

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Place For Mothers

(Jerry Fite)

Motherhood is a joyous state for women. Children are God’s blessing to the feminine sex. “*Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is His reward*” (Psalm 127:3). Women from old as Sarah, Rachel, Hannah and Elizabeth learned the truth of Psalm 113:9: “*He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye Jehovah.*”

A mother with her children is to be in a family with her husband, the father of her children. God placed the incarnate Son of God in a family with a father. Mary became pregnant, not by man, but by the power of God’s Spirit (Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:18). Yet, God directed Joseph to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20, 24). Mary and Joseph therefore formed the solid foundation for raising a child. Young Jesus honored God’s wisdom by being “*subject unto them*” – father and mother together (Luke 2:51).

God’s wisdom of father and mother rising from the relationship of husband and wife is gradually being forsaken in our society. The Pew Research Center reveals in their nationwide survey in 1990, “28% of births were to unmarried women.” In 2014, their survey shows that “4 in 10 births

occur to women who are single, or living with a non-marital partner.”

The trend is not due to uneducated teenagers becoming pregnant. In fact, pregnancy of young women under 20 have trended downward in the last few years. They have gone from 13% (1990), 10% (2008) to 7% today. Not only the age has risen, but the educational level of mothers has risen. In each ethnicity, women becoming mothers at the age of 35 and older have increased. Mothers with some college education rose from 41% in 1990 to 54% in 2006. Older, more educated and unmarried is the look of motherhood today. Regardless of how educated, entering motherhood unmarried does not reflect God’s will for mothers.

Hopefully, the older and more educated mother will take an active part in the spiritual development of her children. Fathers have their God-given leadership responsibilities in this area, but mothers are active assistants. “*My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother*” (Proverbs 1:8). Lemuel certainly had access to the teaching of God’s wisdom through the exhortation of his mother (Proverbs 31:1ff.). Timo-

thy had a mother and a grandmother who were busy building a foundation for faith in his young heart (2 Timothy 3:15, 1:5). Wise mothers will be raising children who will be able to say, “*I was cast upon thee from the womb; Thou art my God since my mother bare me*” (Psalm 22:10).

Being in subjection to a husband does not take away a mother’s lead. She is not the head of the man, but honoring his headship, she is “*to rule the household*” (1 Timothy 5:14). Her place in the home offers her the opportunity to use her organizational skills to provide a clean, organized, and nurturing environment. Godly instructions should also come from her tongue. The son or daughter who despises such teaching is indeed foolish and should be ashamed (Proverbs 15:20, 30:17).

What are the plans in contemplating parenthood? According to Pew, 87% of parents say they are having their first child for the “*joy of having children.*” While the joy of parenthood is in view, the conscious planning in nurturing, raising and teaching a child is not at the forefront of some of the parents’ minds. In fact, 47 % indicate such forethought is absent: “*There wasn’t a reason, it just happened.*”