



# INSTITUTE of CHRISTIAN GROWTH

*A Ministry of Carolina Evangelical Divinity School*



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In This Issue:

Men & Fatherhood  
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## COMMENTARIES

Some time ago, I took my wife to a conference entitled “Honor the Fathers,” sponsored by Morningstar Ministries in Fort Mill, SC (just across the border from Charlotte, NC). I attended the conference because Elizabeth wanted to go to a conference where the Holy Spirit was present. We were not disappointed, for it was truly a spiritual conference. I agreed with the speakers, so I came home reinforced in my view that one of the reasons why we have so many problems in the country today is the emotional and especially the physical absence of fathers. The thrust of the conference was that we are commanded to honor our fathers (Exodus 20:12), and today we are not obeying this mandate. The speakers reminded us how the humanist and radical feminist philosophy has denigrated fathers and how it has rejected their proper role. This is especially true in the media. Yesterday, I was watching TV and a father was presented in an advertisement as a fool buying a car.

Then a few weeks ago I read a book I found in the Library at “His High Places” where I was attending a board meeting. The Holy Spirit urged me to read

it. The title was Men and Marriage. It is written by George Gilder, an author I had not heard of. When I read it, I was stimulated to recall the conference at Morningstar, and to think again about the problem of absent fathers in our society today.

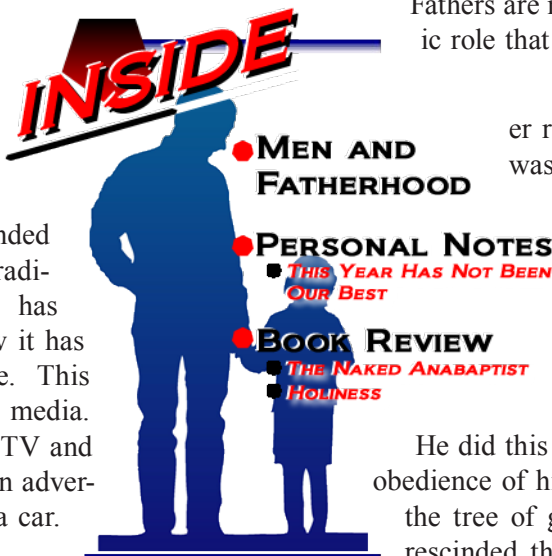
Years ago, when I was conducting a study of the role of dysfunctional families in the etiology of mental disease, I read an article in Ebony magazine. The author, Frances Welsing, a child psychiatrist at Howard University in Washington, DC, decried the feminist movement for promoting feminism and denigrating the role of fathers. The title of her article was “The Plot to Destroy the Black Race.” She said that the rejection of men as leaders in the black family was wrong.

Fathers are necessary, and have a specific role that cannot be taken by women.

She described their proper roles. As I read her article, I was impressed with the fact that they were congruent with those the Bible describes. These were decreed by God in Genesis 3:16-19, where He spelled out the basic roles and relationships of men and women.

He did this as punishment for their disobedience of his command not to eat from the tree of good and evil. God has not rescinded the punishments. The title of her article was in essence a prophecy.

Returning to the content of Gilder’s book, Men and Marriage, he looks in detail at the



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demise of men's honor in our society today. He examines the intrusion of women into what in the past were men's domains of endeavor, and then determines the mechanisms by which this took place. His book is well researched, and as a scientist, I can say he documents his position with references that provided empirical data to support his observations. Personal observation confirms this intrusion especially in business, politics, medicine, law, theology, and even in auto racing.

The prophecy of Frances Welsing has come true. The abolition of the black family has reduced their birth-rate because of abortion on demand, a 70% rate of illegitimacy, an extraordinarily high murder rate among young black males, and prisons full of black males. There is a high dropout rate from school among blacks, and they are chronically unemployed. It is no wonder that we find more of them among the poor in our society. Both Bill Cosby and Walter Williams, two influential blacks, have lamented the tragedy of the demise of the black family.

However, blacks are not the only one affected by the attack on fatherhood. Part of the humanists attack strategy is to promote no-fault divorce among all citizens; the divorce rate has been rising to a point now where at least half of all marriages will end in divorce within ten years. The rate in the US is the highest in the world. Divorce has a profoundly deleterious effect on the lives of children. There was a symposium years ago in which it was pointed out the 50% of children of divorce would have psychiatric problems needing treatment. Having treated some of these children, I realized how traumatic divorce really is. The trauma is most difficult to treat since children have a radical need to live in an intact family. They even prefer to live in a dysfunctional family rather than a single parent family. The end result of the dissolution of families in our society is messed up children and moral decay.

There is much publicity about adultery among men in high places. This is especially true in Congress. People like Newt Gingrich, and Mark Coulter are some of the more recent offenders. These men usually have affairs with women on their staff. I am convinced that women's presence is responsible for the adultery. One cannot work side by side with an attractive person of the opposite sex and not be tempted to change a friendly relationship into an erotic one. This occurs because as they attack everyday problems they become one. This of necessity has to be kept a friendly relationship, but it can become an erotic one if there is much physical contact. A man is stimulated sexually by physical

contact and for this reason he has to keep it to a minimum. If his marriage is not rewarding in all aspects, it does not take much extramarital contact to stimulate an affair. Seventy-five percent of adulterous relationships precipitate a divorce.

But has feminism contributed to our current moral decay? The primary reason for misandry (man hatred) is that some radical feminists are convinced that all men abuse women, and to be sure some do. These feminists, therefore, erroneously convince themselves that they are equal to men in all areas of living and do not need them. The reality is that they are not equal!

Corinne Hutt, in an article written years ago, pointed out that males and females are different physiologically, endocrinologically, anatomically, and psychologically. Women are not metabolically the same as men. Their cyclic hormonal secretion gives rise to metabolic differences. They are anatomically smaller, have different genitals, have functional breasts for feeding infants, and are physically weaker. They have a greater drive to bear and nurture children. Their maternal instinct is more powerful than the male's paternal instinct. Males are more explorative, and enjoy rough and tumble play and doing exciting things. Men are better at abstract thinking. There are many other differences, but these are some of the most important.

We must recognize then, that women, to the detriment of our society, are usurping man's leadership role in the family and society. We live in a world whose ruler (Satan) is out to destroy us, and one of his primary weapons is to blur the roles of men and women. This destroys the integrity of the family and messes up the children. The way this is accomplished is by distorting the image of boys' role models, and creating confusion in their minds as to who they should be and their plans for their future. There is no question; in the Christian family, the father is to be the breadwinner and the master of the household. He is also the primary disciplinarian and he must carry out his discipline with love and kindness. The mother is to be the homemaker and child socializer. She is to provide the child with security and to discipline him/her with love and kindness.

There is no question that the first five years of life are the most critical – mothers should concentrate on rearing their children. Once a child starts to school it is acceptable for a mother to work part-time or work from her home. Even when they are in school, the child wants to return to a secure environment where love is available. They will then



announce their return with “Mom, I’m, home!” In addition, they want a hug or some other gesture of love. All five of my kids did. They got it too, for their mother was available.

The most deleterious institutions in our society are daycare for infants, preschool, kindergarten, and after school daycare. There is no way that children can receive the supplies of unconditional love that they need for healthy personality growth in these commercial operations. They cannot get enough love after supper from a mother who has to do the things that are necessary for living. No matter how many attendants and teachers they have available, the child does not get the unconditional love that a loving mother (and father) can give. This is because they do not bond to attendants the way they are programmed to bond to parents.

There is a difference between a mother’s love and the love of an attendant in one of these operations. The child knows the difference, and in their later life, this will handicap them in developing intimate love relationships. They will love as friends okay, but they will have trouble relating intimately to a mate. This is shown to be true in children of Israeli kibbutzim, some of whom are in some form of daycare almost all of their early lives. (See psychological effects on the Website [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz#The\\_first\\_kibbutzim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz#The_first_kibbutzim).) We do not have Kibbutz’s, but when both parents work and children are in daycare, the structure of the society is similar to that of a kibbutz. The difference is in the geographical structure of a kibbutz.

There is another problem with misandry (and the feminist movement) – when God pronounced his sentence to mankind after the fall (Genesis 3:16).

“To the woman he said,  
‘I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;  
with pain you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.’”

Now if Jesus came to give the law of God real meaning, how are we to interpret God’s statement? What did he mean by desire, and what did he mean by rule?

Desire can be defined as a sense of longing or hoping. It is often linked with sex, food and drink, but in this case, it

means we long for an intimate loving relationship with a person of the opposite sex. Women have it, and men have it too.

Rule is defined as to exert control, direction, or influence on someone. It can be benevolent or tyrannical. In a true love relationship, it is egalitarian and not oppressive. Egalitarianism is a belief in human equality especially with respect to social, political, and economic rights and privileges. The Bible promotes this kind of relationship in marriage. In my years of doing marriage and family counseling, I found that the lack of equal rights is one of the greatest hindrances to a successful marriage. In a good marriage, the spouses live as if they are really one. They consider each other in everything they do.

One marriage I was intimately familiar with was characterized by the woman selfishly “having her way.” She had come from a home where her father was the breadwinner and that was all he was. Her mother made all the decisions, and successfully emasculated her husband.

He was a meek, withdrawn, and passive partner in the marriage. They had three attractive daughters who never learned how to love a man. To my knowledge, not one of the three girls had a successful marriage.

In families where either the mother or father are dominating and controlling, the children always have problems. Most of the time, these are problems of relating rightly to the opposite sex. To be raised in a loving egalitarian environment is a primary determinant of success in marriage. God told man after he created them that they would be one. If they truly love one another they will be one and have a egalitarian relationship, for each will put the others best interests and welfare above their own.

One of the tragedies of the cultural change is that the birthrate has decreased precipitously. It is now less than the replacement rate. Evidence of this is in our neighborhood. Many of the older persons have moved away, replaced by young professionals. When we first moved here, the neighborhood was full of children. People got out on summer evenings and walked with their children or took them to the neighborhood park. Now we see them walking their dogs carrying their pooper-scoops. One or two children are the rule if they have any. In our young years, it was three or more. Of course, we came along after the end of the war, and did not have the pill. During the war, women entered the work force. They continued to work after the war to educate the men who were



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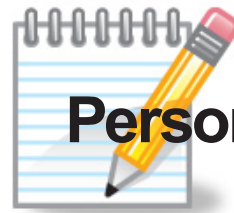
returning to finish their interrupted careers. Nevertheless, women wanted to establish a home and have children, and they usually did so as soon as possible. Today we face the same problem that the Chinese face – in 20 years there will not be enough young workers to support a society with an increasing number of career women and aged persons. I think you can understand what abortion and the pill have done.

Our society, and sadly we Christians, have bought Satan's lie that a career for a woman is more important than family. Not all women hate men, but the misandry of a few has convinced a large percentage of women that they should have the same "rights" as men. They are not created to have the same rights. They were created to be a mate to men and to have children to nurture. Satan has also perpetrated the lie that they are capable of doing anything a man can do, and they should compete with him in all areas of existence. Let's face it; they are not created to be as explorative and aggressive as men are. They may have some of the same intellectual skills as men, but most of them are not as creative in science and mechanics as men are. They are not as strong and do not have the endurance that men have. This has been proven in the military although their inadequacy is hushed up in the media. I think we are in a population crisis and we have buried our heads in the sand and not faced the reality. God has ordered our family life, and we should reject the world's "wisdom" and return to the kind of family life God decreed for us.

I knew a man once who, when he married, declared with his wife that they were not going to have children. They did not, and in ten years, the marriage ended in divorce. He later sired a child to whom he intimately related. I have never seen a man who treasured a child as he has the one he sired. He was the best father a man could be. His daughter grew up to be a well-adjusted woman who returns his love. God created us with a radical need to love children, and we need to have them! The more the merrier. There is nothing more satisfying and rewarding than to rear children of worth. I know; we have reared five!

Interestingly, the most recent issue of "National Review" has an article in which it said the structure of the American family is responsible for American exceptionalism. We, with the British, have had a different family structure from most other countries. This structure was imported from England, and then adopted by persons from other European subcultures who immigrated. As I read the article, it was clear that our family structure, and that of the British, has been based on the biblical model.

This made our nation exceptional. Let us preserve it.



## Personal Notes

The early part of this year has not been our best. Elizabeth and I are both suffering the ravages of old age; our bodies are decaying, but our minds are being renewed (2 Corinthians 4:16). Elizabeth has back pain that occurs when she moves the wrong way. I have diabetic amyotrophy, a rare complication of type II diabetes. One percent of people with type II diabetes develop it. It is characterized by muscle inflammation and atrophy. My legs are getting weaker as a result. It does have a fair prognosis and the severe symptoms can be temporarily controlled with prednisone. I cannot, though, take prednisone on a continuing basis. I have to try to control the pain with drugs until it spontaneously remits. It has remitted on the right, but I still hurt on the left.

Otherwise, I continue to study the Bible and pray for my family, former students, friends and those who request prayer (Colossians 1:9-12). I read three chapters in the Bible before I pray each morning and meditate on the scriptures. God communicates with me through the scriptures, and helps me apply his word to our current situation in our society. Lately, He has been helping me see how much we are practicing so many kinds of idolatry. This is promoted by the God of this world and has caused so much sin.

I am disturbed that we cannot seem to deal with the moral pollution of our society. The only medicine for it is revival. Revival comes only when the Holy Spirit moves. He will move when the church (that today sits passionless and purposeless while the world perishes), gets off its duff and carries the message of salvation into the world.



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# Book Review



**T**he *Naked Anabaptist* was written by Stuart Murray and published by Herald Press in 2010. I have read several books on the subject of the beliefs of the Anabaptists. This book tries to look at their basic beliefs stripped of all kinds of accretions. He comes up with seven basic beliefs.

1. The first is the centrality of Christ as example, teacher, friend, redeemer, and Lord.
2. Jesus is the focal point of God's revelation and each believer has this truth revealed to him by the Holy Spirit.
3. We live in the post Christendom era. Anabaptists reject the standard Christian assumptions.
4. The association of the church with status, wealth, and force is inappropriate.
5. Churches are called to be committed communities of discipleship and mission. The priesthood of believers is practiced. They tend to be anti-clerical.

6. Spirituality and economics are interconnected.
7. Peace is at the heart of the Gospel, so they are pacifists.

The author elaborates these at great length, and points out how various denominations have adopted them and acted on them.

I find I am in agreement with many of their postulates — especially their emphasis on the priesthood of believers and biblical interpretation. This is not a long and tedious book like some of the theological treatises on the subject. If you have an interest in theology and variant belief systems you should read it.

*Holiness*, by J. C. Ryle, is a wonderful discourse published by Moody Press in 2010 on biblical Christianity. I agree with almost every word he writes, and he writes very persuasively. Although he wrote in the middle and late 1800's, he is refreshingly biblical and spiritual. I will not tell you what he says since he expounds so much truth. You just have to read it if you are interested in being holy as your Father in heaven is holy. I have reviewed a previous book by him and was just as enthusiastic about it as I am about this one. He really writes about biblical Christianity.



***Dr. Bill spends hours in his home office. He owns four computers and a sundry of equipment used to copy and print DVDs and CDs, prepare his lessons for CEDS, complete his various books, write the newsletters and commentaries...and much more!***