

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

## CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD

*Nicolas Edwards*

God instituted the home at the beginning (Gen. 2:18-25). God blessed man and woman saying, “*Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...*” (Gen. 1:27-28). It is God’s plan, from the very beginning, that the reproduction of mankind be accomplished in the home. One man and one woman marry, for life, and bring forth children. God’s plan is “*very good*” (Gen. 1:31) and has not changed (Mt. 19:4-6). We cannot improve upon it and we dare not try to change it! When we understand that God made the home and His plan involves children through marriage, how can we but respect and honor it?

**CHILDREN ARE GIVEN TO US FROM THE LORD.** “*And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord*” (Gen. 4:1). “*Lo children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward*” (Ps. 127:3). Children are gifts we inherit from the Lord. Children are a reward from God. It breaks my heart to hear of parents who do not appreciate the value of their children. They act as if children are a burden who interfere with their lives and personal

interests. When parents are selfish and lazily neglect their children by not giving them their full devotion, when parents pawn their children off on other people rather than accepting responsibility and caring for them themselves, when parents fail in their God given role to train and teach their children the way of the Lord, such need reminded of God’s plan and the value of their children. They are a gift from the Lord!

**CHILDREN BLESS THE HOME.** By listening to some parents talk, you would think that children curse the home, as if they are burdens that mess everything up. This is not what God says, nor is it God’s will or intention! Children only make the home better. Those who do not want to have children, who dread the thought of being parents, who have children and can not wait for them to leave the house as if they are burdens, do not understand God’s word on the subject, for God’s will is nothing of the sort and a home built by the Lord does not work that way! That is not how God created it. God blesses the home with children, they are a reward! A home built by the Lord is blessed. A home that gets away from God’s pattern becomes a curse and sin is the reason when the home is not what it ought to be (Dt. 30:15-20)! When the home is in

keeping with God’s word, there is rest; but when it is not, there is sorrow — all labor is vain and does no good (Ps. 127:1-2). Notice some things children bring to the home. “*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth*” (Ps. 127:4). They bring strength! “*Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them...*” (Ps. 127:5). They bring happiness! “*...They shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate*” (Ps. 127:5). They bring defense, protection, and confidence! Children bring happiness, abundance, prosperity, blessing, and peace to the home (Ps. 128).

**MY ROLE IN OBTAINING GOD’S BLESSINGS.** Children bring great blessings to the home. These blessings come from God! But they are conditional: “*Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways*” (Ps. 128:1). The home as instituted by God is a beautiful thing filled with joy. When man substitutes something else for the home at the beginning, and does not walk in God’s ways, sin separates us from God and makes things hard (Prov. 13:15). My role is being the husband/wife, father/mother, son/daughter, that God’s word teaches and demands, standing in my place and fulfilling my God given role in the home!

## CHRIST HAS THE PREMINENCE IN ALL THINGS

John Edwards

The theme of Paul's letter to the Colossians is "...*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Col. 1:27). The apostle sets forth the preeminence of Christ in all things. "*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence*" (Col. 1:18). The word "preeminence" shows Christ to be first, hold the first place.

**HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER.** "*Who is the image of the invisible God...*" (Col. 1:15). The word "image" indicates Christ is the representation and manifestation of the Father. "*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him*" (Jn. 1:18).

**HIS RELATIONSHIP TO CREATION.** Christ is "...*the firstborn of every creature*" (Col. 1:15). As "*firstborn of every creature*", Christ has superiority of position. This

expresses His priority to, and preeminence over, creation. "*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist*" (Col. 1:16-17). Christ was before creation, produced creation, and sustains creation.

**HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH.** "*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead...*" (Col. 1:18). As "*the head of the body*", Christ is supreme. He has "*all power*" or authority (Mt. 28:18). As "*the beginning*", Christ is the source or origin of the church. He was in the beginning, when the church was founded. He is the person that commenced the church (Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11). As "*the firstborn from the dead*", He has superiority over the grave. He was the first to be raised never to die again and through Him we have assurance of resurrection of life.

### HIS RELATIONSHIP TO

**THE LOST.** Christ is the reconciler. "*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...*" (Col. 1:20-23). To "reconcile" is to change from one condition to another. The change of condition is from "*alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works*" (v. 21) to "*holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight*" (v. 22). This change occurs "*through the blood of his cross*" (v. 20), "*In the body of his flesh though death*" (v. 22). This is accomplished in baptism (Jn. 19:33-34; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:13). "*If*" shows this change is conditional. "*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...*" (v. 23).

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