

God's Plan for Mothers - Basics. 5-6-22

Ron Peri

Today is Mother's Day, a day in which we celebrate mothers. It is ironic that in the past few days, in the runup to this Mother's day, we awoke to the news that a draft of the Supreme Court decision on *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Center* would clearly overturn *Roe v Wade*. Abortion would no longer be viewed as enshrined in the United States Constitution, but would be returned to the states. There used to be no question that being a mother and having children was a blessing from God. Given the reaction to the leak of Justice Alito's draft opinion, however, many people clearly think children are optional and, for some, a very bad option. Let's look at the Scriptures and get God's thoughts on children.

Consider the first commandment. Not the first commandment in the ten given to Moses at Sinai, but the original first commandment in Genesis chapter 1. The commandment that explains why God made human beings male and female. The first commandment in the scriptures was one given to Adam and Eve and to all their descendants throughout time. In Genesis 1: 27-28 we read about this first commandment:

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. (and here is the blessing) And God said to them, "***Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*** and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

"Be fruitful and multiply". The basic plan of God laid out in the very first chapter of the Bible as the purpose of his creation of man and woman was that they should bear children and populate the earth. More than populate the earth, subdue it and have dominion over it. That was the original plan. And so it was that God created Mothers.

Although damaged by the fall, this is still a principle that exists. It remains God's desire to expand the citizens of the kingdom, but first, they must be born. Jesus says clearly in Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." God loves children. His whole plan for this planet had to do with creating enough children to be born so that they could populate this earth. For that purpose, we are told, God created mankind as male and female. The purpose of that is so that they would procreate and have children. Hence, God created mothers to bear, and cherish, and mother little babies. Parenting can be an incredible challenge, however. In Adam and Eve's fall, not only did we lose the ability to have dominion over the earth, we struggle to have dominion over our own households. Many women no longer even want that.

One young Mom answered a knock on the door. A visitor from her new church stood there. She was frazzled and worn out after spending the whole day with her four kids. But she didn't want to be rude and invited him in. He asked her, "How would you like to live forever?" She didn't hesitate. Tired and worn out, she said, "I don't think I could handle it."

A little boy asked the question, "How come whenever my Mom gets tired, I'm the one who has to take a nap?"

Being a mother is hard. Any husband who is honest will say, "there is no way that I could do what she does". But it pays off handsomely. Watch any sporting event when the camera closes in on a player on the bench. You will hear them say, "Hi, mom." And when they are interviewed about the greatest influence on their lives, nine times out of ten they will sing the praises of their mothers.

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The influence of a mother is massive. A century ago, evangelist Billy Sunday said, "There is more power in a mother's hand than in a king's scepter." Billy Graham commented and said, "Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children."

God stands directly behind the parents when he commands, "Honor your father and your mother" as the fifth commandment. And he spells out the benefit in Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you." The promise is that by honoring our parents our lives will be blessed.

But even this basic premise about parenting is under attack today. We are in an epic battle between parents and school board members who do not believe that parents have the right to question what their children have been taught, much less decide what should be taught. I will tell you what right. It is a God given right. God did not say, honor your school teacher. Or honor the heads of the teachers' unions. Or honor the National School Boards Association, which sent a letter to the White House comparing concerned parents to domestic terrorists, which in turn prompted the Justice Department to sic the FBI on parents who speak their minds at public school-board meetings.

According to proverbs, fathers and mothers are each given different roles. Solomon, guided by the Holy Spirit, writes in Proverbs 1:7-9:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck."

The word translated "instruction" is the Hebrew word *musar*. *Musar* has to do with training someone to obey. It is the work of the one who enforces the rules. Basic training in the army is a form of *musar*. Another word for *musar* is discipline. In Hebrews, God makes clear that a loving father disciplines the child that he loves (Hebrews 12:5-8):

"And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?
"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives."

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

We don't discipline our neighbors' children. We train up the child that we love. Discipline flows from love. That discipline is spoken of as the father's responsibility in Proverbs 1:8.

Interestingly, the mother is given a different but related responsibility in raising children. Proverbs 1: 8 says, "Do not forsake your mother's teaching". The word translated "teaching" is the Hebrew word *Torah*. Everywhere else in the Bible *Torah* is translated as "law". The first five books of the Old

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Testament are called the Torah or the Law. Do not abandon your mother's laws God says. Mom sets up the rules and Dad is the enforcer. Both do their jobs out of love for their children with the plan that their children would grow up to be happy and successful and serving God. There are no guarantees, however. So we parent by faith.

If our society is to endure, honor for mothers must be restored. Once, not that very long ago, being a mother was the pinnacle achievement of being a woman. 1 Samuel 1 tells us about Hannah, a very godly woman who was barren. In those days, polygamy was common. Hannah was the first wife. Her husband married a second woman, Peninnah, perhaps so that he would have an heir. In the days before Social Security, children were responsible for caring for their parents in their old age. It was so vital that a man have children, that if a widow was without a child, her nearest male relative was to marry her, even if he were already married. In the book of Ruth we see this played out as Boaz became the kinsman redeemer of Ruth and fathered her child. The child she had would care for her. The child was Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of King David and ultimately the ancestor of Jesus. Not only was Ruth provided for, but all of humanity was blessed and provide for spiritually because of the child Obed. But in today's world, she would perhaps have depended on the state to support her. No need for a husband. No Boaz. No Obed. No David. No Jesus. No salvation.

Back to Hannah. Year after year Hannah went up to the house of the Lord to pray and ask for a child. This particular year she went up and vowed a vow and prayed, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." So her prayer became, just give me one son and I will give him back to you for his entire life. Well that boy was Samuel, the prophet, whom God used first to anoint Saul as King and then David as King over Israel.

And Hannah ultimately keeps her vow. Once the child was weaned, she turns him over to the high priest Eli. Eli was the one of the worst fathers in the Bible. In 1 Samuel 2:12 we read this, "Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD." When Hannah turned her only son, her little boy whom she loved, over to Eli, she was trusting God, not Eli. Eli's management of the house of God was totally corrupt. His sons were regularly involved with temple prostitutes. Eli did nothing.

But God honored Hannah's faith. And Samuel grew to be **the** man of God for his age. He knew God personally and God used him mightily. But more than that, listen to magnitude of Hannah's ongoing love for her son in 1 Samuel 2:18ff – "Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD.' So then they would return to their home. *Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.*

She gave her only son to God and he gave her back fivefold.

In today's world, many would consider her a fool for so desperately wanting children. But it is a rare parent when he or she is old who says, "I wish I never had children". More likely, "we wish they were close by". "We wish we had had more children".

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But imagine what happens when mothering begins to disappear. It doesn't take much to imagine this. We are living in such a time. Not enough children creates massive problems. A society cannot sustain itself. Ask the ancient Romans whose empire collapsed – according to Edward Gibbon - because of depopulation. Ask Angela Merkel, who opened the gates to the European Union because the abysmally low birth rates in Germany meant not enough workers to sustain the nation.

Yet here in America, mothers are being written out of the political narrative. Dr. Michelle Morse, who is the chief medical officer for New York City's Department of Health, was highlighting the area's "birth equity" initiative... "The urgency of this moment is clear," she [wrote](#) March 23. "Mortality rates of birthing people are too high.... Not mothers. Not pregnant women. Birthing people!"

Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) tweeted on Thursday, May 5th, that "black birthing people and our babies die because our doctors don't believe our pain."

The Biden administration's 2022 fiscal year budget request introduced for the first time the term "birthing people" to effectively replace "mothers" in an unprecedented move which drew derision from many.

Mothers are being replaced by "birthing people". This is to avoid offending transmales who may give birth. It is not just in college sports that women are being shoved aside by transgenders.

But moms are uniting to fight back. "Moms for Liberty" is a nationwide organization that is successfully lobbying for laws that support parent rights. And something very positive has come out of the Covid pandemic. Of the millions who have quit the workforce since Covid, one and a half million were working moms who were so shocked by what their children were learning in their online classes that they decided to instead stop working and focus on their children's educations. Many other mothers are now work at home Moms for the same reason. This is a tectonic shift that may well transform our nation for good.

So many parents have grown deeply concerned by the attempt to redefine gender and diminish the role of mothers that it has even gotten to the point where a recent supreme court nominee, when asked to define a woman, could not. More accurately, she would not. Hard as it is to believe, there are people who would attack this most basic and obvious truth. Men and women are different. Different not only in their hormones. Testosterone does not make a person a man. Estrogen does not make a woman a woman. In fact, both sexes have both hormones, but in very different ratios.

Men and women are different at every level. Brain conformation is very different between the two. Their bone structure is different. Blood tests require knowing if the person is a male or a female because ranges are different for each sex. Ultimately, every single cell is different because a woman has two X chromosomes, while the man has one X and one Y. No amount of surgery can change this.

Now consider the impact that cancelling motherhood has had over 63 million times since Roe v Wade was decided. At least 63 million abortions have been performed since then. Remember how we said that children supported their parents before Social Security? Guess what. Children are still necessary for the support of the elderly today. But now it is not your own parents, but other peoples that you are supporting. And now the need for children to support their parents is greater than ever in history. In August, 1935 when the Social Security act was passed, there were 41 workers for every one recipient. Now there are only less than two people paying in for every recipient. And we have added other

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programs like Medicare, Medicaid, etc. In addition, our debt is over 30 trillion dollars and that, too, must be paid by our children. To make matters even worse, we continue to abort the very people who will be needed to work and pay into this social system to support the elderly. Our population is shrinking instead of expanding. The current birthrate in America is 1.6 children per household. Replacement value is 2.1. So the population will continue to shrink and the problem will continue to get worse.

And so, on this Mother's Day, we should honor mothers and encourage everyone we know to do the same. When you see empty shelves at the supermarket. When you hear how hard it is to find workers. When you see the help wanted signs on store windows. When you consider our debt. Honor mothers. We need more of them in these days. And if you are a mother, thank you for not buying into the false narrative that your personal success and happiness can only come without children.