

Minister's Message – May 2005

Mother's Day

Nothing is certain in life apart from death and taxes – so the saying goes. But it is also certain that we all have mothers, someone who brought us into this world. We are alive because someone allowed us to grow in their womb and then to give birth to **Me**. The gift of life is truly precious. How would it be if that someone had chosen to have an abortion and deny **Me** life? Should we not thank our mothers just for this, for giving us life? We should also thank God who *knit me together in my mother's womb* as King David wrote in a poem in the Bible (Psalm 139:13). *I praise you (O Lord) because I am fearfully and wonderfully made* he went on to write.

Birth is wonderful but it is not the end. As infants we were helpless and had to be fed and dressed. We could not survive without such nurture. We had to be taught how to live. Our first relationship was with someone we call mum, and with dad being nearby. In those early years we learnt rapidly as we watched and listened to mum and dad. Parents have a great God-given responsibility to raise their children so that they can live in this world. Not only live of course but to love – to *love the Lord your God with all your heart all your soul and all your mind* and to *love your neighbour as yourself* (Matthew 22:37f).

Children must be taught to respect their mother and father – this is one of the Ten Commandments. And there is a promise attached – *that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth*. Out of respect children must obey their parents. My mother never wanted any gifts on Mother's day. She would say 'I just want you to be good and obedient children – and not just on Mothers day but all the time'.

I was prevailed upon to watch 'Supernanny' on TV the other night. A six year old girl was in the habit of cursing her mother and slamming the door on her. Supernanny said this was not acceptable behaviour – that a six year old should not speak to her mother like that. I was relieved to hear that advice. I guess the mother, like so many today, had been more influenced by humanistic teaching rather than Biblical teaching. She probably believed that the child was essentially good and that this behaviour was just a passing phase – she would grow out of it one day. What a vain hope. What a dangerous hope.

Imagine a child like this growing up cursing her parents. What a disaster for the family and for society also. We don't have to imagine of course because sadly we see it! Again and again we hear reports of parents unable to control their young children – children of eight and nine running riot in homes and then in the community. School teachers and police are instructed to do something. Parents have failed, so it becomes someone else's responsibility. We have a crisis in our society, a crisis of disrespect for authority.

Honour your father and mother as the Lord your God has commanded you that your days may be long and it may go well with you in the land. For your own sake and for the sake of your children teach them to honour their parents. This is the command of our Maker, the Lord our God. If we all obeyed this command there would be no crisis in our homes, in our schools, or on our streets.

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon