

The Family Friend



A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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It's What Grandparents Do!

My grandfather served as the County Assessor of Wetzel County, West Virginia for nearly 20 years. I remember an occasion when I was just a little boy, that my Granddad loaded me up in his car and took me down to the courthouse. I remember it being quite a large and impressive building. When we got inside, do you know what we did? My granddad took me from office to his office to "show off" his grandson to all his co-workers.

Question — What seminar do grandparents have to attend to train them to talk about their grandchildren?

You know the answer to that question. There is no seminar. Some things just don't need to be taught. A grandfather "showing-off" his grandson doesn't require a seminar or training session. It just comes naturally.

If that's the case, and it is, then why do we offer "a lack of training" as an excuse for not going forth and "bragging

on Jesus?" We don't need special training to speak a good word for Jesus, we just need greater love! Give it some thought.

—Steve Higginbotham

Happy Grandparents Day!

Sunday, September 8, 2019

I Am a Grandfather!

Our "little girl" (she's been married almost three years now) came home the other day from the doctor's office where what we had suspected was confirmed, she is expecting our first grandchild. A few days later she went back and had her first sonogram. "There the baby is—our little Lima Bean." She wrote:

Today we had our first ultra sound! It was incredible. I am 9 weeks along tomorrow and the due date is November 9th. Who knew that this early in the pregnancy I would be able to see what I saw? Tommy and I talked about it before we went into the doctor's office and had decided that we would most likely

not be able to tell what part was the baby this early. How could we be wrong with our vast amount of knowledge and experience on the subject (much sarcasm applied)? What we saw was small but amazing! I could see him/her moving around and I could see the little heart beating. It was no bigger than a lima bean (that's what I'm calling him/her right now, "my little lima bean") but it was very easy to see. And then the lady doing the ultra sound turned up the sound and you could hear the heart beat! I've heard a bunch of women describe this before, but the feeling you have when you see that little being that is inside of you and hear its little heart beating is indescribable!!

I started telling people, very proudly, that I am going to be a grandfather. I am hereby recanting that statement. I believe with all my heart that I am now a grandfather, and that my daughter is a mother—now. Everything that happens from here on happens to her living child. No one (except God) knows right now if it is a boy or girl. But anyone who is honest knows that the baby lives and is our grandchild and Carol Leah and Tommy's child.

I saw some placards on television last night: PROTECT A WOMAN'S RIGHTS—DON'T OUTLAW ABORTION. I am angered with righteous anger when I see this stupidity. When a heart is cruelly crushed and stopped, that is murder, just as surely as if someone took a gun and shot a newborn. But that is not the subject here.

I pray that our grandchild is healthy and will stay that way as he/she enters the world outside and as it grows.

I quiver as I think about the world into which our grandbaby will be born. Right is called wrong, and wrong called right on every hand. Movies, television, music and friends will be pulling this little one in his/her life to come and serve evil. All of them will tell the child that it is all right, and will even lie and try to convince this young one that God approves of evil. May God be with this baby's parents, grandparents, all those who can influence him/her for good. May the child have a willing spirit of service to God. This world can be overcome and defeated, but it is not easy.

However, I thank God that the baby is being carried by a mother who will not abuse it now, or after it is born. I am thankful that, Lord willing, he/she will be carried in the arms of parents who will care for, love, and nourish him/her. I, above all, am thankful that this baby will learn about God, that he/she will sing "Jesus Loves Me" before singing "Barney" or "Blues Clues," etc. This youngster will be given every chance to go to heaven because of strong Christian parents who love each other, God, and him/her.

I join with my daughter when she concludes: "*I pray every night that this little baby will be as healthy as possible and will make it through all of the dangers that come along with pregnancy. It is still early, but already love him/her with all my heart!*" AMEN.

—E. Dean Kelly, Via **Our Families Magazine**, 2006

Surrogate Motherhood and Abortion

Surrogate motherhood is becoming more common. In a surrogacy contract, a woman agrees to allow someone to rent her body to have their child. Some fertility specialists are selling surrogacy as a part of their offering.

The *Citizen* magazine (January/February 2019, page 13) reported the case of a surrogacy contract running into difficulty. The surrogate mother had agreed to deliver twins — a boy and a girl. A male embryo and a female embryo were implanted into her body. The female embryo failed to implant, and the male embryo split into male twins. The surrogate mother developed preeclampsia, and her organs began to shut down forcing delivery of the baby boys ten weeks early. This caused the boys to battle for their lives in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. The couple who had paid to have a boy and a girl became hostile because they were not getting what they had paid for. They were not interested in the boys, but the surrogate mother bonded with the twins. When they were placed in the neonatal unit,

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she was left "with a deep sense of emptiness, anxiety, and regret."

The Supreme Court has refused to hear two cases on surrogacy issues. In both cases, the surrogate mothers wanted to keep the children. In one case the woman was carrying triplets for a single man who wished to abort at least one due to financial concerns. The other was a mother who learned that the couple she was working for had strong racial prejudices. In both cases, the surrogates lost. The practice of surrogate motherhood exploits low-income women and families. We would suggest that surrogacy is morally wrong.

Abortion advocates maintain that a baby is merely an extension of the mother's body. So she has the right to exterminate the baby because it is just an unwanted part of her body. Surrogate motherhood assumes that the baby is a singular physical entity that can be engaged or terminated at the will of the adults involved, for any reason. The Bible tells us that humans are uniquely created in the image of God. The baby possesses a soul and is fully human. Luke 1:41-44 tells us that when Elizabeth saw Mary who was pregnant with Jesus, the unborn John leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb. The Bible makes it clear that life and motherhood are sacred.

—John Clayton, **Does God Exist?**— 2nd Quarter, 2019