

This past week readers of the **Tampa Bay Times**, and listeners to the local TV news, were shocked to learn of an 18 year-old youth murdering his own mother! According to the news reports he beat his mother “with a baseball bat and stabbed her in the neck with a butcher knife.” For whatever reason, he murdered his mother on her 39th birthday.

Perhaps the typical response to this news would be to say “he is crazy, or insane.” However, in view of the fact that in the 2016 Yearbook of the High School he attended he was voted “Most Likely to Succeed,” and “Most Likely to Become President,” it appears evident that he can not successfully plead “insanity” as an excuse for his deplorable actions.

In view of the fact that no one “*knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him,*” I Cor. 2:11, I can not begin to state “why” this young man committed such an immoral, heinous, and dastardly act. To me, it seems inconceivable that a human being could deliberately and maliciously **take** the life of the very person who **gave** him life! However, though the means used to commit murder can widely vary, it is a fact that in today’s world more and more people are involved in murdering — not just strangers and would-be “enemies” —but even members of their own families! Yes, I am aware that the first-born son (Cain) of the first parents (Adam and Eve) murdered his own brother (Abel), Gen. 4:8, but this does not negate the fact that family-murder is a heinous crime, which is ill-befitting civilized people living in civilized societies.

A closer look at this young man who murdered his mother reveals the fact that she was a “single mother.” I do not claim to know why she was a “single mother” — whether she was divorced from her husband, whether she may have been victimized by her husband’s untimely death, or whether the son was born out of wed-lock, as so often happens in today’s world. But I can say the young man, though his actions can not be justified, was himself a victim of a family arrangement which was less than desirable. You see, God instituted the marriage relationship, Gen. 2:21-25, in which both the husband and wife would become “*one flesh,*” Gen. 2:24, in a marriage union which was to last until the death of one of the partners to that divinely conceived and divinely regulated union, Matt. 19:6; Rom. 7:2,3. Sexual cohabitation outside of marriage is called “*fornication,*” from which we are commanded to “*flee,*” I Cor. 6:18. But that which is forbidden outside the marriage relationship is commanded within the marriage relationship, I Cor. 7:1-4. Indeed, it is as the Hebrew writer stated, “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge,*” Heb. 13:4.

Marriage, as God designed it, involves a “*male*” and a “*female,*” Matt. 19:4, elsewhere called a “*husband*” and a “*wife,*” Eph. 5:33, scripturally joined together for life in a “*one flesh*” relationship, Matt. 19:6. To that kind of a union God intended for children to be born, Gen 1:28; I Tim. 5:14, and brought up “*in the training and admonition of the Lord,*” Eph. 6:4. Moreover, the Bible (in both the Old and New Testaments) has much to say about the responsibilities of husbands and wives to each other, of parents to children, and responsibilities of children to parents. When marriages are scripturally entered into, when both parties to the marriage honor their God-given responsibilities to each other, and when all family members function as God designed it in their family relationships, happiness prevails, the family survives, and society is strengthened. The lack of space forbids citing numerous statistics, but it is a fact that children are a “*heritage from the Lord,*” Ps. 127:3, that husbands and wives need each other, and children function best when they are reared by **both** father and mother. It has long been understood that marriage is the foundation of the family, and the family is “the building block of all human civilization.”

But the family in modern society is under attack! To some degree, it always has been under attack. Satan tempted the first couple in the garden, Gen. 3:1-6; they yielded, thus, “*sin entered the world, and death through sin,*” Rom. 5:12. Satan is still our “*adversary,*” I Peter 5:8, and he delivers a multi-pronged attack. This is why we must take “*the shield of faith,*” it being so that we can “*be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one,*” Eph. 6:16. Please note that “*darts*” is plural, not singular.

Some Modern Attacks on the Family:

1. “No fault divorce” laws. In 1969 California adopted “no fault divorce,” which became effective Jan. 1, 1970. What began in one state has spread to all the states. Of course, the very idea of “no fault” divorce is ludicrous; it makes almost as much sense as talking about “French fried snowballs!” But such laws make it easier for an unhappy spouse to file for divorce, instead of “working things out.” When children are involved (as is often the case), they are especially victimized, and they grow up without the proven benefits of being with, and influenced by, both biological parents. And when the children grow up, marry, and encounter almost inevitable challenges in their marriage, they are more prone to repeat the actions of their parents.

2. The legalization of abortion! This is another way of saying “the legal **murder** of unwanted children!” Properly understood, if it is acceptable to murder unwanted, defenseless, unborn children, it is equally OK to murder defenseless, unwanted older people who have become “a burden to society.” Inevitably, the legalization of abortion (in time) leads to the legalization of euthanasia! And this leads to the de-humanizing of society! Regarding the 18-year old who murdered **his** mother, who is to say that his actions are worse than would have been **her** actions if she, just prior to his birth, had gone to Planned Parenthood and authorized them to abort (murder) her son? Is it worse for a son to murder his mother than for a mother to kill her son? Nevertheless, in modern society abortion is classified as a “civil right,” and any person who opposes such is regarded as a “hate monger” who is opposed to “women’s rights!”

3. Public Education! Much of it is influenced by the philosophy of Secular Humanism. Properly understood, a secular humanist denies the existence of God, affirms that human kind arrived on planet earth by evolution (instead of divine creation), and is to be governed by the philosophy of Situation Ethics. This is an “anything goes” philosophy, which undermines faith in God, and morality itself. Alexis de Tocqueville, the French philosopher was so right when he declared in 1835 that “Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.” But the godless philosophy of Secular Humanism undermines **both** morality **and** faith.

4. Sex Education classes in school. “Sex” is not inherently sinful, but it is sinful outside the marriage relationship, Heb. 13:4. So often modern sex-ed classes teach the mechanics of mating, but they are forbidden to teach the moral guidelines pertaining to cohabitation. Consequently, millions of couples become involved in “alternative marriage arrangements,” involving living together, communes, mate sharing, etc., all of which tend to undermine the formation of legitimate marriages, and strong family relationships.

5. Confusion on what constitutes a family! “Old Timers” among us remember when a family was made up of a husband, a wife, and the children born to that union. Of course, there were “extended families,” which included other relatives, either by birth, or marriage. But now-a-days “families” might include couples living together in a “same-sex,” so-called “marriage,” and anyone else who happens to live under the same roof.

Conclusion: More factors could be cited — such as “liberal politicians” (in both parties), a liberal media, and wolves-in-sheep’s-clothing preachers, who neither fear God nor believe the Bible! Perhaps another factor should be mentioned — it being morally upright people, who deplore the situation herein described, but lack the moral courage to “*speak the truth in love,*” Eph. 4:15, on this critical issue! Hopefully, for our readers, a “hint to the wise” will be sufficient.

**** —Bobby Witherington