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Values

Kym Wright pens the free Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright, a weekly email “booster shot” of encouragement for moms with hearts in their homes. One week she shared a frustration experienced by many homeschool families - finding the right church - and what to look for when searching. We share the column with you now ... and the response it invoked.

Two things I do value a lot, intimacy and the capacity for joy, didn't seem to be on anyone else's list. I felt like the stranger in a strange land, and decided I'd better not marry the natives.

Richard Bach, Spoken by Leslie Parrish,
The Bridge Across Forever

Many homeschoolers we know are looking for churches which make a place for them, their lifestyle, the goals they have for their families, children's attitudes and actions, the husband/wife relationship and more. They feel a need for homeschool children for their children to interact with. And for homeschool parents for them to associate with, also. Families of like minds.

A pastor friend of ours made a very insightful statement in the course of our conversation. "Since most denominations have similar core doctrines and theology, this is not what separates

one church from another," he shared. He had my attention. "What sets one church apart from another is what they value."

"Whoa!" I thought. "The things they value set them apart?" This kicked in my analytical nature, and I began to peruse this statement from all sides.

Church A, in the middle of Everywhere, USA, might apparently not value homeschooling. They do not want to support a group of like-minded homeschooling parents who want to assemble to encourage and share with and with other members of their church.

Church B not only supports homeschoolers, they welcome them, and join together in prayer to ask the Lord to bring more homeschooling families into their congregation.

Church A seemingly appears to have no real use for moms at home – unless it is to serve the needs of the church while the employed moms are working for their paycheck. Their vision isn't for moms to pour into their little ones' lives, but to

accommodate all lifestyles, and help the working moms by providing a safe place to keep their children while the moms are at work.

At Church B the pastor's wife teaches a Bible Study on Titus 2:3-5 – older women teaching the younger women how to be keepers at home. Encouraging moms to love their children, to have a vision for raising their children "in the fear and admonition of the Lord."

Large families aren't understood at Church A, and they just can't comprehend why some large, home-schooling families don't like being separated into age-groups so often, but enjoy a family Sunday School class made up of all ages.

In Church B there are families with more children per family than the norm – and even more children than that! Many couples are starting their families and have several little ones in tow. And God is adding to His church daily.

And at Church A they don't seem to understand honoring husbands by submissive wives. When exposed to this new thought, they challenge, they mock, they watch those living it, and dismiss it. In this area, God's word and His way are just not understood nor valued.

Church B's pastor has a vivacious love for his wife – a strong woman in her own right – who chooses to honor her husband, asking for his input in her decisions.

The church we attend affects, not only our lives, but the lives of our children, our grandchildren, and future generations. If we attend a place where we prefer our children "not to marry the natives" not to join themselves with those with so many differences – not in doctrine, but in values. If we feel we don't join together with them because we just don't value the same things, then is this really the church for us?

Is our great big God, who knows our every desire, able to – if we had



the faith to put together a "shopping list" of things we would want in a church – bring us to a church which has all the things we deem most important?

A place where we can join ourselves to the natives. Jumping in with both feet. Planning things for the teens – and their families. Opening our homes to girls to learn together the lost arts of keeping a home. Raising our children in an atmosphere where the church and the family values agree.

The denomination isn't the most important difference. What separates one church from another is what they value.

From one mother to another,
Kym Wright

RESPONSE:

That Weekly Wakeup with Kym spawned notes from moms wanting to be part of "Church B," dads who saw the need for a church which supports their values and their wife's role, and pastor's wives who longed to be involved in "that kind of church." Many of those in the latter group asked for wisdom in making their church more like "Option B" than "Church A."

We could hear their heartcry, as they said, "I love our church, but ..."

So, in response, we've asked Veronica Reece, the Pastor's wife of a "Church B" to respond. She is a godly woman who home-schools her children and teaches the very values we hold so dear. And she can share from personal experience.

