



The Good News

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Appreciating our Family

By Michael McCleary

There is a song in our songbook, #702 “Thank You, Lord, For Homes” that is meant to remind us how a Christian family is to function and how we should appreciate that established order. With Thanksgiving coming next week, let us consider the main points of this hymn to help us make sure that we are properly appreciative of our families.

Appreciating the Marriage Relationship:

Prov. 18:22 says “*He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord.*” Paul says in **Eph. 5:33**, “*Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*” Paul says again in **I Cor. 7:3** “*Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*” We can learn from God’s word that the marriage relationship was founded by God in the beginning with Adam and Eve. The Hebrew writer says in **Heb. 13:4** “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled...*” Those of us who are married must remember that we have been blessed to be in the relationships that we have and should never take them for granted. All of us should understand and acknowledge God’s wisdom in establishing the blessing of marriage.

Appreciating Parents:

There are many children that do not have loving parents to bring them up in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord”. When we consider the malfunctioning family of today’s society, we should realize how blessed we are if we have such a home where the father and/or mother fulfill the roles that God has established for them. We, as children, also have roles that God has given us to fulfill. Paul writes, “*Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.*” (**Col. 3:20**) Paul again writes, “*Honor thy father and mother, which is the first*

commandment with promise.” (**Eph. 6:2**). Fulfilling these commandments is good in God’s sight, and sets good examples for others. Solomon says that “*Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.*” (**Prov. 20:11**) As children, we must understand that our parents are responsible for our spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being. The decisions they make are not just arbitrary, but rather stem from the fact that they love us and they understand that, on some level, they will be judged based on how well they take care of us and teach us.

Appreciating Children:

As parents, we should appreciate our children, realizing that our time with them at home grows shorter as they grow older and their dependence on us declines. Solomon says, “*Lo, children are a heritage from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward.*” (**Psm. 127:3**) The Psalmist says “*Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.*” (**Psm. 128:3-4**) God gives us children as a blessing, that we may have joy in them. Let’s make sure we take time to appreciate our children, whether they are still at home with us, or have gone out on their own.

“**Appreciate**” means to “*be grateful or thankful for; to value or regard highly*”. As we consider our blessings, let’s make sure to thank God for the family we have, both physical and spiritual.