

# Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXX

August 2, 2020

No. 31

## God Knows Best

By (Jerry Fite)

**C**hild welfare agencies know it. Prison correctional institutions know it. Military organizations know it. Objective data makes it clear that engaged fathers in the home are beneficial to the children, and without the father, children suffer greatly.

A 2017 United States Census Bureau data report reveals that 19.7 million children live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. More than one in four children in the U.S. are growing up without a man called “father” in their household. The “fatherless” effect is devastating on children. The child is more likely to have behavioral problems, face abuse and neglect, abuse drugs and alcohol, commit crime, and go to prison. The child without a father in the home has two times greater risk for infant mortality, four times greater risk for poverty; and seven times more likely to become pregnant as a teen. Without a father in the home, children are two times more likely to drop out of high school.

Decades of voices undermining the foundational nuclear family comprised of two parents (man and woman) and one or two children, and denouncing the need of the father in the home for societal well-being are being exposed as false. Sadly, the children are the ones suffering from a world

determined to leave God out of their knowledge.

God not only created us as spiritual beings, made in His image (*Genesis 1:27, John 4:24*), but He also created man as sexual creatures in the flesh (*Genesis 4:1*). The sexual union between the male sperm and the female egg produces the living fertilized zygote. This living embryo develops within the womb of the female until the child comes forth in birth.

God desired man to reproduce and populate the earth (*Genesis 1:28*). Therefore, the sexual relationship was core to His plan. Without the sexual union of the male and female, physical life could not begin. Without nurturing that life with food, life could not be sustained. Is it any wonder why God has made both sex and food pleasurable to our physical bodies?

God decreed that sexual desires would be fulfilled in the holy relationship of marriage (*I Corinthians 7:2-5*). So, the exclusive sexual relationship between a man and woman in marriage is not only pleasurable intimacy between a husband and a wife but has procreative dimensions.

God created the first male and female as a man and woman without a father and mother. But He

decreed that future generations would propagate from a nuclear family. “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh*” (*Genesis 2:24*). A man would leave his father and mother, not just a mother in the home. Jesus emphasized the sexual makeup of this family structure when He says, “...*have ye not read, that He who made them from the beginning male and female, and said, ‘For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’*” (*Matthew 19:4-5*)? Then, Jesus declared the permanency of this holy relationship by saying, “*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*” (*Matthew 19:6*).

The engaged father, with his positive instruction and his loving discipline is part of God’s plan for raising children (*Proverbs 4:1-9, 3:11-12, Hebrews 12:4-12*). The strength of a father leading the home coupled with the feminine nurturing of the mother provides the healthy atmosphere for adolescent maturity. Paul Amato, a socialist, points to the consistent correlation between a fatherly presence and lack of harmful aggression among kids. This is just one blessing of the father in the home. God knows best!