

Do you remember *thalidomide*? It was the drug which caused pathetic deformity among babies born to mothers who unknowingly took thalidomide as a sedative during their pregnancies. Was the deformity a punishment to the mothers because they broke an arbitrary rule? *No, the deformity was the built-in, inherent consequence of taking a drug that was extremely dangerous and harmful.*

Is the turning over of children to hired child care actually “psychological thalidomide”? The man who said it is was not some religious speaker with a religious agenda. He is a child development expert who has studied the effects of the abandonment of the home by mothers, and he has had the courage to speak clearly of what he has learned. We would do well to listen.

Mr. Thomas continued, “Childhood was never perfect. Small children were once forced to sweep chimneys and pick grapes, and often children lost parents entirely to disease and war. But that is precisely why the destruction of the 1950s nuclear family is so tragic. The 1950s set a standard for family life that probably has never been equaled anywhere. Children were raised by two parents in a safe, comfortable home, and Mom was almost always there to look after them when they were young.

“The self-centered popular culture unleashed in the 1960s mocked and ultimately shattered this paradigm. Now we are institutionalizing the worst aspects of this cultural revolution by warehousing infants merely so that we might accumulate ever-nicer possessions.”

God created the family: husbands, wives, parents, children. Inherent within their creation are relationships, behavior patterns, responsibilities, and particular roles. When these **principles of truth** are honored, all is well. Husbands and wives complete each other, families prosper, and children mature to take their proper roles in the perpetuation of the human race. When the **principles of truth** are disregarded, the fabric of society disintegrates. That is what we are seeing in our world today. It is the inherent consequence of disregarding truth.

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Principles of Truth

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A parent tells a child, “Eat this ... Do this ... Don’t do that!” Why? Are the commands generally only arbitrary rules the parent has fixed, simply to be obeyed? No, the underlying *basis* for the rule is the *inherent result* that would come from doing or not doing what is asked. “Eat this food” — Why? Because the food provides necessary nourishment for the body.

My point is this: The rules and the results are the two parts of the equation: A=B. The *parent* didn’t produce the *result* as a *reward* or *punishment* for *obedience* or *disobedience*. No; the parent only put words to the **principle of truth**. *Within the principle itself are the automatic, inherent results or consequences that must follow.*

God has *worded* many **principles of truth** in His book, the Bible. They are truth because they *are* truth, not because they were expressed in words. And the *fruits or consequences* of a human’s response to those truths are the second part of the equation. *The two halves necessarily follow each other, as two parts of a whole.*

Truth Concerning Marriage

When God said “one man for one woman for

life” (Matthew 19:4-9), He was not *making* a rule; He was *stating a truth*. God *made them male and female, two halves of one whole that are to be joined together in marriage, not to be broken*.

Abiding by that inherent truth of oneness — the loving and nurturing life-long relationship — brings also inherent results: happiness, better health, longer life, a secure nuclear family, well-balanced children....

The Macmillan Visual Almanac states: “Research presented in 1995 indicates that marriage provides health, emotional, and financial benefits. For example, divorced men have higher rates of depression and drug and alcohol abuse than do married men” (p.232).

Built into a scenario of immoral relationships, sexual perversion, divorce, adultery, and all other *violations* of the **marriage truth** are the *inherent consequences*: heartache, abuse, disease, instability of the home, insecurity of children, violence, anger, bitterness, poor health, disaster on all fronts....

An array of these results will come, *not as a direct act of reward or punishment by God, but as the inherent fruits of the two opposite responses to the one truth regarding marriage*.

Truth Concerning Women

There is another **truth** in the family system

God set up: “...*young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands...*” (Titus 2:4,5). Younger women were urged to “*marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully...*” (1 Timothy 5:14).

Man and woman are a pair. They *belong* together. They do *related things*, but they are different from each other and they were formed to do different works in life.

We need only look at the perversion of the role of women, comparing life in today’s world with the statements in Titus and 1 Timothy, to see how far the average woman has moved from the description of what she was created to be and do. This description is a statement of truth — *woman as the completion of man* — and built into that truth are inherent results, good things or consequences, depending on the way she lives. Our world is being torn apart in the most agonizing ways, as marriages and homes disintegrate, because of the failure of women (and men) to live by the **principles of truth** regarding themselves.

Truth Concerning Children

The January 8, 1998 *Wall Street Journal* ran an article by Andrew Peyton Thomas entitled “A Dangerous Experiment in Child-Rearing”.

In a secular article written by a secular journalist, the **principles of truth** regarding home, motherhood, children, and family welfare were strongly delineated.

Mr. Thomas said, “A harmful social phenomenon is fast gaining popular acceptance — a vice so common that the problem is rarely even discussed, and almost never forthrightly.” What is the vice? “55% of new mothers return to the work force within *one year* of giving birth.”

The **principle of truth** stated in Titus and 1 Timothy regarding women and mothers is that they “bear children, manage the house...” that they learn to “love their children... to be homemakers...” This inherent role for women has been abandoned by the majority in today’s world.

Yet statistics — which too often go unheeded — say that this disregard for the **principle of truth** regarding marriage and the rearing of children holds disastrous inherent consequences. Mr. Thomas stated that research going back almost 30 years shows that children turned over to day care centers and to strangers for rearing are far more likely to be **violent, antisocial, and resistant to basic discipline** than are children brought up in the home by their own mothers. “Child development expert Edward Zigler of Yale has gone so far as to call day care ‘psychological thalidomide’.”