

Family Heritage Developer

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"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

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And They Shall All be Taught of God

Education God's Way, part one — by Gary L. Cox

*It is written in the prophets,
And they shall be all taught of
God. (John 6:45)
For my thoughts are not your
thoughts, neither are your
ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher
than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways, and my
thoughts than your thoughts.
(Isaiah 55:8-9)*

Discover God as Creator

Man has been placed in a *visible, temporary* world wherein he is called to trust and serve the *invisible, eternal* God. God has revealed Himself in the visible things He has created and in his Holy Word. He has done this so that man might worship him in Thanksgiving, and by faith, seek him as God, our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, & Revealer (see Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 11:3). However, man must intentionally study the revelations of God's Works and Word so that he might seek Him in light of those revelations in daily life. True study culminates in worshipping God! Man was created to recognize the great, glorious and miraculous God, who is the creator and sustainer of all

things. Therefore, the foundation of education is to study so that we might show ourselves approved unto God. To enable this, the purpose of education is foundational to develop the tools by which we might study His revealed works intelligibly.

Glorifying God and thanking Him as the Creator is the doorway to hope and opportunity for all mankind. All inventors and builders have plans for their creative works; how much greater are the plans that God has for His beloved children! *Behold the wondrous things of God!* Let education begin with the study of the wonders of plants and animals and don't stop until you worshipfully marvel at His wondrous creation! For those who discover God as their awe-inspiring Creator, to them comes the realization that God has a purpose and a plan that He has designed for man! *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)*

Creation's Centerpiece is

Marriage: Draw upon God as Your Sustainer

Why did God Make Two One?

Let's start at the beginning: *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis 2:18)* Our culture centers on self-realization, it strives to know and be known, to *be all that you can be — significant and satisfied!* However, self-realization reduces man's freedom to the pursuit of folly. Selfish pursuits lead to confusion and conflict. God's plan is higher: He wants you to realize *Who* He is so you can grow and trust Him in all your circumstances of life. *Trust the Lord with all your heart and not lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

God said that man should not be alone; this points to the home as the place of belonging and companionship. Relationship is the primary context in which the purpose of God's design for Man is socially worked out. Simply speaking, a solitary life has great potential for danger that

can be destructive to mankind's well-being. God created the family for relationship, fellowship and accountability; first we learn in relationships within the family, and second, we learn about a possible relationship with God through redemption in Jesus Christ.

The smallest and most significant unit of society is family. A family starts with a husband and a wife. God designed the woman to be *with* the man, and God gave her a natural inclination towards nurture and care. After the Fall, God tweaked the feminine gift so that she has a stronger sense of need for relationship with her husband: *thy desire shall be to thy husband...* (Genesis 3:16b). There *is* a strong desire that the wife and mother has by which she senses whether the heart of her husband is toward her, and her children. She has this 'sixth' sense of care so that she naturally prefers the welfare of her children above herself. When her husband's heart is turned away from the children she will sense it as if he is turned away from her. *...But he shall rule over thee.* (Genesis 3:16c) The *husband* is designed to manage his wife's desires and use them for insight to take responsibility to lead the family. This is God's Design!

God's purpose for marriage is formative: *And did not he make one?...And why one? That he might seek a godly seed* (Malachi 2:15). God has a formative objective in your home: to produce a godly seed. This includes godliness in the parents as well as in the children.

Living as *one* by God's design means you honor God's design for the role of the husband *and* the wife respectively. Separate *your* expectations from God's and submit yourself to Him. When you separate yourself *to* God's expectations, He is going to capture your heart for His purposes and His ways. That's His plan! God wants you to think differently from natural men of the world. Teaching a child certainly causes you to think differently, doesn't it? Children bring an eternal perspective, and that is your heritage.

How does a family generate godly seed? Well, first, with godliness in you the parent and then by your leadership over your children. When you live as family by God's design, you transfer ownership to God. *God* wants you and your children to be His delightful possession. *Let Him have His way with you!* God's ownership is not something new; your children already belong to Him! Increase your vision. You are a steward; you are a servant. You are called to serve God's

interests in your home and you need to separate God's purpose from your ambition and your interests. Apply yourself to the interests of the Lord and discover how wonderfully His interests will work out.

When you grow in righteousness, you grow in excellence—you cannot help it because growing in righteousness means you are continually being conformed in a better way to the original purpose and design that God had. God wants righteous people, and righteous people function well by His design and plan. What we leave off is the foolishness of our blind, earthly outlook that would cause us to walk in deceit and sin, to go the way of the world.

In conclusion, God made marriage so that *family* might provide the context for relationship in which He might cultivate an eternal spiritual heritage in each family member. If you do your job as a parent unto the Lord, the expectation is eternal, and that *is* the objective.



This is the end of part 1. Part 2 to be continued next month.

Gary L. Cox

Becky's Tips

1. Christmas and the Gospel

All through the Word of God we see God, Himself, showing fallen man his

need of a Rescuer, a Savior. We see God offering a plan for the remission of sin, my sin.

Read Leviticus to see how intricately detailed the

instructions were from God for man to be forgiven. Notice in Lev. 6:1-6 that the one who has robbed, cheated, threatened or lied about any of that must

follow specific directions to make restitution. Then he must offer a specific kind of ram. Then the priest will make atonement. For each kind of offering the priest and his sons must follow God's detailed directive. This reveals to us the nature of God and the way He views the horror of wrong-doing.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Gal. 4:4

Notice that in God's own timing He fulfilled the plan that He had to offer redemption to His fallen creation.

Celebration is in order. But could we challenge one another to have that celebration because we see and know God's love for us?

2. Engagement Learning

All tenth graders need NOT do the same thing. As home-school teachers we are often tormented by our own inadequacies as we look at what other families are doing. Also, we tend to be on the look out for better curriculum, smoother schedules and easier methods for teaching.

All of this rush to cover or appease our inadequacies can be helped if we realize that God has created us and chosen us. In doing that He allowed for gifts and weaknesses. He has purpose in all that He has created. We dilute the training that our

children would flourish in if we constantly seek to teach what everyone else is teaching.

For now, consider that individual thumb print of your student and seek God's guidance for preparing him for God's own specific purpose.

3. Reduce Stuff

At August's workshop we talked about reducing our stuff in order to reduce the time needed to maintain that stuff. I trust you are continuing your quest to simplify. I am.

During this holiday season consider offering some of your stuff to someone who really needs it. Remember that you are looking for someone who really needs it. Otherwise you are only perpetuating your own problem!

4. Reading Tips

Young beginning readers- Remember that during this stage much of the reading that your student does will be oral. When the child has read a word, phrase or sentence, pause to ask him what that means. Encourage him to tell you what he's reading even if he read only one word. This will help focus for comprehension in later grades.

Middle readers- Once your student has begun to fluently read, diminish the amount of oral reading. Begin by having him read one short paragraph silently. Then choose one

sentence for him to read orally. It is still perfectly acceptable to read orally to younger siblings.

Older readers- By fifth or sixth grade encourage students to read to research answers to questions related to all academic subjects. Begin that research with simple questions and progress to actually knowing how to write up your findings giving credit through footnotes and bibliography.

Caution- If you have an older reader who is NOT fluent in reading, that child should be evaluated and assigned exercises and assignments to improve the fluency. Research would probably be one of these assignments but the method of doing the research would be individualized after evaluation.

5. Joy

Do a few things well at this holiday season, rather than trying to incorporate everything you hear and read into your family.

Suggestion- Consider one life-changing, life-giving tradition to continue or to begin. As your family grows and scatters the myriad of things you didn't do will dim in importance to the life-giving tradition you started.

Love,

Becky

STUDENT DEVELOPER

A book report by Matthew Kelbaugh 2014 on *The Mysterious Island* written by Jules Verne originally published in 1874 - a Science/Historical fiction novel based on a true story.

In October 1704 a sailor named Alexander Selkirk was dropped off on a small island called Mas A Tierra 400 miles west of the southern tip of South America. He had more than one scuffle with the captain, and when he requested to be dropped off, the crew must have been only too obliged to get rid of him. It wasn't until 4 years later that he was taken aboard a ship sailing in the Pacific. He had spent the whole time alone. His story would later inspire the books *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Swiss Family Robinson*, and *The Mysterious Island*. Also, this book serves as a sequel to two of Jules Verne's earlier works: *Captain Grant's Children*, and his masterpiece, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

The Mysterious Island is about five Americans (a sailor and his adopted son, an engineer and his servant, and a reporter) who band together to escape the Confederate capital of Richmond in a hot air balloon, only to have a violent storm blow them off course to a uninhabited island in the Pacific. They must build themselves a community with virtually no tools. When strange occurrences happen, the colonists discover that a mysterious benefactor comes to their aid at the most troublesome times, and that they do not have the island to themselves.

During the middle part of the book, two of the colonists are discussing all the mysterious occurrences on their island. One asks the other if he believes

in chance, to which he replies, "Chance! Spilett! I don't believe in chance more than I believe in earthly mysteries." While it didn't strike me at the time, I find it very significant. What is the chance that D.N.A. was created by mutations? Or that each part of the human body can work so effectively? That the Earth is located in the perfect place of our solar system for life to exist? (There are many other examples, but that would be wasting paper.) During the somewhat earlier part of the book, the leader of the group, Cyrus Smith, (Harding in some translations) makes a bold prediction, that as the inner part of the Earth cools down, people from the cooler regions (North America and Europe) will migrate into the warmer regions (Africa, South America and Asia) and Africa will become the most populated continent. This prediction seems very unlikely in my opinion, nevertheless his companions believe him just because he is more knowledgeable than they are.

Jules Verne had a very gifted pen, and since I enjoy reading, his books inspire me to read more of his works. Last year, believing I should read some classic literature, I read *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. *The Mysterious Island* is book number five in the Jules Verne literature list, and I am planning to read more. The book is challenging to read, however,

as it has a lot of deep details and hard to understand words.

The reason that I wouldn't recommend this book is because, as I already said, with all the detail and words that are used, a child (10 and under) would probably not enjoy it. There are several reasons why I would recommend this book. The first reason is that it combines engineering, geology, zoology, and botany in a skillful way. The second reason is that it also includes homesteading techniques, such as glass making, pottery, and soap making. The third reason is that it contains survival, adventure, suspense, and of course mystery, which will make it a good book to anyone who enjoys literature. This would probably make a good family reading book, although I have not experimented with it. Another reason why I recommend this book: Arthur C. Clarke (a science fiction writer of more recent times) once said about the Father of modern science fiction, "The reason Verne is still read by millions today is simply that he was one of the best storytellers who have ever lived."

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