

Mother's Day – 2022

- Letters to Ann Landers (May 1988):

I'm so tired of all those ignorant people who come up to my husband and ask him if his wife has a full-time job or if she's "just a house-wife." . . . Here's my job description.

I'm a wife, mother, friend, confidant, personal advisor, lover, referee, peacemaker, housekeeper, laundress, chauffeur, interior decorator, gardener, painter, wall paperer, dog groomer, veterinarian, manicurist, barber, seamstress, appointment manager, financial planner, bookkeeper, money manager, personal secretary, teacher, disciplinarian, entertainer, psychoanalyst, nurse, diagnostician, public relations expert, dietitian and nutritionist, baker, chef, fashion coordinator and letter writer for both sides of the family.

I am also a travel agent, speech therapist, plumber and automobile maintenance and repair expert . . .

From the studies done, it would cost more than \$75,000 (\$182,272.19 today) a year to replace me. I took time out of my busy day to write this letter, Ann, because there are still ignorant people who believe a housewife is nothing more than a baby sitter who sits on her behind all day and looks at soap operas.

Proverbs 22:1–9 (NIV84)

¹A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

²Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

³A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

⁴Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

⁵In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays far from them.

⁶Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

⁷The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

⁸He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.

⁹A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

- The Scriptures surrounding verse 6 are excellent for sound learning and a blessed life.
- This is one of the best-known but most easily misused proverbs. Some find here a *promise* that if they bring their children up in the ways of God, then they can guarantee that their children will be believers.

A *proverb* is not a *promise*.

A proverb describes what is *typically* true, not what is *universally* true.

- Proverbs are not absolute promises. They express *principles that are generally true in life*.¹

- Not all children of godly parents do follow God, and it is simply not in our power to make someone else trust in God—that is God's work.²

- Godly training has a real lasting effect on how our children turn out, and it must be a priority in our lives.

We must avoid being judgmental on those parents whose children do not follow God.

- Children who grow up in an environment where God's truth is modeled and where they are encouraged to live according to God's order will likely end up embracing those values and living by them.

There will be exceptions to the general rule.

Proverbs recognizes that there are *other sources besides the parents' teaching*.

Children can be swayed by their peers, who can lead them away from God's truth. Proverbs exhorts the young person to choose their parents' teaching.

The will of the child and his ability to choose also play decisive roles in how the child turns out.³

- *Benjamin Rush*: "Let the children . . . be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education. The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating [removing] Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools."⁴

- *Martin Luther*: "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign

¹ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, *Proverbs*, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2012), 339.

² Lindsay Wilson, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 17, Tyndale OT Commentaries (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2017), 243.

³ Ted Cabal et al., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 950.

⁴ Ray Comfort, *The Evidence Bible: Irrefutable Evidence for the Thinking Mind, Notes*, ed. Kirk Cameron, The Way of the Master Evidence Bible (Orlando, FL: Bridge-Logos, 2003), 836.

paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.”⁵

- Who is raising your children? Disney? TV? Worldly Culture *harmlessly* displayed in cartoon form?
- Numerous leaders in both the secular and the church give ungodly instruction.

Jeremiah 8:8 (NET 2nd ed.)

⁸How can you say, “We are wise! We have the law of the LORD”? The truth is, those who teach it have **used their writings to make it say what it does not really mean.**

Jeremiah 10:21 (NET 2nd ed.)

²¹For our leaders are stupid. They have not sought the LORD’s advice. So they do not act wisely, and the people they are responsible for have all been scattered.

- What a fitting description for many of our so-called leaders including those that are in the church.
- What will our next generation look like?

Ephesians 6:1–4 (NIV84)

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—

³“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- Even though verse 4 is addressed to fathers, mothers are crucially involved with the training of their children.

Proverbs 6:20-24 (NIV84)

²⁰My son, keep your **father's commands** and do not forsake your **mother's teaching.**

²¹Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.

²²When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

²³For these **commands are a lamp**, this **teaching is a light**, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

²⁴keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.

Commands = מִצְוֹת *mišwâ* = an expression of authority; that which is ordered, the

commandment.

Teaching = תּוֹרָה *tôrâ* = to throw; stretch out a finger or hand, **point in a direction; to show or lead the way**; instruction, education, teaching.

The father and mother worked hand in hand to train up their children in righteousness. The father would issue the command, and the mother would give detailed instructions on how to carry out that command.

Father = אָב *’āb*: A masculine noun meaning father, head of a household, ancestor, patron of a class, benevolence, respect, honor. This word is primarily used to mean either a human or spiritual father.⁶

Mother = אִמָּה *’ēm*: A feminine noun meaning mother, a woman with children.⁷

Malachi 2:15a (NIV84)

¹⁵Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because **he was seeking godly offspring.**

- Purpose in marriage: *godly offspring.*

Only a *male* and a *female* can produce offspring.

- *Godly* offspring aren’t naturally born into being. They must be spiritually transformed through a regular teaching of the Word of God.
- *Veteran pollster George Barna*, director of research at the Center, told American Family Radio a person’s deeply personal beliefs begin developing when they are still in diapers. It is almost completely formed around age 13.

Colossians 2:8 (NIV84)

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

- If a teaching does not fit with the gospel teaching about Christ, then it must be seen as a threat capable of enslaving a believer.⁸
- *Captive*, συλαγωγέω *sylogōgeō*: to gain control of by carrying off as booty,⁹

carrying someone away from the truth into the

⁶ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 1.

⁷ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 66.

⁸ Adam Copenhaver and Jeffrey D. Arthurs, *Colossians and Philemon: A Commentary for Biblical Preaching and Teaching*, Kerux Commentaries (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Ministry, 2022), 129-130.

⁹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 955.

⁵ Ray Comfort, *The Evidence Bible: Irrefutable Evidence for the Thinking Mind, Notes*, ed. Kirk Cameron, The Way of the Master Evidence Bible (Orlando, FL: Bridge-Logos, 2003), 1541.

slavery of error.¹⁰

to take over complete control of a person as one would a captive—‘to control completely, to take control of, to make a captive of.’ ‘see to it that no one gains control over you by human wisdom’¹¹

Error becomes your master. This master controls your way of thinking (and subsequently, your actions) so that you would be unable to see truth.

- We are responsible to God to train our children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6), and must constantly be on guard against humanism, atheism, relativism, evolution, and any other teaching that opposes the Christian worldview.

“I think that the most important factor moving us toward a secular society has been the educational factor. Our schools may not teach Johnny how to read properly, but the fact that Johnny is in school until he is sixteen tends toward the elimination of religious superstition. The average American child now acquires a high school education, and this militates against Adam and Eve and all other myths of alleged history.” *P. Blanchard, “Three Cheers for Our Secular State,” The Humanist*
“Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism. What can a theistic Sunday school’s meeting for an hour once a week and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of the five-day program of humanistic teaching?”
Humanism: A New Religion, 1930

“Fundamental parents have no right to indoctrinate their children in their beliefs. We are preparing their children for the year 2000 and life in a global one-world society, and those children will not fit in.” *Senator Paul Hoagland, 1984*¹²

“The battle for humankind’s future must be waged and won in the school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new—the rotting corpse of Christianity and the new faith of Humanism.” *New Ager, John Dynphy*¹³

Jeremiah 23:14 (NET 2nd ed.)

¹⁰ Peter T. O’Brien, *Colossians, Philemon*, vol. 44, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1982), 109.

¹¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (NY: United Bible Societies, 1996), 472.

¹² Ray Comfort, *The Evidence Bible: Irrefutable Evidence for the Thinking Mind. Notes*, ed. Kirk Cameron, The Way of the Master Evidence Bible (Orlando, FL: Bridge-Logos, 2003), 814.

¹³ Mark Water, *Hard Questions about Christianity Made Easy*, The Made Easy Series (Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishing, 2000), 16.

¹⁴But I see the prophets of Jerusalem doing something just as shocking. They are unfaithful to me and continually prophesy lies. So they give encouragement to people who are doing evil, with the result that they do not stop their evildoing. I consider all of them as bad as the people of Sodom, and the citizens of Jerusalem as bad as the people of Gomorrah.

- In the name of *love*, false teachers within the church give encouragement to those who are doing evil. Instead of confronting their evil behavior as sin, they embrace it and rationalize the behavior as something that is acceptable in the church and in the Word of God. The result: people do not stop their evildoing.

3 John 4 (NIV84)

⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

- How does one walk in the truth?

John 14:6 (NIV84)

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17:17 (NIV84)

¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

- To walk in the truth is to walk in accordance with the teachings of Jesus and His Word.

Our children will not walk in the truth, if they do not know what the truth entails. As, parents, that is our responsibility: to teach our children the truths defined in the Word of God.

- *Answers in Genesis*: We should recommit ourselves to training our children. The bodily differences between men and women are real. They speak to differences in our makeup, specifically designed by our Creator.

In practical form, we must teach these differences to our children. They must see that being a boy or a girl is a matter of God’s glory. There should be no shame in boys liking boyish things or in girls adopting girlish behaviors.

Christians should encourage this kind of awareness. Many parents will find that their children genuinely enjoy being a boy or a girl, a future man or a future woman. We should regularly remind our kids that it was God who made them as they are. We should encourage them to embrace and assume manhood or womanhood.

- If we do not teach our kids about gender and sexuality, we can be assured that our unbiblical culture will.

The culture-makers who disobey the Scripture are persuasive, forceful, and eager to indoctrinate our

children.

- Fathers and mothers must recommit themselves to training their children in the scriptural worldview so that children do not embrace the cultural one.
- Let's touch on a few anti-Christian worldviews.

Acts 17:24–26 (NIV84)

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

²⁶From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

- In today's culture, racism has become an issue.
- *Answers in Genesis*: The term race is often used to classify people based almost solely on physical characteristics. According to evolutionary ideas, these so-called races descended from different ancestors separated by location and time.

However, based on biblical history, the term race must be incorrect. We are all one race (“one man” in Acts 17:26), the human race.

- A person's skin shade (what is on the outside) should in no way invoke any sort of prejudice or racist comments.

1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV84)

⁷The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- *Answers in Genesis*: Because of our culture's racist roots, the way the world thinks, and the influence of Darwinian thinking, we have been programmed to look at the exterior rather than the interior of a person. We need to begin to see as God sees.

Genesis 1:26–27 (NIV84)

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7, 21-22 (NIV84)

⁷the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the

ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

- *Answers in Genesis*: Manhood and womanhood are divinely created realities. The sexes are not dreamed up by repressive authoritarians who wanted to institutionalize their domination of the weak. It is God who made manhood, and God who made womanhood.
- There are two sexes: Male and Female.
- *Answers in Genesis*: The “gender identities” so popular today are not biological sexes—they are determined by the feelings of the person claiming the gender identity. But feelings do not determine truth.

Instead of relying on our feelings, we must turn to the Word of God for absolute truth and, by the power of God's spirit and the gospel, line our feelings up with God's Word and truth.

Genesis 9:8–17 (NIV84)

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

⁹“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you

¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth.

¹¹I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

¹⁵I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

- *Answers in Genesis*: The rainbow doesn't belong as a symbol for the LGBT community. It's God's symbol and has been set aside as a reminder of God's judgment, mercy, and salvation for over 4,350 years, since the end of the Flood of Noah's day.
- When you see the rainbow being hijacked for something it was never intended to represent, direct people toward the message of judgment, mercy and grace offered by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 18:22 (NIV84)

^{22c} "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 20:13 (NIV84)

^{13c} "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NIV84)

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- All these sins are being accepted within many so-called churches of God today. In the name of love, tolerance and cultural acceptance, they are no longer being called sin, but an accepted normal conduct.

Children are being taught at a very young age that this is an acceptable behavior even in the eyes of God.

- Scripture is being twisted to support their views.

As an example, one rationalization for *Biblical homosexuality* is that Sodom and Gomorrah were judged not for the sin of homosexuality but for the sin of inhospitality.

Jude 3 (NIV84)

³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

- Teach your children the truth; teach your children the

Word of God.

Romans 1:16–17 (NIV84)

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 12:1-2 (Phillips NT)

¹With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. **Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould**, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

- Transformation comes from within through the Word of God.

Psalm 78:1–8 (NIV84)

¹O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

³what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

⁴We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which **he commanded our forefathers to teach their children,**

⁶**so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.**

⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

⁸They would not be like their forefathers— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

- *Selah.*