

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

February 26, 2006

Maternity Without Marriage

Troy Nicholson

One of the front page articles in last Sunday's *Tennessean* (2-19-06) was titled, “Maternity without marriage soars among white women.” The picture on the front page showed a female lawyer sitting at her desk and talking on the phone while holding her 9-month-old son, a child she chose to have outside of marriage.

Unmarried women gave birth to 34.6% of all the babies born in the nation in 2003, with Tennessee being slightly higher at 37.2%. “The number of unwed adult white women who gave birth in Tennessee grew (to)...an increase of almost 80%” from 1990 to 2003.

An associate professor of sociology said, “Now that white, middle-class women are doing this, it's losing its stigma. We are starting to see it as a choice and not as a problem.” Whether considered that way by society or not, it *is* a problem when an unwed woman chooses to get pregnant. God said that marriage is to come *before* maternity (1 Tim 5:14). The associate professor did go on to say, “It's not a shift that we are completely comfortable with.” May we *never* become comfortable with such a sinful shift.

One woman said, “It's 2006, and women in general are feeling that they don't need a man to take care of them.” Women may not necessarily need a man to take care of them, but they do need a man to get pregnant; and God has said they should be married to that man before doing what it takes to get pregnant (1 Cor 7:2, 9).

Another woman said that, after living with her boyfriend for about a year after finding out she was pregnant, “she ultimately decided that he wasn't the person she wanted to spend the rest of her life with and the relationship ended. ‘We just didn't get along well enough to get married...You think a lot about what kind of environment you want to bring your child up in, and that wasn't it.’” The time to begin thinking about such serious matters is before doing what can produce a child in any given environment. We need to think a lot about what kind of spiritual environment in which God wants His children. He commands us to “*avoid sexual immorality*” (1 Thes 4:3).

While one woman said regarding having a child when not married, “This has been a wonderful experience,” another woman said the situation is “‘challenging’ and far from ideal.” “I would have to warn anyone who thinks that just because they are financially independent they can do it on their own. I think a child needs both parents. She needs her father there more than every other weekend. She is old enough to vocalize that to me.” From the mouth of babes comes what has already come from the mouth of God. To whom will we listen?

Someone with a research facility said that research shows this societal trend is “bad for children, bad for their parents, and bad for society.” While it is comforting when we can find research that is supportive of what God has said, the main research we need to do is of His word and then apply what it says regardless of what any other research or society may say.

The good news in the article was that the unmarried teen pregnancy rate has dropped in recent years, yet how long can we expect that rate to continue when we consider the poor example being set by older

unmarried women? God commands “*older women to be reverent in the way they live*” and “*to teach what is good*” to the younger women (**Titus 2:3-5**). As someone said in a following article, “The older women should be setting the example of chastity. God has ordained that it should be between a husband and wife, a man and a woman.”

The researcher mentioned earlier said, “We need to re-stigmatize unwed births.” Amen.

Engaging in premarital sex is a sin. So how should a church deal with this issue? An article titled “Church leaders say they try to give unwed mothers love, help” followed the first article. In it a religious leader said that “there is room for love, not judgment.” God requires both. We must properly judge and deal with those who engage in sexual immorality (**1 Cor 5**), and we also must show our love for them (**2 Cor 2:5-11**). We are commanded to make them feel the shame of their sin, and we are also commanded to do so in a brotherly way (**2 Thes 3:14-15**).

One religious leader talked about the responsibility that males have in this situation. “We have got to raise our sons to be committed and to become the fathers and the husbands that the Bible has ordained for us to be.” How true this is. Maternity without marriage is an issue for men as much as it is for women. As the saying goes, “It takes two to Tango,” and God will judge them both. Men, what are you teaching your sons?

“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality” (**1 Thes 4:3**).

“I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever.” – **Psalm 86:12**

Family News

Neil Barker, Sandy Heyboer's father, was admitted to the hospital Thursday morning. He has Parkinson's and was not doing very well. He has some swelling around his face and neck. He is now doing some better, but remains in room 603 at Williamson Medical Center. Hopefully, he will go home this week.

Mary Burnett was in Sumner Regional from Tuesday night until Wednesday morning. They doubled one of her medications because her heart rate was slow.

Linda Clark, James Fuller's mother, has very severe breathing problems.

James Cox, James Hunt's BIL, is at home and doing well.

Metty Fain is in room 131 at the Terrace. This is where they have the more severe Alzheimer's patients. She is doing fine physically, but does not recognize people anymore.

Jimmy Hunt will have a CT scan early Tuesday morning. He will then again wear a heart monitor for 24 hours.

Sandra Hunt is not doing well. She will return to the doctor in mid-March.

Jean Jenkins, Jerry's mother, has non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. She is now receiving hospice care at home. She is doing worse.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has cancer. He received another round of chemotherapy this past week. He was weak, tired and slept a lot this past week.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report from him in the back of the auditorium. This reports mentions that Allen will soon (the end of this week) be going to a more dangerous area of the country for over a week.

Fran Pickens was not doing well yesterday.

Nancy Read has had some eye problems recently.

Georgia Taylor continues to have many health problems.

Ame White remains about the same. Her 25-year-old daughter, **Angela**, has IC. This lasts a lifetime, but is manageable with diet and medication.

Robert Wray saw the doctor this past week. Will not go back for three months.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bonnie Sue Brown** (out in AM, here in PM); **Elmo Ferrell**; **Sandy Heyboer** (out in AM, here in PM); **John Hunt** (here in AM, out in PM)

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Sunday:

Bible class.....9 am

Assembly.....10 am

Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday:

Bible study.....7 pm

Troy Nicholson

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).