



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Viewing life as Christ's cross-scarred hand points out the blessings he's overseeing.

Vetting the Media ~ June 4, 2013 [Online Version](#)

If you swallow what the media reports without vetting it, you're like an open-throated fish rushing a shiny object spinning through the water. Today's media allures the unwary to swallow mistruth, much like a spinning lure trolled by a fisherman.

Take for example The Atlantic Monthly. It reports on research that finds that the number of homes with children that rely primarily on the mother's income has risen to 40 percent. It comments on this trend: "the data... show how employment and gender roles in the United States continue to shift away from the **Leave It to Beaver** model. **Murphy Brown** is winning."

Of course you realize that the **Leave it to Beaver** TV show featured a husband-wife family, and the **Murphy Brown** TV show featured an unwed mom. The Atlantic Monthly continues: "That the trend has now passed the 40 percent mark is not particularly remarkable... Working mothers are so much the norm at this point that to even point that out seems unnecessary and incongruous."

The coverage spins this news so that it appears alluring, even normal. *Who doesn't want to be normal, to fit in, to be accepted, right?* Yes, this trend is supposedly so normal, reporting it "seems unnecessary and incongruous." *OK, on the count of three, everyone yawn!* But beware. When a person yawns, the mouth opens... and mistruth is more easily swallowed hook, line and sinker.

So what's behind this growing trend in which "mothers are the sole or primary provider in four-in-ten households with children" (to quote the subtitle of the actual study)?

The biggest reason that "breadwinner moms" are so common today is that 25 percent of today's families with children are headed by single mothers. In most of these families, this means that Dad will not or cannot come close to doing his fair share of the housework, child care, and breadwinning needed to sustain a family. The median income of these single-mother-headed households, \$23,000, is not even half the median income enjoyed by homes headed by two parents (who typically pull in more than \$70,000). And 29 percent of these single "breadwinner moms" are not even working, according to the 2011 American Community Survey.

Please reread this explanation from [National Review Online](#). Count the number of bad trends at work. While there other sad statistics provided for your study, let me speed to the NRO's insightful vetting of the media mistruth:

The growing number of breadwinner moms has partly been fueled by our nation's incorporation of bright and capable women into the workforce, which is all to the good. But the rise of breadwinner moms has also been fueled by surging rates of nonmarital childbearing, single motherhood, and male unemployment. These trends look more like the familial ingredients of an American dystopia....

Dystopia is a society characterized by human misery, which is exactly what Satan wants to produce on earth, as a catalyst for eternal dystopia. Satan propagates dystopia by tempting people to swallow media that he's accessorized with treble hooks.

So how can we learn to properly vet the media so we don't swallow Satan's mistruths? Faithfully attend worship and structured Bible study! For example if you've studied how God designed marriage and family, then you'll know that a family headed by a loving father and mother is the Biblical model (reflected in *Leave it to Beaver*). You will also know that wherever there are unwed pregnancies and divorced moms, these are the tragic consequences of sin—yes, someone rebelled against God for these situations to result. It could be that a husband left his wife and kids for a younger woman. Or it could be that a rapist caused an unwed pregnancy (although this is extremely rare, but I digress).

If we don't acknowledge sin where sin exists, then aren't we treating Jesus as a sham? But now the good news! The good news is that every sinner who, without excusing their sin, admits their sin and trusts that Jesus carried in himself all the penalties our sins deserve, has received full and free forgiveness (1 Peter 2:24-25; Romans 4:4-5). And more good news: in this forgiveness comes Christ's pledge and promises to bring divine help for the dystopia that sin promulgates (Psalm 91:14-16). And still more good news: in this forgiveness comes the desire to learn more about Jesus, which increases the spiritual wisdom to spot the lie... such as when the media elevates **Murphy Brown** over *Leave it to Beaver*.

The more your appreciation for Jesus leads you to study Scripture, the better it's able to keep you from swallowing mistruth. It was scripture that enabled me to spot the trouble-hooks (that's not a misspelling). This in turn prompted me to do my own research instead of swallowing the mistruth. Likewise, Scripture protects you from the media's spin that serves to obscure Satan's trolling treble hooks.

Instead of yawning, let's be panting at the opportunity to bring Christ's help to those suffering from sin's dystopia... which is trending to include more homes in which mothers are the sole or primary providers for their children. †

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[The Rise of Breadwinner Moms](#) @ National Review Online

[The American Family Is Leaning In to Working Moms More Than Ever](#) @ The Atlantic Wire

[Breadwinner Moms](#) @ pewsocialtrends.org

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

