

## Essay from the bald pastor

### #86 - Stay close to your baby for three years -

With Abenomics (the economic and monetary policies of Japanese Prime Minister Abe) creating a number of controversies, Prime Minister Abe made another remark to add to the list. In the section titled "A Japan in Which Women Shine" during his speech on "Growth Strategy," he talked about the improvement of women's positions, the accelerating process to eliminate childcare waiting lists, the improvement of maternity leaves, and the return to work environment. Then, he went on to say that he will support women's "return to work after three years of being close to the children." I couldn't help bursting out laughing. First of all, I wonder if they can actually return to work after such long absence. Besides, it is unconvincing because it sounds like women should be responsible for all the child-rearing.

On the other hand, it is a fact that babies get to relax when the mother carries them in her arm according to a recent experiment conducted by RIKEN (Institute of Physical and Chemical Research). Only three seconds after the mothers picked up their babies and started walking around, the babies' heart rates clearly lowered and the frequencies of crying and flapping of hands and feet got less. Surprisingly, they saw the same result with the fathers.

Similar phenomenon is known to happen in other mammals such as cats and lions. It turns out that the key is the action of "carrying" and not of "holding." I see. That explains the true meaning of the following verse.

***He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that have young.***

**Isaiah 40:11**

I never really understood before why he carried the lambs instead of making them walk on their own. It's God's way of loving us, humans. Being the creator and a savior, He takes care of every one of us through almost-excessive physical contacts. When we praise Jesus Christ, who acted on that love, and repent our sins, we'll welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts and finally attain peace. To believe in God is to let Him carry you, give you peace, and relax you.

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