

# Faith & Works

## Strengthening FAITH

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April 2024



### The Transcendent Value of Children

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In a recent article for *Law and Liberty*, Elizabeth Grace Matthew argued that secular writers have missed something in their cost-benefit analysis. Children, she argued, have value that transcends individual goals and dreams. They aren't mere accessories of our self-expression. They are gifts to society who represent "a disposition of generosity toward God and His world."

All things being equal, recognizing that not all who desire children are able to have them, raising the next generation isn't just a choice among many for which no one needs to strive. As Matthew concluded:

*There is societal value for all in the rearing of the next generation, even though its work is disproportionately undertaken by some. There is only individual value for some (and dubious value at that) in the freedom of the "child free" to pursue unimpeded hedonism.*

Children challenge the secular, hyper-individualist worldview to its core. They present an immediate, shared responsibility that directs us beyond material gain and personal fulfillment to higher ideals. Simply put, more people must and should marry and have children if society is to survive. The reluctance of secular writers to say this, even in the face of devastating population decline, exposes a critical flaw in their beliefs. Some values are bigger than individuals. Some even require individual sacrifice. The future will belong to those who admit this fact and allow it to shape their choices.

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This commentary was provided by the **Colson Center for Christian Worldview** and published in Faith & Works in partnership with **Center for Christian Virtue**.

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## Inspiring WORKS

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### 1 Pray

Raising children requires a large investment of grace, patience, and time from the adults in their communities. Current cultural messaging encourages adults to forgo this commitment in pursuit of their own self-centered lifestyles. As Christians, we must pray for future generations. Pray that our churches will be places that children are embraced and nurtured in ways that display tangible examples of selfless love in a selfish world.

### 2 Take Action

Do you or your church want to be more involved in the work of training up the next generation? The Ohio Christian Education Network (OCEN) has developed a model for churches to operate a school in rooms that are otherwise empty during the week. Please pray about the opportunity to start a school in your church or community with help from the Ohio Christian Education Network. For more information, email [ocen@ccv.org](mailto:ocen@ccv.org).

### 3 Join Us

Our next Prayer at the Statehouse event is Thursday, May 16. Please consider joining us for prayer and worship from 10:00 to 11:30 am. To register, visit [CCV.org/Pray](https://ccv.org/Pray).



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