

## **GOD CARES WHO WE MARRY**

*David Halbrook*

Arkansas is not the only place with a shortage of rain. In India, natives performed the wedding of two frogs hoping Hindu rain gods would be pleased and send them rain. (Breaking News: It didn't work!!) Is this real marriage? Who says that marriage is only for humans? God does. Jesus taught that a man may marry a woman (Matt. 19:4-6).

If someone thinks they are born with the desire to marry an animal, may humans marry animals, if they love them? Though God did not say "A man cannot marry a frog," this is both silly and sinful because God only gave permission for marriage to a man and woman. You need to look for permission from God for all that you do!

This applies to polygamy. God gave permission for one man to marry one woman—that's all. No other combination is acceptable. Famous polygamists Joseph Smith (Mormonism) and Muhammad (Islam) claimed God's approval, but in no Scripture did God give such permission.

We must train our minds to seek God's approval for all we do, even in eating and marriage.

-- *Editor's Note:* This article continues in the theme of asking obvious questions (Is cannibalism wrong? May frogs marry?), in order to help, even us, to think about HOW we know the right answer. These things are not wrong because "God said not to do them" but because God has spoken about eating and marriage therefore we have no permission (authority) to eat or marry anything other than what He has permitted. Think about it and help others to do the same by helping them find our article in *Arkansas Weekly*.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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## ***THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER IN THE HOME***

*Irvin Lee*

The mother has a special place of responsibility in the home. Aged women are to teach "the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discrete, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Tit. 2:4, 5). This one passage does a wonderful job of outlining the role of the mother in the home.

Let us think of that mature woman who still has a responsibility to her daughters even though they may also be homemakers. The training should have started early while the daughters were young, but the teaching may continue because there are many important lessons that need to be deeply implanted in these young women. One way the older women may teach the young is by their own example of chastity, modesty, and good judgment in clothing, and in behavior. If there were more mothers with strong convictions, there would be more daughters with strong characters.

Who will turn our immoral and unchaste generation back to purity and sobriety? It is very evident that comparatively few older women have been training the young women in the way they should go. Divorce, unfaithfulness to the marriage partner, drunkenness, and a complete lack of spirituality have come to many young women in America. Such people are in no position to be the mothers of the next generation. Many do not want children because they are so in love with money and with worldliness. Are there those who can get to these young women with the Bible to instill the principles their mothers should have taught them? It will not be easy. Most of the ungodly will continue to sow to the flesh and to reap of the same (Gal. 6:7, 8).

To "guide the house" as a "keeper at home" is a special assignment to young women (1 Tim. 5:14). Eunice and Lois must have done their work well at home because Timothy was given the "unfeigned faith" and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures that helped make him the great servant of the Lord that he was

(2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15; Phil. 2:19-23). Is there a more important and satisfying work than guiding and training such excellent people to be the salt of the earth? The work of a good mother is so important that nothing should hinder or turn her aside from this glorious task.

It may seem to some that young mothers will naturally love their children, but very many young children are at home by themselves in summer. Some mothers forsake their husbands and children to live with companions to whom they have no legal right. The Lord knows that young women need to be taught to love their children, and to have a proper discretion and soberness of mind to be guides for these children. Mothers and fathers are accountable to God for what they make of their homes. It would be impossible to over emphasize the importance of the role of the father and of the mother in the home. The failures that are made in this realm could hardly be more evident. Worthy and successful parents are blessed, and they deserve our congratulations.

Many children are now growing up in the homes where there is only one parent. In some cases they are with one parent a while and then with the other. It is next to impossible for a good man alone to give his children all they need in the way of guidance and training. If the mother still sleeps at home but is hardly with the child this is only one degree better than her being gone into another state. She who bears children should guide the house. Money cannot replace a mother's love, example, and companionship. Are there not many women in the labor market in the very period of life when they are so much needed at home?

The word mother was once considered to be a word with very great significance. As more women began using vulgar and blasphemous language, drinking alcohol, forsaking the home in search of money and notoriety, and becoming immodest and immoral, the special respect for women in general was lost. There are still some of the very best mothers, and their children love and honor them. We should all thank God for these virtuous women because it is the influence of His word that causes them to be so worthy of respect.

(The Banner of Truth <http://blackcreekchurch.com/Files/Banner/Banner%203-4-2012.pdf>)

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### **CONSIDER THE APPLES IN A SEED**

*Jerry Fite*

I remember the thought as if it were yesterday. But over 20 years ago, while flying into Houston after an encouraging week in a Gospel Meeting, I saw all of the housetops and considered the many souls that live around me and in need of the

Gospel. I did not have to wonder if they needed the Gospel, for all have sinned and have fallen short of God's glory (*Romans 3:23*). Jesus died for all dead in sin (*2 Corinthians 5:14*), and the saving gospel message is for all: Jew and Gentile (*Romans 1:16*). There-fore, with Paul I too felt con-strained to do what I can to reach as many as I could with the Gospel.

We know the Gospel is for all and as followers of Christ, we understand our responsibility to spread the seed of God's word to others (*Matt. 28:18-20*). With the weight of this responsibility on our heart, it is good from time to time to have encouragement that keeps us going. An aerial view reminding me of just how many potential souls are out there to be saved opened my heart to the possibilities. But the thought of counting the apples in a seed is another stimulating thought.

In June of 1996, an article appeared in the Guardian of Truth written by Dennis Gullidge and entitled, "***Can You Count the Apples in a Seed?***" He writes, "*Someone has said that you can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed.*" The point is you may be able to count the number of people being saved at a given time, but "*you cannot count the number of good things done in the life of the one person who becomes a Christian*"

The example given is the baptism of James W. Shepherd. In 1877, an elder of the church was asked about the Gospel Meeting preached by James A. Harding. The elder said, "*Oh brother Harding did his usually powerful preaching, the attendance was fair, but the results were negligible. Only little Jimmy Shepherd was baptized.*"

This "little Jimmy Shepherd" grew up to preach the Gospel in New Zealand and Australia in the late 1800's. His classic work entitled "*Handbook on Baptism*" was published in 1894. J.W. McGarvey said it was "*the best and most comprehensive work of its kind in existence*". Brother Shepherd also compiled and edited "*Queries and Answers*" containing questions answered by David Lipscomb. "Little Jimmy" grew to produce many good things in the Kingdom.

In 1999, Ann Stevens was encouraged by the 1996 article and wrote a hymn entitled "***The Apples in a Seed.***" The third verse reads: "*Do not doubt that someone will believe it, though a hundred hear and turn away, for if only one heart will receive it, through the one, a thousand may obey. It may be a gentleman of ninety. It may be a child of only ten. Sow the precious seed for the Almighty, You can watch it multi-ply again.*"

"*Who can count the apples in a seed? Who can say how much the fruit will grow? Who can know the harvest of tomorrow? Who can count the apples in a seed?*" Let us spread the word to the next soul! (*Glad Tidings* Aug. 19, 2012; Parkview Ch. of Christ)