



Handout #1 p.1 – excerpt from the chapter *The Ordering of Maides from Twelve Yeare Old and Upward* 

from twelve yeare old and upward. it is yet night, and giveth meate to her houshold, and a taske to her maides. Howbeit, such parents as are some maid to be putinfer. not offufficient ability to maintaine their children siee. in their owne houle, which under wife-gouerning parents were best in this licentious generation) they ought to apply their wits and best endeauour, to place them in good fernices, where they may be well taught all manner of good houfwifrie, and honeftie of life, and encrease in the knowledge of our Lord lesus Christ. In this place I cannot but remember one Caius Furius Cresinus, who so imploved a luftic daughter with his tooles of husbandrie and oxen, that he reaped more fruit of a small peice of ground, then his neighbours did of verylarge fields: Rebekah, Rachel, & Jethroes daugh- Gen. 14. & 19. ters, kept their fathers fneepe : and king Davids 2. Sama 3.7. daughter could handle the frying pan. It is then Begin reading here no disgrace, but great good to keep the daughters . well bufied in honest labour, at home or in service abroad. And at this age of twelve yeares and for- After twelve ward, the parents, and namely the mother, is to feth her daughvie her felfe more familiarly with the daughter (al-arly. way keeping the grauitie and authoritie of a mother) that so the child may love her companie, and be more apt to open her mind to her mother, and not by seucritic to cause her to delight in a stranger, and to open her mind to fuch: for by kind vfage, they shall see further into their natures, and more easily learne what need they have of marriage, & so preuent the stealing away of their child, or at leasof their childs heart. And thus obseruing



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## The ordering of maides

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1.Cot.7.3

Some parents thinke not on their daughters

marrying.

ning their naturall disposition, on the one side they may in due time feeke out an honest match for their child: and handsomely on the otherside choose such a man, as their daughter may bee best able to content, and be contented. For every honest or rich maide, is not fit for eneric honest & rich man; but there is a certen equabilitie to bee observed, that they two who by marriage are to be made one, may joyfully give due beneuolence one to the other: as to muficall infruments rightly fitted, doe make a most pleasant and fweet harmonicina welltuned confort. And in this cafe, I fee many parents to doe contrarie to their office: for either they thinke not vpon their childrens neede, or els neglect the time, or for worldly respects, cause their children to stay ouer-long, to their great hazard and damage many waies. I haue heard of a wife gentleman, of good efteeme for profession in the Gospel, who (alas) had fee down fuch a rate vpon his daughters, that some of them pined away, fome waxed old beeing young, and other ill effects followed. I am forrie fuch a man should be reputed wife or a Christian, who measureth his daughters preferment by mony, and maketh riches his god and guide in his daughters. marriage. I knew also a gentleman, who refusing a verie honest gentleman, because hee was not in wealth and reputation answerable to his owne eflate & countenance, was made wifer by a fecond daughters folly, and then gave his other daughter to that honest gentleman; with whom hee lived like