

## Adoption upholds marriage as the building block for parenting

*This is the second in a series of six articles PPL will be posting to highlight Adoption Month in November. The series is reprinted from "Partakers of the Grace: Biblical Foundations for Adoption," written by June Ring and published by PPL in 1997.*

### **God Designed Marriage!**

We learn in the second chapter of Genesis that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Adam's aloneness is the only thing that God finds "not good" before the fall. God ordained marriage between a man and a woman to remedy this situation. Neither animals nor another man were given to Adam as the suitable helper; Adam is to "cleave" or cling faithfully to his wife. Thus, God ordained monogamous heterosexual marriage from the very beginning. This covenant of leaving, cleaving and becoming one flesh (in that order) was established before the fall.<sup>4</sup>

It is no coincidence that it takes both a man and a woman to create a child. God's intent was for that unique combination to stay intact in a covenant relationship to raise the child. Marriage of the biological mother and father *should* be discussed as one of the options for a pregnancy resolution. Marvin and Susan Olasky's book, *More Than Kindness*, explores that option and analyzes how and why Christians might be doing more to explore and encourage marriage in crisis pregnancies.

When this does not take place, adoption is a viable alternative because it upholds God's original intent for two parents.

### **Families are an Extension of the Marriage Covenant**

The husband and wife relationship, centered in Christ, builds a "tent" that not only shelters the couple, but means physical, emotional and spiritual security and shelter for their children. The relationship of parent to child is a covenantal relationship, bestowed on a family whether through birth or adoption. As Christ and his bride, the church, is a symbol of the marriage relationship, so God as Father to his people is a

symbol of parental love for a child. God's plan for children is that they experience life in the midst of this covenantal relationship between a mother and a father.

It is worth noting that God desires not just a covenant between husband and wife as the foundation for family, but a lasting relationship between that couple and himself. A marriage firmly rooted and grounded in Christ is the strongest possible foundation for family-building, whether through birth or adoption. Proverbs 14:26 says, "He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge." Many birth parents realize the stability of a Christian family and view that quality as a priority when making their adoption plans.

### **Marriage Gives the Context for Parental Love**

Like God's love for us, a parent's love is to be unconditional, selfless and sacrificial. This is an enormously difficult task that requires many years of faithfulness, not impossible for one person but much better accomplished by two. Of course there are many who through a spouse's death or abandonment are raising children as single parents, and the church can and should play a role in supporting them in a variety of ways.

Let us not let go, however, of the model that God has set before us, that of a husband-wife team rooted in Christ, supporting one another in their roles as parents. It is no wonder that God designed parents in twos from the very beginning.

*Adoption can never be an easy choice, or a choice forced on a pregnant woman. Yet Christians could do much more to present it as a loving and unselfish choice that has benefits for mother and child. In order for Christians to view this question properly, we must maintain the conviction that the ideal family has two parents. Though divorce, unwed parenting, and even death can interfere with the ideal, they do not erase it. Whenever possible we should encourage the establishment of two-parent families, whether through marriage or adoption, because they are more stable and safer places for people to live.*

**Marvin and Susan Olasky**

*More than Kindness: A Compassionate Approach  
to Crisis Childbearing<sup>5</sup>*

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