



The Country Preacher's Journal

"...speaking the truth in love" Ephesians 4:15

Motherhood and the Bible

Randall F. Matheny

Motherhood has taken a lot of beatings over the years, and the last few decades have been no exception. Words such as "mothering" and "fathering" have given way to "parenting," suggesting that mother, or father, or perhaps even both, are disposable. Recently, a hue and cry was raised in the feminist community over a scholarly article that dared to suggest that children with stay-at-home moms were better off. In the news a few days ago was an article reviewing a May 8, New York Post front page story entitled, "School Kills Mother's Day - Gay Parents Force Principal to Ban Cards." Mother's Day is purely a human tradition (first observance in Philadelphia, Pa., 1907, based on suggestions by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 and Anna Jarvis in 1907; national observance dates from 1914) with no special religious significance, so it is immaterial to Christianity whether Mother's Day is celebrated or not, however, the text of the article reported not only an assault on Mother's Day, but on mother and

fatherhood as defined by the Bible. When people tamper with the honorable and divine institution of family, they find themselves at odds with God.

You do not have to read very far in the first book of the Bible to find a statement exalting the state of motherhood. "And Adam called his wife's name Eve,

nurturing, caring, protecting, educating, and counseling. Second, no human being would be in existence if "same sex" relationships had become the rule, or the norm, early in human history. Fact: males with males, or females with females, no matter how committed they may be to each other, cannot naturally bear children. God, in

His infinite wisdom, gives us cause to rejoice in maintaining the natural roles of mother and fatherhood in spite of the unnatural attacks against

them! Finally, it would have prevented a lot of problems for the feminist movement if God had chosen some other way to bring His Son into the world. Certainly, He could have chosen a single parent home, or even a same sex couple, to raise His Son. How politically incorrect that He chose a woman to carry and nurse Jesus, and chose to have Him raised and trained by an adoptive, heterosexual father. Then, to add insult to injury, God chose a deeply religious couple, too! The birth and childhood of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory,

"School Kills Mother's Day - Gay Parents Force Principal to Ban Cards." -- New York Post

because she was the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). Think for a moment about the implications of this simple, but deeply profound, statement. First, every human being owes a debt of gratitude, not only to God for His creative genius, but to Eve, and every other mother throughout history for fulfilling the biological and maternal roles that God has given them. We cannot even exclude so called "test tube" babies, because a female, the biological mother, provided the ovum. However, motherhood goes far beyond the ability to give birth. It also includes

exalts the Biblically defined family, motherhood and fatherhood, to be the ultimate model for all humankind. To all godly, loving mothers, who honor and grace motherhood as God has defined it: Happy Mother's Day!

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Motherhood, A Divine Blessing

By Randall F. Matheny

Most people probably know that Mother's Day, celebrated on the second Sunday in May, was first observed in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1907, based on suggestions that Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis made in 1872 and 1907 respectively. The national observance of Mother's Day dates from 1914. Although Mother's Day is not a special day recognized by the New Testament, or officially observed by the church, it should serve to remind everyone of the Biblical importance and virtue of motherhood.

Motherhood is a vital part of God's design in creation, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28a), a purpose that man alone, or any number of men, cannot accomplish in the absence of woman. Jehovah created the first family as man and woman (man and wife, Gen. 2:24), and

all human beings owe their existence to that first couple who serve as the only divinely ordained and approved pattern for the most precious and intimate of human relationships. Adam recognized his wife's divine role: "And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). Although woman has done and will do many great things as a helper comparable to man (Gen. 2:18), the divinely given privilege of motherhood remains the apex of all of her achievements. The virtues of

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motherhood are seen in women such as Jochebed (Exo. 6:20), who along with Amram, saw the potential in her son (Heb. 11:23) and spared no risk to save his life (Exo. 1:22-2:3), Hannah, who recognized children as a divine gift (Psa. 127:3-5) and reciprocated by dedicating her child to the Lord (1 Sam. 1:20-22), Elizabeth and Mary, who joyfully accepted the responsibilities of motherhood (Lk. 1:38-56) even while they were carrying their infants in their wombs, and Eunice, who imparted her faith to her son, Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5). The fact that God chose a woman to bring His Son into the world forever raised motherhood to a place of highest honor. The scriptures teach that mothers are worthy of the same obedience

and respect as fathers (Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3) and the book of Proverbs (see 1:8; 31:1) teaches that even in ancient times mothers shared responsibility with fathers in instructing and disciplining children. Although Jesus is to be loved above parents (Mat. 10:37), He set the great example of caring for His mother for all of His disciples to follow (Jn. 19:25-27). Mothers are to be loved, honored, respected, obeyed and cared for by their children. Our world today needs to relearn these valuable lessons if we would ever

find a renewed respect for all human life. Without motherhood, in its esteemed Biblical sense, the heart is gone from the home and all creation suffers because of the void.

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Man's Inhumanity to Man

By Ken Chumbley

I am writing this on April 19, the sixth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and also the day in which the nation of Israel remembers the six million Jews slaughtered during the Holocaust in World War II. Both of these are examples of man's inhumanity to man. These are, sadly, not unusual events. We still see such occurring in the Middle East with the attack on

the USS Cole last fall by supporters of Osama Ben Laden, factions of the Irish Republican Army continuing their bombings in Great Britain, and on we could go. Indeed, history is replete with accounts of man's inhumanity to man going all the way back to the time when Cain slew his brother Abel. Why does man act in this way toward his fellowman, one made in the image of God?

There may be lots of different reasons set forth for the different acts of violence. However, at the root of all is the matter of sin. From the time sin entered into the world that God had made. When in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve violated the one command that God had given them, we see the sad spectacle of man's inhumanity to man displayed. Can this cycle be stopped. Yes, there is one way, but only one. That way is through Christ and His sacrifice for man's sin.

Yes, through Christ and His Gospel, man can learn to live with his fellowman. Only through the power of Christ's gospel (Romans 1:16) can men learn to live together in peace and harmony. In Christ, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Moslem, black and white, can learn to live in peace and harmony. Only as all become one in Christ can man conquer sin, the root of all of man's inhumanity to man.

But, someone says, "the task is too great, I cannot possibly bring all of these differing peoples together in Christ." That is true. However, we can begin where we are. We can work in

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our communities to spread the gospel of Christ that in each locality men and women from a variety of backgrounds can learn to live together in peace and harmony in Christ Jesus. We cannot change the world, but we can, through the power of the Gospel of Christ, change individuals. Christ does not save the masses, He does it one by one as each submits in obedience to the Gospel and is born again into the kingdom of God, acknowledging Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

We can begin with our families, our friends and neighbors, those whom we work with. Who is going to reach out with the Gospel message to these folk unless we do it? How are they going to have the opportunity to learn and obey the truth unless we are willing to take the Gospel to them. The world is not going to present the message of Christ. Christians must do that. Thus, we should use every means possible to present the glorious gospel message to the people in our communities and from [there] seek to take that same message as far as we can through

the various means that we have at our disposal. However, for the work to be accomplished, it is going to take the efforts of every Christian. We cannot sit on the sidelines and expect others to do our work. We are all to be laborers in His vineyard. We are all responsible for planting the seed of the kingdom, the word of God. Let us then dedicate ourselves to work and to pray that [the] only means of stopping man's inhumanity to man, the Gospel of Christ, may be made known that lives can be changed by its mighty power.

--Belvedere, SC

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Lessons Learned from a Coffee Can

By Tim Nichols

You can learn a lot from the side of a coffee can. Maxwell House has written, there, to inform us that they have some experts who know how to carefully select, roast, and grind these beans in several different ways. They assure us that one of those ways will satisfy us. Read it for yourself if you don't believe me. They used to tell us that they had one coffee to offer us and that it was "good to the last drop". Now they tell us that they have gotten their experts to mix

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up some other batches in case you don't agree with their opinion of the first.

Jesus established His church and delivered the faith to her in the first century (Jude 3). His moral standards for our individual and collective lives are the right ones as He delivered them. His orders regarding the mission of the church are complete and unchanging. His instructions regarding how we are to express our worship, what we are to teach the world and each other, how we are to help those in need, and how we are to conduct ourselves toward one another are exactly as they ought to

be. In the first century they were uniformly given to individual churches that were to walk by the same standard (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 16:1). When Jesus revealed truth that offended rather than drew people in, He said of those who did not want it, "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind" (Mat. 15:12-14; see also Mat. 11:6; 13:55-57; Jn. 6:60-66; Rom. 9:32, 33; 1 Pet. 2:8). When Paul knew that he could draw larger crowds and awe larger numbers of people by using the admired techniques of rhetoric of his day, he refused to do so because doing so would deny the power of the gospel (1 Cor. 1:17-31). The gospel produced oneness when it produced its designed fruit and all those things that threatened to produce distinguishable

"varieties" from the substance of the gospel -- and thus division -- were to be abhorred rather than embraced (1 Cor. 1:10).

Could it be that some of our misguided brethren have been reading and learning from coffees when they ought to be reading their Bibles? When we are told that we ought to remove some element of Divine truth in order to appeal to some element of human desire, or when we are counseled to add some human

The gospel has come to us blended to perfection. We cannot, with human hands, reformulate and improve the substance of it.

element not found in the gospel, it seems so. When we hear of large churches having a "traditional service" for those who prefer such a thing, and then a "contemporary service" for those whose tastes are not satisfied by the other, it seems so. When we hear those who once called upon the world to find the church that is right and true rather than to "attend the church of your choice", now turning around and saying, "attend the service of your choice", it seems so. Even when it is suggested that some particular truths are to be emphasized while others are to be de-emphasized, it seems so.

The gospel has come to us blended to perfection. We cannot, with human hands, reformulate and improve the substance of it. Its elements are

all in right proportions to one another. The ratios of mercy, justice, love, duty, comfort, expected affliction, calls for repentance and obedience, and assurances of forgiveness are all perfect. Maxwell House can make its "Master Blend" and then go ahead and recommend some others. Jesus Christ has delivered the "Master's Blend" and no other will do. It is perfectly "good to the last drop."

--Burlington, WV

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