

“BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!”

A. A father may be the head of his home, but his wife—the mother of his children—is the heart & soul of his family.

1. The words of Jesus from the cross indicate a mother’s value to her son (**Jn 19:27**).

B. No woman can rise to a higher plateau of spiritual service than she can in the role of motherhood.

1. Mary, for example, supported her Son the Savior during His rejections, persecutions & death.
2. Hannah molded Samuel’s heart into a great judge & prophet in Israel.

C. No one has the opportunity to exhibit more selfless love (for which there is no monetary reward & very little appreciation shown) than a mother.

1. Ideally, she conceives a child out of the deepest sense of love & devotion to her husband.

2. She nourishes & protects her unborn child for nine months.

3. Then she gives all the time & energy needed to guide her children through the changes of life from childhood to adulthood—with many tears of sorrow & joy!

4. There is no duty given to anyone that requires more dedication, skill, planning, strength, patience & compassion—than motherhood

[As we look at the functions of motherhood, let us be grateful for our own mothers & for God’s wonderful plan for the family.]

I. MANAGER OF THE HOME

Prov 31:27 – *She watches over the ways of her household*, & does not eat the bread of idleness. [Never was so much said in so few words.]

1 Tim 5:14-15 – Therefore I desire that the *younger widows* marry, bear children, *manage the house*, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

A. What applies to “young widows” must, by implication, apply also to young women.

1. Notice the order: ***marry***, *give birth*, *manage the home*, & *live in an exemplary life of a Christian wife & mother*.

2. The reason this applies to *young women* & to *young widows* is seen in the purpose for the command:
 - a. To prevent Satan from gaining an advantage over them.
 - b. And also to prevent the enemies of Christ from using them as a means to speak against the gospel.
3. ***As long as*** a Christian wife & mother is managing the home; ***as long as*** she is fulfilled in her role as wife & mother, Satan has little power over her.

B. The worthy woman in Proverbs 31 is often viewed as the personification of godliness & virtue in womanhood.

1. She is the model of efficiency; her pursuits outside the home did not interfere with but rather complimented her duties in the home.
2. She was praised by her husband, children & everyone who knew her.

[**These** Scriptures are not revealed to us to make us feel inadequate. **Rather**, they serve as signposts along the road of life, to keep us near to God.]

II. MODEL OF OBEDIENCE

Jas 4:6-7 – But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 ***Therefore submit to God.*** Resist the devil & he will flee from you.

Ti 2:5 – to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, ***obedient to their own husbands***, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

1 Pet 3:1-5 – Wives, likewise, ***be submissive to your own husbands***, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, ***being submissive to their own husbands***

A. Notice first that one must be willing to submit to God.

1. Then it will be possible to submit to others whom God has placed over us.

2. A French officer once asked the mother of General George Washington, “*How have you managed to rear such a splendid son?*” She replied, “*I taught him to obey.*”
 - a. Undoubtedly she taught him by her own example of obedience to God, to her parents & to her own husband.

3. Mary might have told Gabriel, “*Wait a minute, I have other plans for my life!*”

- a. But instead she said, “*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word*” (Lk 1:38).

[**When** mothers possess a spirit of obedience to God’s commands they have a powerful influence over their children to do the same.]

III. TEACHER OF GOOD THINGS

Prov 14:1 – The *wise woman builds her house*, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands. [She uses tools: instruction from God, discipline, example.]

2 Tim 1:5 – when I call to remembrance *the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois & your mother Eunice*, & I am persuaded is in you also.

2 Tim 3:14-15 – But you must *continue in the things which you have learned* & been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 & that *from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Prov 6:20-23 – My son, keep your father’s command, & *do not forsake the law of your mother*. 21 Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. 22 When you roam, *they will lead you*; when you sleep, *they will keep you*; & when you awake, they will *speak with you*. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, & the law a light; *reproofs of instruction are the way of life* (also Prov 1:8-9).

Prov 31:1-5, 8-9 – *The Words of King Lemuel’s Mother the words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him*: 2 What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows? 3 *Do not give your strength to women*, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink*; 5 Lest they drink & forget the law, & pervert the justice of all the afflicted...8 *Open your mouth for the speechless*, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. 9 Open your mouth, *judge righteously, & plead the cause of the poor & needy*.

IV. HELP THE HELPLESS & LOVE THE UNLOVELY

A. A godly mother is like an angel on this earth.

1. A mother bird will eventually forsake the sick among its young, but a godly mother will her child to the end.

B. Jochebed & Rizpah helped & loved more than most.

1. Jochebed (wife of Amram) protected Moses from an evil plot (Exo 2; Heb 11:23).
2. Rizpah, King Saul's concubine, protected her two sons from birds & scavenging animals for six months (2 Sam 21:10).

V. RESPECTED & HONORED

Pro 31:28-31 – *Her children rise up & call her blessed; her husband also, & he praises her:* 29 “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.” 30 Charm is deceitful & beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, & let her own works praise her in the gates.

Lev 19:3 – *Every one of you shall revere his mother & his father,* & keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God (Eph 6:1-3; Prov 23:24-25; 19:26; 20:20; 30:17).

A. When respect & honor are missing in the home, it is a signal of a decaying society.

1. Paul said perilous times were on the horizon, when people would be disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving (w/out natural affection). From such people turn away (2 Tim 3:2-3).
2. **Illustration:** A man who was about to wire his mother some flowers until he met a little girl who needed help to buy a single red rose to put on her mother's grave. He drove 200 miles to be w/his mother.

1 Jn 3:18 – My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed & in truth.

CLOSING

A. Ezekiel told Jerusalem, “Like mother like daughter” (Eze 16:44).

1. Jerusalem's mother was Samaria, which was already being punished in captivity.
2. The prophet was not being complimentary when he said that, but the point is most of us can trace our character to our mothers.

B. Have you thanked your mother lately? Do you pray for her?

1. Thank God for his wisdom in providing for us the tender & loving care of our mothers.

2. May we honor our mothers in sincerely while it is within our power to do so & while they can benefit from it.

3. They nurtured & cherished us, as Christ the church.

4. They gave their lives in service to us when we had nothing to offer, & they did it in hope of seeing us grow up into someone God would be proud to call His own

5. They taught us the greatest & most important lessons we have ever learned.

6. HONOR MOTHERS WHO ARE MOTHERS INDEED!