

MOTHERS OF GOD

- A. A father may be the head of his family, but his wife is the heart & soul of his family.
1. The words of Jesus from the cross indicate a mother's value to her son, & son's value to his mother (John 19:27).
- B. No woman can rise to a higher plane of service to God than she can as a mother.
1. Mary supported her Son the Savior during His rejections, persecutions & death.
 2. Hannah molded Samuel's heart into a great judge & prophet in Israel (1 Sam 1).
- C. No one has the opportunity to exhibit more selfless love than a mother (a love for which there is no monetary reward & oftentimes very little appreciation shown).
1. Ideally, she conceives a child out of the deepest love & devotion to her husband.
 2. She feeds & shelters her unborn child for nine months.

3. Then she gives her all to guide the child through the changes of life from childhood to adulthood—with tears of sorrow & joy!
4. There is no duty given to anyone that takes more dedication, skill, planning, strength, patience & compassion—than motherhood.

[God has a wonderful design for the mothers.]

I. MANAGER OF THE HOME

Proverbs 31:27

27 She looks well to the ways of her household, & does not eat the bread of idleness. [Never was so much said in so few words.]

1 Timothy 5:13-15

13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; & not merely idle, but also gossips & busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. 14 Therefore, I want **younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house,** & give the enemy no occasion for reproach; 15 for some have already turned aside to follow Satan.

- A. Notice the order: marry, *give birth*, *manage the home*, & *watch for spiritual danger*.

1. **Notice the reasons:** to prevent the enemies of the church from using them as a reason to reject Christ, AND to prevent Satan from gaining an advantage in their lives.
 2. As long *as* she is doing what Paul says, Satan will have little power over her.
- B. The worthy woman in Proverbs 31 is often viewed as the personification of virtue in womanhood.

1. She is the model of efficiency.
2. Her pursuits outside the home only complimented her duties in the home.
3. She was praised by her husband, children & everyone who knew her.
4. **Now listen**, all that is said about her is not to make a Christian woman feel inadequate.
 - a. Or a Christian man for that matter; after all, her husband was a city official.
 - If I have a virtuous wife -- then I'm supposed to be a secular success?

[No, the traits of a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 are signposts for women to become mothers of God: models of motherhood.]

II. MODEL OF OBEDIENCE

- A. Notice how their behavior reflects of God ---who made them to be women.

Titus 2:3-5

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, ***being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*** (same as in 1 Tim 3:14)

1 Peter 3:1-5

1 In the same way, ***you wives, be submissive to your own husbands*** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste & respectful behavior. 3 Your adornment must not be merely external — braiding the hair, & wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle & quiet spirit, ***which is precious in the sight of God.*** 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, ***who hoped in God,*** used to adorn themselves, ***being submissive to their own husbands;***

1. A French officer asked the mother of Gen. George Washington, "*How have you managed to rear such a splendid son?*" She replied, "*I taught him to obey.*"

2. Mary might have told Gabriel that she had different plans for her life, but instead she chose to be “the bond-slave (maidservant) of the Lord (Luke 1:38).

B. When mothers possess a spirit of obedience to God & to their husbands they will hold a powerful influence in their children’s lives.

1. But when the opposite is true, then her children will feel justified in following that poor example too.

[It seems that poor examples have a greater impact in a child’s life than the good examples, which makes good examples all the more important.]

III. TEACHER OF GOOD THINGS

Proverbs 14:1

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

2 Timothy 1:5

5 For I am mindful of the **sincere faith** within you, which first dwelt in your **grandmother Lois** & your **mother Eunice**, & I am sure that it is in you as well.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned & become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 & that

from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 6:20-22

20 **My son**, observe the commandment of your father & **do not forsake the teaching of your mother**; 21 Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; & when you awake, they will talk to you. (also Prov 1:8-9).

Proverbs 31:1-9

1 **The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him:**
2 What, O my son? And what, O son of my womb? And what, O son of my vows? 3 **Do not give your strength to women, or your ways to that which destroys kings.** [wine & women] 8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, & defend the rights of the afflicted & needy.

IV. DEVOTED CARETAKER

A. A mother bird will forsake the sickly among its young, but not a mother of God.

B. Jochebed & Rizpah are two examples of how far a mother is willing to go to be a devoted caretaker to her children.

1. **Jochebed** (& husband Amram) protected Moses from an evil plot (Exo 2).

Hebrews 11:23

23 **By faith** Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by **his parents**, because they saw he was a beautiful child; & they were not afraid of the king's edict.

- a. Imagine trying to keep a newborn hidden for three months, while everyone around you had been forced to destroy their children.
- b. But why were they “not afraid of the king’s edit”?, because they were more afraid of what God would say to them one day about destroying their child.
- c. I wonder if the mother’s of aborted children ever have that thought?
- d. What Jochebed (& Amram) did was an act of faith in Jehovah God; they put their lives of the line to obey Him.

2. **Rizpah**, King Saul’s “wives” concubine.

- a. After Saul was dead, David turned over 7 of Saul’s sons to the Gibeonites for an injustice done by Saul to those people.
- b. The Gibeonites hung the seven sons, & two of them belonged to Rizpha.

- c. Rizpha depicts just how far motherly devotion can go.

2 Samuel 21:10

10 And **Rizpah** the daughter of Aiah **took sackcloth & spread it for herself on the rock**, from the beginning of harvest until it rained on them from the sky; & **she allowed neither the birds** of the sky to rest on them by day **nor the beasts** of the field by night.

C. Devotion can in some cases be carried to a faulty extreme.

1. As when children are honored & served even in their rebellion to Christ.
2. But Rizpah was merely protecting the bodies of her sons from further shame.

[That’s what made Rizpah a devoted caretaker in this case, & someone who could be considered right along side the mother of Moses (Jochebed).

V. RESPECTED & HONORED

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

Proverbs 31:28-31

28 **Her children rise up & bless her**; her husband also, & he praises her, saying: 29 "**Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.**" 30 Charm is deceitful & beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. 31 Give her the product of her hands, & let her works praise her in the gates.

1. It ought to come naturally, to respect & honor your mother, but just in case someone is missing the natural instinct -- the Lord commanded it.

Leviticus 19:3

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

Ephesians 6:1-3

6 **Children, obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. 2 **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

2. When that fails to occur, difficult times lie ahead for any society!

2 Timothy 3:1-3

3 But realize this, that in the last days **difficult times will come**. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, **disobedient to parents**, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

[There was 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.

Needless to say, he drove several hundred miles to be w/his mother.]

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.
3. But the point is most of us can trace our character to our mothers.

B. Give thanks to the Lord this day & every day for your mother lately? Pray for her?

1. And thank God for His wisdom in providing us the tender & loving care of our mothers.

2. May we honor our mothers 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.

THAT IS, IN FACT, PRECISELY WHAT THE CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US!