

Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Marriage Matters

I was driving by a church one day just as a wedding was ending. The bride and groom had emerged and the crowd was throwing rice (or birdseed) at the happy pair. I momentarily found myself a little surprised that people were still getting married and then I laughed at myself. “You have been watching far too much television,” I said.

Then I saw an article in *World Magazine* titled, “Marriage Matters.” Well, of course it does, I thought, but then I remembered not everyone thinks it does any more. The article was an interview with David Blankenhorn who, in his newest book, argues against same-sex marriage—and for leaving homosexuality out of the debate. The book was titled *The Future of Marriage* (Encounter, 2007). Marvin Olasky was doing the interview, and he said, “You write that ‘across cultures, marriage is above all a procreative institution. It is nothing less than the culturally constructed linchpin of all human family and kinship systems.’ What is some of the anthropological evidence for that?”

The author had spent an entire year studying what all the great anthropologists had concluded

about marriage. He wanted to learn if there were any common features of marriage across human societies and cultures.

What is always a core purpose of marriage, in every known human society? Here is the answer: “Everywhere, marriage exists in large part to ensure that the woman and the man, whose sexual union makes the child, stay together in a cooperative union to raise the child. . . This finding is widely shared—it is not really controversial—among the leading scholars of marriage in the modern period.”

Now this is interesting, because he lays down a marker for why the state has an interest in protecting the institution of marriage. If you are old enough, you remember the days before no-

fault divorce—a time when some states had Draconian laws regarding divorce, a time when the wealthy fled to Reno, stayed long enough to establish residency, and then got a divorce in that state. Now what business did the state have interfering with the right to divorce, to swap one woman for another?

David Blankenhorn suggests it was for the children. That’s a slam dunk really. It might have been rational to change divorce laws to allow no-fault divorce after the kids leave home, but the state has a vested interest in requiring parents to take care of any kids they bring into the world. We don’t allow new mothers to toss a newborn into the dumpster. We don’t allow mothers who are frustrated with a “terrible two” to drown him in the bathtub. We don’t allow people to lock their little kids in the house and take off to Mexico for a week,

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Sponsors are Needed

Opportunities are available for sponsorship of the *Born to Win* broadcast. Most of the stations carrying the *Born to Win* program are sponsored by individuals like you, by groups of individuals, and churches. You can make a difference by putting a daily or weekly broadcast on a station in your area. This increasingly popular program is heard each week by more than 150,000 people. Many are finding their way to God through the *Born to Win* program. If you would like to make a difference, contact Larry Watkins in our office at 1-888-BIBLE 44.

What Our Listeners Say

“The first time I heard your radio broadcast I was truly blessed. Your views are very close to those which my wife, Kathy, and I have come to feel are basic and essential. We spent several years in the Messianic movement until the emphasis on Judaism became too important. We have longed for fellowship with like minded folks concerning true, balanced, biblical expression of our faith in Yeshua the Messiah. Your teaching is refreshing and hope-filled touch on our desire for a simple living-out of The Way.

“We are not always able to hear your broadcasts, but try to catch them as often as we can. We always look forward to your newsletter and look forward also to having an opportunity to attend your Feast of Tabernacles celebration one day” RW.

“I just finished listening to your sermon “The fallacy of Christian Judaism” and I want to thank you for putting these two concepts into the proper perspective for me. I realize now that I had all the pieces for that puzzle in my mind, but they never really connected. I must admit that listening to your sermons and programs have taught me a great amount about the Bible, God, Law, covenants, and the salvation process. These were never very clear to me at the time I attended with (another organization). Although we needed it as well, there was entirely too much milk of the gospel being preached, which I also find with (another organization). People that I have met at and known from the feast site at (another Feast site) do not show any spiritual growth. I attend with them because I’ve come to love them and like to be with them, but I wish I could talk to them at a higher level” HS.

“I am Natalie and my B-day is September 20th, next month. I will turn 12 and I’m going to 7th grade in less than 2 weeks. When I first heard your broadcast I took sudden interest. I’m an on going Christian and love your broadcast. I want to continue to keep in touch” NL.

“May the Eternal richly bless you for promulgating the truth as you did in this week’s (08/10) broadcast. It is indeed the most important issue of our day and underpins our ability to remain a free people. Though I disagree with some of your teaching, you are one of the best teachers I’ve ever heard. Please continue to teach on this issue” email 8-19-07.

“Wow, quite impactful and revealing. Great message as usual. God bless you today” email 8-19-07.

“Thank you for the beautiful feast card and the kind, comforting words accompanying it. Seldom in my life have I ever been the recipient of that kind of caring and it brings tears to my eyes and warms my heart. I’ve needed that.

“I continually refer to your three books and know that I have a much deeper understand of the Bible. You are doing a work that no one else is doing. (Not to belittle the work others are doing.) I’m grateful for all that I’ve received from God from all of his faithful ministers. You are special to me” ND.

“(May I call you Ron; as you are a friend to my listening ears by Radio waves.) (1330 a.m Evansville, IN.)

“Everything you send by mail, I turn around and send out to others. . . after I read or listen. Mostly to male friends. . . near, or at a distance.

“Tho’ have always been as one that struggled in understanding a lot. . . am fiercely determined to be taught by another. . . that is full of passion for Truth; and the ways of God. . . much more so. . . than pleasing a crowd. My one regret is that late in life. . . I finally have arrived in hearing “Born to Win,” and take in all I can! On the other hand. . . I so “Thank the Lord,” for using men such as you. . .” CB.

*Marriage Matters
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leaving the kids with no one to care for them. We require parents to provide food, shelter, clothing, and a reasonably good environment for kids.

A long time ago, the prophet Malachi got a message from on high about divorce. It was short and simple: “I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel” (Malachi 2:16 NIV). Strong words, those. What are we to make of them? As always, context is vital. If you study the entire chapter, you come to the answer in verse 15. God made male and female one: “And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.”

Usually, when the versions use the word “godly,” they are rendering a Hebrew word that means—roughly—pious or religious. Not here. In this place, the word is *elohim*, the word most often used to describe God himself. The lexicon tells us that *elohim*, in the ordinary sense, means “gods.” So how should we take this? Perhaps, “that he might seek godlike offspring.” I checked five versions and found no acknowledgment of this distinction. So, why does God hate divorce? In simple, modern terms, “It’s the children, stupid.”

Paul had to deal with a very real, and somewhat new situation in his letter to the Corinthians. They weren’t living in a Jewish society, and there were quite naturally, marriages between believers and unbelievers. What was the controlling issue in this time and place? After some discussion of the issue, Paul comes to the core of it in 1 Corinthians 7:13-14:

“And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

Thus Paul also lays down a marker relative to divorce. It is all about the children. I have a lot more to say about this, and I did so in a recent audio presentation titled, “Why Marriage Matters.” I would like to send you a *FREE* CD of this important program. To get your copy, just check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us. We have included a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Let us hear from you soon.

In Christ’s daily service,

Ronald L. Dart

*2008 Feast of Tabernacles
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are second to none. The Boardwalk Beach Resort provides plenty of rooms for YEA classes.

The CEM Feast is always packed with many fun-filled activities, and the Boardwalk Beach Resort has plenty of areas for that. One of the more popular locations is the Sunset Pavilion. It is a 9,000 sq ft covered deck that presents a splendid panorama of the beach.

We look forward to another wonderful, edifying Feast next year at the beautiful Boardwalk Beach Resort in Panama City Beach, Florida. See you there.



*Radio
Update*

**Tampa/Bay/
St. Petersburg, FL**
WTIS 1110 AM
M-F 9:00 a.m. &
Sat. 8:00 a.m.

In Memory

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges the generous donations made in memory of Carole Lois Runice, of Chicago, Illinois. She was the sister of Kitty Watkins, and she passed away August 8, 2007. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Larry Watkins’ family for the loss of their dear loved one.



Christian Educational Ministries also gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made in memory of Arnold Osadsky of Max, ND. We deeply regret the loss of Mrs. Donna Osadsky’s husband and our heartfelt prayers and sympathy go to her.



Christian Educational Ministries also thankfully acknowledges the generous donation in memory of L. Paul and Rosa Thompson, parents of Jim Thompson of Mount Juliet, TN. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the Thompson family.

Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land!

By Lenny Cacchio

You'll probably recognize the title of this essay as a quotation from the Liberty Bell. Proclaim liberty throughout the land! That quotes part of a verse from the Book of Leviticus and can be found in chapter 25. "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" is in part from verse 10 of that chapter, and it refers to the Jubilee year, which came around every 50 years.

The Jubilee is based on the agrarian notion that wealth is in the land. Families had inheritance in the land, but often because of poor management or bad fortune, the family would lose the land and hence its means of financial freedom. In an agrarian society, to lose the land meant to lose your freedom, for you would then have to work for someone else in order to gain your daily sustenance.

But during the Jubilee, on the Day of Atonement (commonly known as Yom Kippur), the priests would sound the trumpet and all the inhabitants of the land were allowed to go back to the family homestead to reclaim their inheritance. Once every 50 years, liberty was proclaimed in the land and everyone would have a fresh start, regardless of the mistakes that they or their forefathers might have made.

In a sense, the land in Israel could not be sold but could only be leased until the year of Jubilee.

Early in his ministry, Jesus went back to his hometown of Nazareth. He entered the synagogue, opened the Scriptures to Isaiah 61 and read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

2008 CEM Feast of Tabernacles

Although it has been the goal of Christian Educational Ministries to find a semi-permanent home for the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles, weather and facility conflicts have made that impossible the past several years. Since 2002, we have observed the Feast in a different location each year. A conflict at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in 2008 forces us to move once again.

Not all problems end in disappointment, though, because we have found a wonderful place to observe the Feast next year. We are pleased to announce that CEM will be observing the 2008 Feast of Tabernacles at the beautiful Boardwalk Beach Resort in Panama City Beach, Florida. The Boardwalk Beach Resort is three separate properties on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The resort consists of a hotel, condominiums, and a convention facility. The properties boast a 1,100 foot beach, the largest private beach on the coast. They are part of 13 different housing units in Panama City Beach, managed by Royal American Hospitality and will allow us to provide discounted housing for almost every budget.

Located on the west end, the Boardwalk Hotel affords you the luxury of having all the amenities and views of the resort, including the Activity Center, B.W. McCaw's Kid's Club, arcade, fitness center, Under the Boardwalk Bar & Grille. The beach is just a few steps away along the boardwalk. Adjoining the hotel is the Boardwalk Beach Condominium, a 22-story facility on the beach.

The Boardwalk Convention Center has over 20,000 square feet of meeting space, which provides plenty of space for the traditional CEM Feast. The ballroom holds about 1,000 people, and can be opened up to provide more seating, which will be ample room for worship services. There are three large rooms perfect for the many educational seminars held during the Feast. The CEM Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) classes

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Ministries*

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*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*