proper pillar and base of the truth, especially through the reading of the Life-Studies. (2) Pray that our appreciation and understanding of the Word would be opened by the Life-Studies. (3) Pray that we would all be open and give ourselves to enter and enjoy the Life-Studies.
- ✳️ **International Memorial Day Conference (in person: May 26-29; by video streaming: May 27-29):** The subject of this conference will be on "Knowing, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Revealed in Philippians." (1) May the Lord give us ears to hear what the Spirit will be speaking to the churches in this time. May our hearts be prepared as a good heart to receive the speaking. (2) May the Lord release what He has on His heart for this time. (3) May we be brought from knowing the Lord to experiencing Him and even enjoying Him as revealed in the book of Philippians.
- ✳️ **Full-Time Graduating Trainees:** Many full-time trainees will be graduating in July 2023. (1) May each one come before the Lord and let Him guide them concerning what to do and where to go after the training. May each one learn how to follow the Lamb wherever He may go. (2) May each graduating trainee be strengthened to finish the training in a strong way. (3) May their transitioning back to the church life be smooth. (4) May they be built up with the local saints and become a blessing to the churches.
- ✳️ **Renovations of Our Meeting Hall and Financial Offerings:** Our meeting hall will have many necessary renovations to be done in the coming months such as replacing the whole roof, replacing all the air conditioning units, etc. These renovations will be necessary for the proper functioning of the meeting hall and will require a large amount of funds. The brothers will provide more details in the coming weeks. May each one of us consider our financial offerings before the Lord. May the Lord direct us in our giving for the needs of the church, the saints and the needy ones. May we store up for ourselves "Treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal." – Matt. 6:20. May our hearts be on the things of heaven and not on the things on the earth. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." – Matt. 6:21.
- ✳️ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✳️ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: 1 John 3:11 – 5:13.
- ✳️ HWMR, The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Divine Economy, Week 3.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 37 and 38.

Announcements

- ✳️ This year's International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Chicago, IL, from Friday, May 26 to Monday, May 29, 2023. All **in-person** meetings will be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel. Following is the schedule of the **online** meetings:

- Message 1 ♦ 10:00am ♦ Saturday, May 27, 2023.
- Message 2 ♦ 07:30pm ♦ Saturday, May 27, 2023.
- Message 3 ♦ 04:00pm ♦ Sunday, May 28, 2023.
- Message 4 ♦ 07:30pm ♦ Sunday, May 28, 2023.
- Message 5 ♦ 05:00pm ♦ Monday, May 29, 2023.
- Message 6 ♦ 07:30pm ♦ Monday, May 29, 2023.

- ✳️ The North America College Training will be from July 16-22, 2023 in Champaign, IL. For information, visit collegetraining.org/. Please contact the serving brothers if you are interested to attend.
- ✳️ [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) released a series of talks by Brother Minoru Chen about the Life-Studies. Weekly subsequent talks are released on Mondays. You can subscribe to the [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) to get updates. All outlines are available for [download](#).
- ✳️ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and send your prayer requests by email to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, before Wednesday evening of every week. Please note that due to the limited space in the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all prayer burdens sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳️ May 26-29, Chicago, IL: **International Memorial Day Conference.**
 - ✳️ July 3-8, Anaheim, CA: **July Semi-Annual Training.**
 - ✳️ July 16-22, Champaign, IL: **North America College Training.**
 - ✳️ August 6-11, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth ("SST").**
- Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

This Week's Activities

Sun-May-21 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-May-22	♦
Tues-May-23	♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-May-24	♦
Thurs-May-25	♦
Fri-May-26	♦ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-May-27	♦ 10:00am: Memorial Day Conference, Message 1 (online). ♦ 07:30pm: Memorial Day Conference, Message 2 (online).
Sun-May-28 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ 04:00pm: Memorial Day Conference, Message 3 (online). ♦ 07:30pm: Memorial Day Conference, Message 4 (online).
Mon-May-29	♦ 05:00pm: Memorial Day Conference, Message 5 (online). ♦ 07:30pm: Memorial Day Conference, Message 6 (online).

CHOOSING A MATE

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:18

II. FACTORS AFFECTING THE CHOICE OF A MATE (cont'd)

E. Age

Generally speaking, women mature and age faster than men. In a marriage, the man should generally be five, six, or even seven to eight years older than the woman, as far as physical age is concerned. The woman matures five years ahead of the man and ages about ten years faster than he does. This is true as far as physiological development is concerned.

On the other hand, there is the mental development of the human life. Man has an intellectual age. It is possible for a person to be physically matured yet remain intellectually a child. It is possible for him to be old in the body but young in the mind. A man can be in his thirties physically but act as if he were in his twenties mentally. In that sense he is still young. Among Christians, if a brother's mental maturity exceeds that of a sister, it may not be a matter of concern for the brother to be younger than the sister in age.

The matter lies in whether one pays more attention to the physical age or the mental age. If physical age is the primary concern, it is better for the brother to be older than the sister. If mental age is the primary concern, it is all right for a sister to be older than a brother. This is something we cannot decide for a couple; they have to consider it for themselves. Some pay more attention to the physical aspect and others to the mental aspect. There is no regulation or law as far as age is concerned.

F. Compatibility in Personality, Goals, and Interests

The above five items are related to the physiological aspect of human life. Now we want to talk about the psychological aspect of a person. In other words, we want to talk about the question of personality.

For a marriage to be healthy, there must be not only natural attraction but also compatibility or agreement in personality. One can also say that there must be compatibility in interests or likes. If there is no compatibility in personality or interests in a marriage, sooner or later there will be no peace in the family, and both parties will suffer. A new believer must realize that natural attraction is temporary, but compatibility of character is something that lasts.

Among unbelievers, the kind of love described in their romance novels is always a matter of natural attraction. But this is not the kind of love spoken of in the Bible. Love does include natural attraction, but natural attraction may not be love. There is natural attraction in love, but there is also compatibility of personality in love. There are two basic conditions or, you may say, two basic ingredients of love: One ingredient is natural attraction; the other ingredient is compatibility and similarity of personality and interests.

Someone may be attractive to you as far as outward appearance is concerned, but you may not like him at all because what he does is totally the opposite of your taste. He may not like what you like, and you may not like what he likes. This shows that there is an incompatibility in personality.

1. Warm versus Cold

A husband or wife may be very affectionate in a family. He or she may like people very much and be very generous to people. He or she may go out of the way to provide warm hospitality to people. But the other party may be quite cold toward people. He or she may not be completely void of love, but an equal amount of affection is not found in him or her. Immediately, we can see that the problem is with their personalities. Suppose you are a person who is very affectionate toward others. You are generous and warm. Suppose you marry a husband who is also very loving and affectionate towards people. Both of you will find great interest in meeting people. You will feel that life is easy. Whenever you turn to the west, you will find the tide flowing to the west. You will always be riding in the direction of the tide. But if the other party is cold and frigid toward people, he will pull in one direction while you pull in the other direction. You will feel that you are tolerating him, and he will feel that he is tolerating you. When you behave a certain way, he may feel that it is too much and that he is tolerating you. When he behaves a certain way, you may feel that he is too stingy and that you are tolerating him. This is not very good.

2. Kind versus Harsh

Some people are not only affectionate but also kind. They do not want to hurt or offend anyone and are always considerate of others. If one chooses a husband or a wife who is also kind and considerate, who is happy to preserve the pride of others, and who never wants to embarrass others, he or she will always feel happy and optimistic. When he moves in one direction, the tide will seem to follow him in the same direction. Life will be easy for him. But suppose the other party is totally different. Suppose she always turns the opposite direction and is harsh and demanding toward everyone and everything. He will face many problems in his marriage. Sometimes a person is kind not only toward people but also to cats and dogs. If such a one has a wife who always beats the dogs and cats, they will face problems. Some people are kind to people as well as to things. Others are insensitive to everything, not just to cats and dogs but also to people. It is quite a big problem for two persons with different personalities to live together. It is hard for one side to pull in one direction and the other side to pull in the other direction.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 31, *CHOOSING A MATE*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.