

A TREASURE
THE WORLD
KNOWS NOT OF

Excerpts from
Some Fruits of Solitude
More Fruits of Solitude
Fruits of a Father's Love

William Penn

From *Some Fruits of Solitude*

(published 1693)

487. I have often wondered at the unaccountableness of man in this; among other things; that though he loves changes so well, he should care so little to hear or think of his last, great, and best change too, if he pleases.

488. Being, as to our bodies, composed of changeable elements, we, with the world, are made up of and subsist by revolution: but our souls being of another and nobler nature, we should seek our rest in a more enduring habitation.

489. The truest end of life is to know the life that never ends.

490. He that makes this his care will find it his crown at last.

497. His work keeps pace with his life, and so leaves nothing to be done when he dies.

498. And he that lives to live ever, never fears dying.

499. Nor can the means be terrible to him that heartily believes the end.

500. For though death be a dark passage, it leads to immortality, and that is recompense enough for suffering of it.

501. And yet faith lights us, even through the grave, being the evidence of things not seen.

502. And this is the comfort of the good, that the grave cannot hold them, and that they live as soon as they die.

503. For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity.

504. Nor can there be a revolution without it; for it supposes the dissolution of one form, in order to the succession of another.

505. Death then, being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live if we cannot bear to die.

From *More Fruits of Solitude*

(published 1702)

127. Union of Friends. They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it.

128. Death cannot kill what never dies.

129. Nor can spirits ever be divided that love and live in the same divine principle; the root and record of their friendship.

130. If absence be not death, neither is theirs.

131. Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still.

132. For they must needs be present that love and live in that which is omnipresent.

133. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure.

134. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal.

From Fruits of a Father's Love
(published 1726: probably written in 1699)

I will begin here also, with the beginning of time, the morning; so soon as you wake, retire your mind into a pure silence, from all thoughts and ideas of worldly things, and in that frame, wait upon God, to feel his good presence, to lift up your hearts to him, and commit your whole self, into his blessed care and protection. Then rise, if well, immediately; being dressed, read a chapter or more in the scriptures, and afterwards dispose your selves for the business of the day; ever remembering that God is present, the overseer of all your thoughts, words, and actions; and demean your selves, my dear children, accordingly; and do not you dare to do that in His holy all-seeing presence, which you would be ashamed, a man, yea a child, should see you do.

And as you have intervals, from your lawful occasions, delight to step home, within your selves, I mean, and commune with your own hearts, and be still; and (as Nebuchadnezzar said on another occasion) One like the Son of God, you shall find and enjoy with you and in you; a treasure the world knows not of, but is the aim, end and diadem of the children of God. This will bear you up against all temptations, and carry you sweetly and evenly through your day's business, supporting you under disappointments, and moderating your satisfaction in success and prosperity. The evening come, read again the holy scripture, and have your times of retirement, before you close your eyes, as in the morning; that so the Lord may be the alpha and omega of every day of your lives. And if God bless you with families, remember good Joshua's Resolution, Josh. 24.15. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.



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