

## Forward

Herein you will find a Love story; Love for God, Love for children, Love for marriage, and Love for the brethren. This is the kind of Love that I believe is in Christ's Image, as it is the kind of Love that says, "I will turn away from what I desire if I know it is against the Word of God and will cause my brother to fall. I will seek Him in all things and He will lead me to repentance when I fail."

Before you enter in, I ask that you pray and ask the Lord to prepare your heart for whatever He would say to you and a willingness to hear.

Perhaps you will read the following and think that it is nothing more than a cathartic exercise. I pray not. Time passes and the church continues to fall into greater disarray. It is my personal belief that much of this is due to the increasing liberal thinking that has infiltrated all denominations. Some churches are growing incredibly, some are stagnant, and some are diminishing; but we all seem to be suffering the same bent toward doing "what feels good to me" because "Jesus Loves me just the way I am." We quickly and glibly quote the scriptures pertaining to Jesus having regularly spent time with taxpayers and sinners and Jesus Love for all, but give little time or thought to what the purpose of His heart was...and still is; the saving of souls. If we pack the house, but ignore the ways in which we are causing new Christians to fall, we had been better off allowing the congregation to dwindle down to nothing and the building to stay empty and fall into ruin. Matthew 18:6-7 reads:

**"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**

**Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”**

## **Daddy, Will You Please Cover Me?**

**By Cherry Bieber**

**At 7:30 a.m. Paul passed the bank on his way to work, he read the sign that flashed a temperature of 87 degrees. He groaned to think of the heat that lay ahead. He worked in construction and they had a full day out in the sun. As he waited at a red light in the heavy traffic, he heard horns honking behind him and he looked around to see what was going on. He saw a woman he recognized walking down the sidewalk. He quickly looked away, as she was clearly under dressed. She was a member of the same church that Paul and his wife attended and was known as being very kindhearted and generous. However, he had always avoided contact with her because she often wore low-cut, short dresses or equally exposing casual clothing. Paul soon heard hoots, whistles, and crude remarks pouring out the windows of several vehicles around him. His heart ached as he thought of the example she was showing and the danger she placed herself in, which he truly believed she did not realize. He began praying for her, for all of the women she represented, and even for the men who were encouraged by and attracted to her under dressed condition. As he prayed, he thought of the scripture his own father had read to him over and over as he was growing up and which had a profound effect on him and kept him from falling into such snares.**

**Proverbs 7:22, 23, 26,27 – “He goes after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knows not that it is for his life...For she has cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.**

**He was deeply saddened that so many women believed their worth was in the physical. They had come to believe, perhaps early on in life, to use their bodies to manipulate and control. However, they didn't understand that this came with a price that would be very, very high.**

**Paul thought about the men, young boys, women, and young girls who were now completely immersed through relentless bombardment of pornographic visuals via television, movies, internet, magazines, and billboards. Throughout the day his heart was burdened for them and he prayed continually.**

**That evening after Paul and his wife, Taryn, had completed the bedtime routine with their daughter including prayers, tucking in, and one last drink of water (for the third time), they were sitting together on the couch quietly talking over the days' events. Paul told Taryn about the episode of the woman from their church and how burdened his heart had been for her as well as for the men whistling at her. He emphasized that his heart was not one of judgment, but rather deep sadness. As they talked, they heard the familiar padding of little feet coming down the hallway and five-year-old Emily peered around the corner at them with her large, sleepy brown eyes. "I had to go potty," she said with a yawn. She walked over to where they were sitting and asked, "Daddy, will you please cover me?" Her question quickened something in his spirit as he rose from the couch and lifted little Emily into his arms. He marveled at how perfectly she fit against him as she snuggled and laid her head on his shoulder.**

**While he tucked the blankets beneath her chin just the way she liked them, she watched him intently with eyes full of trust. He rested on the edge of the bed and with his hand he gently brushed soft, brown wisps of hair from her face. Soon her long dark lashes rested on her cheeks and her breath came slow and**

even. Paul was content to sit for a time looking at his angelic sleeping beauty. As he admired her, he pondered her question, “Daddy, will you please cover me?” Soon the words began to take on much greater significance than that of tucking the blankets under her chin.

Tears rolled down his cheek as he thought of the woman he’d seen earlier that day. He thought about the fact that she, too, was someone’s baby girl. He knew his own heart would break if that were ever his own precious Emily that the men were leering and jeering at. He understood and was faithful to the call of covering her in prayer, but he knew there was further covering to which he was called as her father. As he watched Emily sleep, he pondered this further.

Through the years, he had watched some Christian parents who believed that all they had to do is pray for their children and leave the rest to God, as if parenting were a type of “hands-off” operation and praying for them relieved them of the day to day duties of parenting, which sometimes calls for “turning the tables over.” **(Matthew 21:12-13)**

So many had succumbed to the worldly ways of child rearing and had abandoned the clear instructions given in God’s Word. They seemed to forget the deeper needs of children in whose hearts foolishness was bound **(Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”)**. Paul could see that there was a need for ongoing Loving, firm discipline and guidance coupled with Love and deep affection that would keep their hearts at home. However, the busy lives of many were often in the way of the “doing” that produced children who honored and obeyed their parent’s, which leads to life. **(Exodus 20:12 “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”)** Paul believed that the deepest hurt of most children

suffering from anger was rooted in the lack of boundaries, Love, and time from their parents.

Paul knew he had a God-given responsibility to fulfill the different means of covering Emily as the years rolled by and she transformed from little girl to adolescent to young woman. In addition to continually covering her in a blanket of prayer and careful spiritual guidance, he would need to cover her with boundaries, discipline, and fatherly affection that were based on Biblical principals. He knew that even now at the tender age of five, part of covering her involved teaching her to keep herself covered. He had witnessed the disastrous results of parents who had allowed their girls to dress scantily throughout little girlhood and then suddenly attempted to apply a dress code when they were developing physically. This routine seemed to always birth a seed of deep rebellion, resentment, and dishonor toward the parents and placed the girls in grave danger.

Paul stood slowly so as to not awaken Emily. He then knelt by her bedside and “covered” her again. As he knelt there, he began to weep deeply, as though weeping for the hurts of all the little girls, including those who were now grown and confused women, who had never had a father to whom they might say, “Daddy, will you please cover me?” Although he was unable to find words to voice what he was feeling, he knew that the Holy Spirit was interceding on their behalf. He left Emily’s room with assurance that those not having an earthly father to cover them would always be able to turn to the Father of Heaven.

**(Psalm 91:4 “He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” Psalm 68:5 “A Father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation.”)**

**When Paul returned to the living room where Taryn waited for him, he was surprised to look at the clock and see that he'd been in Emily's room for an hour.**

**Taryn, seeing the look on his face, recognized immediately that he had felt the strong call to true fatherhood. She patted the sofa cushion beside herself, inviting him to sit. As he sat down looking into her eyes, he was so full of thankfulness for all God had given him. He felt he might burst with it, but he equally felt the burden of others' lack. He took Taryn's hand in his, but didn't speak, as his throat was tight and he knew he would cry if he tried. Taryn just waited patiently for this to pass. She knew his heart was full and when he spoke it would be something worth having waited for.**

**"Taryn," he began slowly, "as I looked at Emily just now and thought of her question 'Daddy, will you please cover me?' I was reminded of the incident this morning with the woman from our church. I am so grieved for her and every woman who believes her worth lies in physical attractiveness. What happens when the natural aging process occurs and the physical body is all they have invested time in preserving? I want so much more for Emily. I want her to know that she, like all people, is a beautiful, special creation of God. I want her to know that she is created for His glory and honor and that physical beauty is shallow and passing and will never draw a man to truly Love her as I have grown to Love you." (Proverbs 31:30 "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.") As a young woman, I want her to have the Love for God that makes her realize that her body is His temple. Such knowledge will cause her to desire to cover her body even when she is beyond our realm of authority in her life. I want her to be sure that as much as she is able, she is not the object used of the enemy to stir a man's lust. If she should attempt to rebel against us, as she gets older, we need to stand strong as one on her behalf**

and keep her within the boundaries that will keep her safe. This is what God has given us and I don't want to shirk that responsibility with her or any of our future children. We also must be careful to be living examples of purity for the sake of all."

Paul opened the Bible and read, **I Timothy 2:9. "In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel..."** He further read, **Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."**

As Taryn listened, the tears rolled down her cheeks. "Paul, I am so very thankful that we are on the same page in this parenting mission." She said quietly. "I know that God will hear our prayers and, as His word says, He is faithful to fulfill the promises He has made to His children. As one before God, they vowed to continue in this renewed desire to fulfill His call on their lives. Simultaneously, they looked up at the small, framed scripture that hung above the door, which read **"Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."** Together they felt the Holy Spirit interceding through them and strengthening them for what lay ahead.

## Author's note

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**Is it not true that if we ignore any issue of guidance and discipline in our children's lives that it is an offense against them? If women refuse to cover themselves appropriately, is this not an offense against the children within the realm of their association? If mothers and fathers do not teach their precious daughters to cover themselves appropriately, is this not an offense against them? If we do not guard carefully what our children see through movies, television, books, and personal associations, is this not an offense that desensitizes them? If you have never seen a millstone, please, if you live in our area, go see the one in Spearfish park and let this add a new dimension to your understanding of just what Christ was saying in Matthew 18:6. One being thrown into the sea with such an object attached to the neck is certain and horrible death!**

**Yes, it is sin as a whole for which Christ shed His redeeming blood, not weighing one sin as worse than another. However, I implore you to take a look around you and honestly calculate just how much of humanity's brokenness can be traced back to some form of sexual immorality and how this has subtly infiltrated the body of Christ. The evil of our time is such that it does not take a scantily clothed female to stir one consumed by the lust of the flesh. This being true, it would seem all the more expedient that we cover our precious daughters and ourselves.**

**If you have a son, consider the following as well. Is it not a grievous thing to have to teach him to guard his eyes while in**

**church? Although I don't want my son to be judgmental, I neither want him to think that it is acceptable for a Christian female to expose herself while in church or out in the world. How would you feel if your sons were in Sunday school class and the teacher, regularly wearing low-cut dresses/shirts, was repeatedly bending over exposing herself to him? This and worse is occurring throughout our churches today and yet we say nothing. We should also consider that it is a lack of Love for women that causes us to fear speaking out. We are therefore guilty of causing not only the little ones and our brothers to fall, but our sisters in Christ as well, for if we Loved them, we would surely tell them...just as Jesus would certainly do.**

**The world is building more and more facilities to house children who are so far gone that they can't even be placed in foster homes. A vast percentage of these children have suffered sexual perversion to some degree, as have their perpetrators. As Christians, I believe we have two choices. We either start sending grossly large amounts of money to fund these facilities and go on our merry way or we start taking the Word of God seriously and address this issue at every turn, beginning with our own homes and churches.**

**First and foremost, we must pray, but we absolutely must take the affirmative actions necessary to such prayers! I can pray for my children's purity, but this absolutely must be coupled with action and example. We preach and teach this very same idea regarding so many issues in our lives, but are clearly and blatantly ignoring the issue with regard to the appropriate covering of the female body. Sexual immorality is defined throughout the scriptures as idolatry, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, whoredoms, whores, whoremongers, and perverseness, to name a few. The book of Proverbs is rich with instructions regarding such things. I grew up being a little girl**

**who did not have a daddy's covering and I went through 26 years of life before realizing the importance of being covered. If I were standing in judgment in any of this, such judgment would be against myself as well.**

**I write fervently and passionately because the hour truly is late. This writing bears no copyright because it has none. I invite you, implore you, to copy it and pass it out wherever you can. I had thought to keep my name off, but I am concerned that others might find it a statement of being ashamed and/or unsure of what I believe my Father has spoken to me.**

**All Scripture is taken from the King James Version of the Bible.**

**Your Fellow Servant In Christ, Cherry Bieber**