

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

May 14, 2023

## MOTHERHOOD, A BLESSING FROM GOD

by Jim Stauffer

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**(Genesis 1:1)**

*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**(Genesis 1:27)** What is interesting about the creation is that when God created any of the plants, animals, heavenly bodies, etc., He created them with specific qualities to carry out their purpose for which He created them.

In this article we will briefly discuss women and the purpose for their creation. Just as surely as plants and animals, the sun and the rain were put in place by God to produce food for mankind as well as the many other purposes they serve, He did as well for mankind. And a specific role needed for the world He created was to be filled by women.

Immediately following the passage in **Genesis 1:27** we have these words, *God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* **(Genesis 1:28)** Now there are multiple responsibilities included in that verse, one of them is to reproduce. A task both man and woman are specifically designed to accomplish.

As mankind moves beyond bringing new life to the earth, we must accept the responsibility to rule over the rest of creation. That involves rearing children. *The writer of Proverbs said, Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

**(Proverbs 22:6)** A great example of this practice is the life of Timothy who was nurtured in the word of God by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois **(2 Tim. 1:5)**. He learned the Scriptures as a child. *You,*

*however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:14–15)*

While Scripture specifically assigns this task to Fathers in **Ephesians 6:4**, it is clear he does not accomplish this by himself. There is a natural instinct and skill created in women that enables them to bring young children into harmony with the overall teaching of Fathers. This is the quality women possess that equips them to carry out the purpose for which God created them. Paul explains this well when he tells them their role is not to instruct men but to learn in submission to them **(1 Tim. 2:11,12)**. Does this mean women will have no influence over the proclamation of the gospel? Paul is quick to explain the way they will. *But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint. (1 Timothy 2:15)*. W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says the word translated bearing children implies also the responsibilities of motherhood.

God created women with a specific role in mind and provided them with the natural skill and instinct to extend beyond just the physical act of giving birth to a child, to the nurturing needed to bring the child into full possession of the qualities he or she needs to fulfill the purpose God has for them.

"Sometimes women and men, too, think this is assigning women to an inferior position. Inferior in the sense that she is not by nature, physically or morally, suited to public positions or to counteract the rougher elements of the world. But she is of finer texture physically and

morally than man, and is better fitted (superior to man) for work of nursing, training children, and keeping home attractive and cheerful. She is the trainer of children and the companion of man in the home, becomes the conservator of virtue, morality, and religion and of all the purifying and elevating influences shed by them. No more sacred and no higher office did God ever lay on mortals than that he has laid on woman to bear and train children as subjects for his everlasting kingdom. The woman who neglects the duties she owes her children and her home for the public life that God has created for man leaves her work, her character, and her mission." (David Lipscomb, *Commentary on the First Epistle to Timothy*).

The apostle Peter described the skills and instinct God created within women in his first epistle. *In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.*

**(1 Peter 3:1–6)**

Is it any wonder we hear the following phrase in poetry and song, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." Ladies, if you wish to affect the direction of the world, begin with your children.

Let me wish a happy Mother's day to all those who strive to be the kind of women God created them to be.

Thank you for the often thankless effort you put forth for us all.

## A Mother's Influence

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> is a day set aside in the United States in which mothers are honored. This is a day that traditionally involves gifts, flowers, cards, visits and phone calls to express a measure of appreciation. Sometimes there is a tendency to wax overly

sentimental on Mother's Day and I suppose that it is well that it should be that way.

Someone once said, "there is no influence in the world today like the influence of a mother." While I believe this to be true, I would add the words, "especially a Christian mother". On December 23, 1862, Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to a young girl who was deeply depressed over the death of her beloved father, "All that I am or even hope to be, I owe to my mother—God bless her."

While I am sure that there were other sources of good influence on his life other than just his mother, this is a great tribute paid to her. It is a tribute that speaks to the profound effect that our mothers have on shaping our lives. I believe with all my heart that in many homes the most influential member of that home is the mother. As I think about that, I am reminded of the words of Paul to Timothy, *"For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and I am sure that it is in you as well."* While Paul is the one from whom Timothy learned the message of the New Covenant, there is no doubting the tremendous impact the grandmother and mother had in shaping the life of Timothy (**2 Tim. 1:13, 2 Tim. 3:14-15**).

I hold in my heart many precious memories of my mother that will be with me for so long as I live on this earth. As I reflect on my life today, those words from Abraham Lincoln take on great meaning to me. I firmly believe that without the godly influence she had on my life it is likely that I would not be writing this message today or any other bible thought for that matter. I also pay a tribute to my beloved wife who for so long as she lived, provided for our four children a rock solid foundation on which to build their lives.

For many of us our mothers are no longer with us on this side of eternity yet their influence on our lives still continues to have an impact on our life. To all who still enjoy the presence of their mother, I can only say to you, show them how much you appreciate them. Call them, visit them, talk to them, hug them and tell them that you love them. And don't confine this to just one day a year. Do it every day, every week, every month throughout the year. And if you really want to show how much you love and appreciate your mother, make sure that she is proud of you by the way you live your life each day. I can only imagine the joy that must have filled the hearts of Lois and Eunice as they thought

about Timothy and the man he had become. You cannot overstate the value and influence of mothers!

**Charles Hicks, Gallatin Tennessee**  
[swabbie5256@gmail.com](mailto:swabbie5256@gmail.com)

## GENERATIONAL STRONGHOLDS

*“For I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments” (Deut. 5:9–10, ESV).*

This is speaking of strongholds of family dysfunction. The stuff that affects “children to the third and fourth generation” in families. We’re not responsible for our ancestors’ sins, but we may be strongly affected by them. Because of how our father or mother or grandparents struggled—because of sin in our family’s past— we may have temptations, susceptibilities, vulnerabilities, chains: and strongholds.

But there’s good news! *“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).* God’s power is more than sufficient to crush generational strongholds. We’re not facing this challenge alone.

But if we’re going to think differently and see these chains broken, we must be aware of generational patterns. Patterns of thinking formed over a long period of time produce inner chaos, first in a family member who came before you; now in you. Maybe you’ve been thinking certain ways for so long that you hardly realize you’re doing it. It’s the way your parents and their parents thought. We need to see those chains broken.

What are some of these strongholds or chains? It may be substance abuse, materialism, gluttony, lust, or selfishness. These are just a few of the patterns that visit generation after generation and become chains. There are conflicts and bad decision strongholds that pass from parent to child.

In **Deuteronomy 5**, we find the grace and answer we need: *“but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”*

Do those words summarize our deepest longings? I want to follow God; I want to honor Him; I love Him. Then there’s real hope. These are not indestructible. Those who love God and keep His commandments can expect to see Him move powerfully to shatter those chains.

One can start today to break the pattern of generational strongholds. Pray and think about the recurring patterns of sin in your family. Let God renew your mind by His Word and His Spirit. In order for things to change, you will have to think differently.

**Ken Green**

## Taking Inventory of Your Abilities and Opportunities

It has been said that our responsibility to God is in direct proportion to our abilities and our opportunities. That being the case, we need to take a serious personal inventory in both of these important areas.

### **How can I know what my abilities are?**

Seek wisdom in this matter by study and meditation on God’s word, by prayer, and by asking Christians whom you respect. Ask yourself these questions:

- What particular blessings and advantages do I have that others do not have?
- Which of my possessions can be used in the service of the Lord (money, time, car, house, phone, education, etc.)
- What do I enjoy doing?
- What do I do well?
- What activities give me special satisfaction?
- What comes naturally to me?
- What things can I learn to do?
- What are the areas in which I can improve?

### **How can I know what my opportunities are?**

Again, study, meditation, prayer, and asking the advice of others will help. You need to answer these questions:

- What things are being done as a regular part of the work of this local congregation that I have the ability to help do?
- What things are not being done adequately, or are not being done at all? Can I help to fill this void?
- What problems exist that I might be able to help solve?
- What are others doing that I might help them to do?
- Are there restrictions that I should consider? (i.e., women are limited in public teaching situations, etc.)
- What other factors (family, work, etc.) must be considered? Can these be arranged to give me greater opportunities?

Let’s be sure that every member of this church is working at maximum efficiency!

*\*adapted from notes by Gary Henry*

**by Greg Gwin**

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-620-0563

**Check out the following websites**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### Elders:

Ron Peck  
Jim Stauffer

### Deacons:

Bill Miller  
Troy Armstrong

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT MFCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE. CAROL MILLER, PENNY STAUFFER AND ELLIE GOLDSTON.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning  
**Prayer - Ron Peck**

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **The Genuine Emotion of Salvation**



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10