

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

June 13, 2010

## God, the model parent

by David King

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Gen. 1:27).

All mankind can rightfully call God their "father," but for Adam and Eve, that designation took on special meaning. As the first humans, they depended on God for everything. A quick study of how God performed in that role as the "first parent" provides some useful lessons for parents today.

Like any parent, God desired what was best for his kids. He gave them a beautiful garden to live in (2:8), loaded with an abundance of delicious food (2:9) and water (2:6,10). When He saw that it was "not good for man to be alone," He provided a companion to answer his need for social interaction (2:18-22). In every respect, God saw to it that His children had what they needed to enjoy a happy and contented life.

But God's care for his kids did not extend to spoiling them. However perfect this first home may have been, God insisted that they do their chores. Man was put in the garden of Eden "to tend and keep it" (2:15), a task that may have been easier in the absence of noxious plants prior to the curse (3:17-19) — but it was still work. God knew that true satisfaction in life is the result of achieving success, and that comes only through work. The sooner kids learn that lesson, the quicker they can begin finding their purpose in life.

In addition to the labor that God insisted His children perform, there were also activities He insisted they **not** do. For Adam and Eve, it

was the prohibition against partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (2:17). Scholars speculate on what this tree was, and why God placed it off-limits, but those details are really not relevant. The key point is that for all the freedoms that Adam and Eve enjoyed, they still had rules that limited what they could do. Kids need boundaries, not only to protect them from potential harm, but more importantly to learn the value of self-discipline.

God did not just make rules, He enforced them. When Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate from the forbidden tree, they learned that their Father's warning was no idle threat. He had promised punishment if they disobeyed, and they quickly learned that God meant what He said. They both were cursed with all the travails of mortality (3:16-19), and were cast out of the Garden, thus losing access to the tree of life (3:22-24). On that day, death entered Adam and Eve's world. It was not easy for God to see His children in pain, but they had to learn that behaviors have consequences.

But even while administering discipline, God never ceased to love His children. In their pitiful attempt to hide from God, Adam and Eve had made clothing of fig leaves (3:7). God knew that such flimsy garments would not protect them from the harsh new life that awaited them, so He provided them with tunics made from animal skins (3:21). Even in punishing them, God was sacrificing for His kids.

Parenting can be a real challenge, but God has given us a model to show how it's done. We just need the courage to follow it.