

Wild Turkey Poults

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 7/23/18

"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory." - 1 Thess. 2:11-12



I photographed these wild turkey poults on our property as they were resting under the watchful care of their mother. The mother, who was only a few feet away when I took this picture, was teaching her young the skills they would need to survive in a very dangerous world. She did this by modeling the way a wild turkey should behave. So, you may ask, where was the father in this process? He was no where to be found. The creed by which wild turkey males operate is breed, then leave. All responsibility for child raising falls on the female. Sadly, this is the creed to which many human males ascribe. Our families are greatly weakened because fathers have neglected their responsibilities. Even the fathers who have chosen to stay with the families they have produced have often neglected their primary responsibility of modeling and encouraging godly behavior. In these instances, physical needs are met while spiritual needs are ignored. And our children have been robbed of what only godly fathers can provide. More than anything else, our children need fathers who leave them with a legacy of godliness. My father was not wealthy, well educated, or prominent in the community but he left us with a solid example of what a godly man should be. That wealth, that legacy, is worth more to me than anything else he could have done. Fathers, what we teach our children will mold them in more ways than we can imagine. Abandoning their mother will teach them to undervalue the women in their lives. Failing to provide spiritual guidance and a spiritual model will teach them that godliness has no real importance. But encouraging them to walk in a manner that honors God and modeling that kind of life might very well save their souls. We are not male turkeys, we are men entrusted with a mandate from God. Be sure of this, our children are watching. - John