



## Newsletter – September 2021

CFSM Singapore  
2 Highland Road, #03-12  
Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>  
Contact email: [cfsmsg@gmail.com](mailto:cfsmsg@gmail.com)

### DEALING WITH IN-LAWS

Being Father-in-law is some kind of a promotion, isn't it? The title carries a family tie of added responsibilities and new frontiers and measured conduct (remember not my son, but my son-in-LAW). I became a Father-in-law on June 26. Whether it was a happy occasion like picking pebbles at the beach is something I could not tell now. It is too early.

However, married couples and their respective in-laws can certainly prepare well and be prepared. Somehow or rather, our children become more precious when they are about to marry. This situation reminds us not to take our relationship with our son or daughter for granted. Every moment that a parent spends with his or her child is precious and irreplaceable. It is an investment in LOVE. Well, if you do not believe so, then maybe you can ask childless couples how they feel about children. In modern times, in many families, there are only two or maximum three children. So, when they are married, very soon the home becomes quiet and we realize that the sweet family time is over. There is a new chapter in the lives of in-laws and the married children.

Married children do usually visit their parents once or twice a week. But it is a different life journey. Two sets of families occupy the children's time and there is a need to maintain the delicate balance to avoid future skirmishes. We, the parents, must be understanding and respect the wishes of our married children. We, the parents, want to age wisely.

There are many reasons for the tensions between married couples and their respective in-laws. Some of them are as follows:

- Pressure to have children — the number-one source of tension between a woman and her in-laws.
- Older relatives trying to maintain their authoritative role in a household.
- A know-it-all and/or take-charge mother-in-law.

- A parent's belief that no one is good enough for their son or daughter.
- Conflicting ideas over how to raise children.
- Personality clashes.
- Money lending.
- Pressure to conform to religious or cultural norms or social status.
- A parent trying to drive a wedge into a marital relationship.

The couple must in all situations remain united and have a common stand. However, it does not always happen in this way and this then result in a situation that cannot be resolved easily. To maintain privacy, amongst other reasons, a married couple may live separately in their own house away from their parents. Though to some extent this can be helpful, it does not guarantee that there will be no tensions with their in-laws. This is especially so when the married couple need their in-laws assistance in looking after their children, run errands, supervise the domestic worker, etc

What would be the right Christian duty in the family? To love "the other", is to will what is good for "the other". Whilst one should not interfere and leave the in-laws the free will to do things "their way", we should continue to support and promote and enhance family relationships. They may have their way, as they face different circumstances, but there are Church's teachings that will help them along the way.

### **JUDGE (REFLECT)**

#### Personal Reflection

1. How do we feel about the above situations?
2. Do we have issues in our own family? Should we be good examples first?

#### Christian Reflection

3. How can the Word of God assist us in these situations? Give some examples.
4. What does the Social Teachings of the Church and the Encyclicals say about these family ties?

### **ACT**

1. As a Movement, how can we assist married couples in these situations of conflict and tensions? How can we promote good family ties?
2. As individuals, do we have a right to interfere? How can we help our family members, relatives, friends or strangers? What can we tell them?