



Advancing knowledge & the arts www.folger.edu/education

Handout #3 – from the chapter Ordering of Children in the Matter of Marriage

194

not abiolute.

Ordering of children

daughter, to give themselves in marriage to any whofoener, valeffe they have their parents con-Begin reading here fent.

Parents autho-

Notwithstanding I doe not take the authoritie their children. of parents in this case to be absolute, and without limitation. For first, nature teacheth that he must vse his children like a parent, that is, kindly and louingly assonne and daughter, and not as flaues or as beafts tyrannically: for if nature teach (as is. before shewed in this Chapter) that when children grow to ripenes of age, they should be applied to fuch trades, as they by naturall inclinations are fit, apt, and liking; then much more in the matter of marriage, the children ought to have their liking, wherein the child is to forfake father and mother, that they two may be one flesh : for what comfort is it to the child to forfake their pas rents, and to cleaue to her to whom he hath noliking? You shal have parents when they make their children a coat, they will bid them choose the colour, and yet thinke they loofe no authoritie ouer their children : much leffe thall their authority, be diminished, if they suffer their child to view well, and consider of the husband or wife they choose for them, that they like as well as their Parents. The child must doe the service which marriage requireth; therefore the parents have great reafon to graunt the child free libertie to like or notto like, that it may the more cheerefully perform the duty, which is vnchangeable during life. Therfore we fee where Parents are headstrong, to confrainc.