



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection November 2020

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Freedom

*Giving thanks always for
all things unto God and
the Father in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*In everything give thanks:
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus concerning
you.*

Eph. 5:20 & I Thess. 5:18

Mark Your Calendar!
Tuesday, Nov. 3, General
and Presidential election

**All absentee ballots must
be received by your
polling location by 8 p.m.
on Nov. 3rd.**

**We encourage you to do
the following:**

- **Pray that God's people will vote and will vote for candidates who will enact policies reflecting God's standards, which are good for everyone.**
- **Pray that God will grant us mercy in this election.**
- **Continue to pray regularly for our elected officials.**

Giving Thanks to God

A number of years ago *Time* magazine published a feature article on Thanksgiving that was both shocking, amusing and saddening. Author Nancy Gibbs started this lengthy report with a token acknowledgment of the history of this very American holiday. She wrote, "It [Thanksgiving] was invented by a bunch of Puritans who celebrated freedom by throwing a party, and so bequeathed us a holiday both secular and sacred." This statement alone is likely enough to get any nominally informed American muttering under one's breath about ignorant reporting. But if you bravely persevere and read the whole article there is even more cause for concern.

The author went on to equate all faiths, further showing her ignorance. Then by picturing two homosexual men, the author implied that their relationship and so-called "family" are morally equivalent to a man and a woman united in marriage. The failure to recognize these significant differences was disturbing, though not unexpected from a secular writer seeking to give a secular understanding of Thanksgiving. But the last sentence of the article is the one that should really get the reader's attention, and that sentence helps us understand why the author thought and wrote as she did.

The concluding paragraph attempted to tie all the pieces of the article together, and the last sentence referred to being thankful on Thanksgiving, "the day we celebrate gratitude's birthday." That is a conclusion that should shock, amuse and sadden us. It is shocking to hear anyone refer to Thanksgiving this way. It is amusing because the statement is, at least on the surface, inane. It is saddening, because nowhere in the entire article was it clear who was to be thanked on Thanksgiving. This sentence reflected that truth.

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Right now in America we probably have two generations of Americans that celebrate this holiday with little to no idea about Whom we should be thanking on Thanksgiving.

(continued on back)



William Bradford was Governor of Plymouth Colony. This is the text of his proclamation issued in 1623:

To all ye Pilgrims: In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetable, and has made the forest to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us ..., has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house ..., on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth to
all generations.

Psalm 100:5

The author of this article is clearly part of those generations. She doesn't really understand gratitude and certainly appears to have no clue as to when gratitude was "born," so to speak.

If gratitude had a birthday, then it's most likely the day God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life and man became a living soul, made in the image of God. As humans, we are able to be thankful only because God allows us to experience that wonderful attitude and emotion. Every person bears the image of God. That is a foundational truth and one for which every person should give thanks.

But we live in a time when our society doesn't generally openly acknowledge God, other than, too often, as a curse word. Our culture certainly doesn't understand Him, and if you don't understand God, you really don't understand being thankful. Gratitude by its very nature requires an object. Sadly, and generally speaking, our culture doesn't know the source of its bounty and certainly doesn't recognize God as being the Rightful Receiver of our thanks.

So, let's be clear. The Pilgrims in attendance at those first Thanksgivings back in the mid-1600s knew Who should be receiving their thanks. Governor William Bradford in 1623 made an official proclamation that November 29 of that year would be a day of Thanksgiving (see left sidebar). At the conclusion of an eloquent statement, Bradford instructed all the Pilgrims to gather at the meeting house to listen to the pastor and to render thanksgiving to Almighty God for all His blessings on the appointed day, leaving no doubt Who was to be thanked.

When contrasting the article in *Time* magazine with Governor Bradford's proclamation, the conclusion is inescapable that we must do a better job of being sure our children, and the culture in general, know the truth about being thankful and celebrating our national day of Thanksgiving.

If we're going to celebrate "gratitude's birthday" this month, then we must be ready to acknowledge gratitude's "parent," Almighty God. He is the One to Whom we humbly offer our heartfelt thanks, individually and nationally.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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