

## ***Parenthood (15): Good Reasons for Having Children***

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**B**ringing children into the world is a dangerous proposition. In fact, if not for the wonders of modern medicine I would have likely lost both Melanie and Lauren when Lauren was born.

Children are expensive. To feed, clothe, educate, medicate and recreate them costs several hundred thousand dollars per child.

Children are a constant worry. Concern for their health, safety and spirituality in an increasingly decadent society adds gray highlights to parents' heads.

So why have them? Indeed, someone said to me not long ago that they found it hard to justify bringing children into such a world as ours. But if we only think of the negatives in life, we won't do much of *anything*.

First, parenthood allows us to share in God's creative joy. As rotten as humanity has been through the centuries, surely God gets *some* pleasure out of creating and nurturing. The positives of producing, providing for, loving and sharing oneself with others outweighs the negatives. Some even get a taste of these pleasures from raising plants. How much more so raising children who share both ours and God's image!

Secondly, parenthood provides unconditional love. Humans often "sell" their love or friendship; they care for others only as long as the relationship gives them something in return. But children love freely and without guile. How many of us have not been shamed when our harsh words or unfair treatment were returned by a child's hug of unconditional love? Which of us has not taken refuge from the unkindness of others in the haven of our homes where our children don't measure us by the cruel standards of the world? "*Daddy's home!*" can drain the poison from the serpent's bite.

Finally, perhaps the wickedness of the world is more of a reason to have children than not have them. Our world needs more salt and light, and God certainly welcomes all who desire to enter His kingdom. What better prospects for this than the very children we bring into the world and raise to be morally and spiritually law-abiding?

The environmentalists say the planet is going to pot, the Chinese forbid multiple births, and even some brethren have a dim view of parenthood. Still, it is a God-blessed and God-ordained endeavor which will enrich the human spirit and His kingdom at the same time.