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Calvary Chapel of Old Bridge

### MOTHERHOOD

Mothers, do you know that you have the most important job in the world! It's sad to realize that desiring motherhood is very rare today. Many mothers have gone off to have a "real" career or a "more important job", but because motherhood is the building of eternal lives - what could be more important!

Psalm 127 says that children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward. There are a great many women who for whatever reason cannot have children of their own. It's a painful experience for many.

Dr. Frederick H. Falls, President of the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, and famous obstetrician and gynecologist says, "A woman hasn't fulfilled her highest function until she has had a child - unless she can substitute a creative activity that to her is just as important. It is the distinct difference between a woman who fulfills her destiny, and one who doesn't. It is the difference between a rose bush that blooms and one that doesn't. The stay at home mother who makes her family the core of her life is the backbone of America. A woman who has had a baby and rushes back to her job without the spur of economic necessity should be certain she is not cheating herself of one of life's most greatest satisfactions. "I will that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, and give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

And yet, ironically, many women with children are duped by this world into thinking that to leave the children at daycare and pursue a career is a much more worthwhile use of their time.

Do you see your children as a reward, a blessed gift? Amy Charmichael called children little jewels from God. Do you see your children as jewels? Now, they might be diamonds in the rough and you can't see them as jewels, but they are of infinite value to God! Let me encourage you mothers. Your labor is not in vain. Being a mother is a tremendous privilege from God, for He has entrusted to you a life that will be eternal.





The Virtuous Woman Today  
(A Take-off From Proverbs 31)

Who can find a godly, responsible, loving, caring woman? For her worth is far above diamonds or rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her (with the credit cards), so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil (no bounced checks) all the days of her life. She seeks practical things for the home and works willingly with her hands. (She can do without the latest new kitchen gadget.)

She rises while it is yet night (no oversleeping) so she can spend time with the Lord, which enables her to give her children spiritual food. She sends them on their way prepared in the Lord for the day.

She considers a good bargain and buys it. She is a wise business woman. She is not ashamed to shop at Kmart instead of Macy's when she can save some extra money (she is not "born to shop"! ) From her saved money she makes a good investment. She girds herself with strength. She is spiritually fit and physically fit. (By working hard she doesn't need to do aerobics.)

She is content that she has done a good job (her "self-esteem" comes from her labors) and her lamp does not go out at night. She extends her hand to the poor around her. Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She looks for needs and opportunities to serve and is not just into her self. (Her kids also serve with her.)

She is not fearful or afraid. She and her household are clothed with the armor of God. They are ready for battle. She makes things and sells them. She is able to make extra money by watching kids, cleaning houses, teaching music lessons, laundering, typing, taking care of elderly (or a number of other ways to be at home with the children).

She is full of good works and has the joy of the Lord. She opens her mouth with good, sound advice, and on her tongue is never the neighborhood gossip. But the law of kindness is on her tongue.

She watches well over the ways of her household. She does not have time for mindless soap operas or game shows. She is not lazy or idle (or does not talk too much on the phone). Her house is neat and orderly, but she is not a fanatic. Her children rise up and say, "Mom, you're awesome!" Her husband also, and he says, "Baby, you're the greatest! There are many great women out there, but you've got them all beat!"

She doesn't care if she doesn't look like she just walked out of a beauty parlor or stepped off a magazine cover. She knows that is empty, because her true beauty comes from Jesus shining through her. The figures may all go to pot, the hairstyles flop, but she has what will make people sit up and take notice. She does keep up her appearance, and her family does look nice, but she has eternal values and goals which make her far more valuable in God's eyes.



## Crops and a Child



I have seed to raise and I plow the field and I plant my crops with care,  
and I thank the Lord for the rain He sends as I watch them growing there.  
But I don't sit down with a book by day and let my crops run wild, for  
Crops won't grow by themselves, I know!

Is it different with a child?

I've a boy to raise and I want a man, when his growing days are done;  
And a man must work for the crop he seeks - Is it different with a son?  
Will strangers care for my wheat out there, when the weeds grow rank and wild?  
If my crop would shrink if I idled here, dare I idle with my child?  
Yes, I'll work for him and I'll pray for him, and I'll do the best I can,  
For the Lord has given me a son to raise, and I want to raise a man.  
Yes, my eyes are set on the harvest years, when the long, hard task is done,  
So, I'll pull the weeds from the life, myself,  
For I dare not shirk my son.

- The Missouri Counsellor

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A widow, left with five little boys, was honored at a banquet. She had reared the boys to be noble, upright men. "Explain to us how you did it," asked the toastmaster. She said, "The secret lies in an occasional pat on the back. It gets positive results if given young enough and low enough!"

- Walter B. Knight

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When all is said, it is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls, who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she only would realize it, a more honorable as well as a more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist.

- Theodore Roosevelt



## The Child in the Godless Home

By Martha Snell Nicholson

Think of your child in his Christian home, see him in prayer at your knees;  
Then think of the child in the godless home, what manner of chance has he?  
What chance to learn why the Savior died, and why His blood was shed,  
Will he only learn Salvation's Plan too late when he is dead?  
"As the twig is bent the tree inclines." A child is a tender plant,  
And a child needs God as a flower needs light, and soul can die from want.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me" "Dear Savior, can there be  
A greater service, a sweeter task than to bring a child to Thee?"

### Thoughts for Mother



"Mothers, and not churches or theological seminaries, make the faith of a people." - Martin Luther

A child of five if properly instructed can as truly believe and be regenerated as an adult." - Charles Spurgeon

"Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned and drawn from the breast." - Isaiah 28:9

"Higher than every painter, higher than every sculptor, and all artists do I regard him who is skilled in the art of forming the soul of a child." - Chrysostom

"They pass so soon the days of youth, the children change so fast. Quickly they harden in the mold, and the plastic years are past. Then shape their lives while they are young; this be our prayer and our aim. That every child we meet shall bear the imprint of His name." - Martha Snell Nicholson

"If we do not teach their hearts today, they may break our hearts tomorrow." - unknown

### "In Light of Eternity"

What was it You saw in me that made You call my name, yet so often I fail  
to see my son just the same.  
Someday he'll be a man of God, but today no fruit I see. Oh God let not my  
selfishness hinder what he could be.  
A wretched sinner was I, yet You walked on earth for me. Why can't I give my  
life for my son, patient and lovingly?  
For the joy set before You, You bled and died for me - Oh Jesus, please let  
me see my son in light of eternity.

- K. Pulley

### A Wise and Unwise Mother



A mother sat by a warm fireplace, reading the Bible with a pleasant face,  
till a child came up with a childish frown and pushed the Bible saying, "Put  
it down!" Then the mother, slapping his curly head, said "Troublesome child,  
go off to bed, the Words of the Bible I must know, to train you up as a  
child should go." And the child went off to bed to cry, and hated religion  
by and by!

Another mother pursuing the Book, with a smile of joy and an intent look,  
till a child came up and jogged her knee and said of the book, "Put it down,  
take me!" Then the mother sighed as she stroked his head, saying softly,  
"I never shall get it read, but I'll try by loving to do God's will and His  
love into my child instill!"

That child went off to bed with a sigh and loved the Lord by and by!

- Unknown



## HAVING THE GREATEST EFFECT



Do you know how many godly mothers have raised up godly men? Spurgeon, Moody, Wesley, and so many others. Someone said, "God give us better mothers that we might have better men" and "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Mothers, don't ever underestimate your influence, but let's stop and consider it - is it a godly or foolish influence? Consider all the damage that an ungodly mother can do. Jezebel had such an influence on her family that she almost destroyed the whole nation.

Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands."

Are you building up your house or tearing down your house? Is there love, warmth, peace, compassion, understanding, respect (shown to your husband and children), adoration, praise given through your words and actions? Or is there anger, bitterness, tension, belittling, disrespect, no love, no adoration?

Mothers are admonished in Titus 2:4 "...to love their husbands, to love their children, [notice the order, you were a wife first, then a mother. Your husband needs love too.] to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed."

### HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

1. Since my house is an extension of myself, what is it portraying (neat or sloppy, a caring touch or lack of attention)?
2. What is the main focus or center attraction of my home? Is it the TV or the Bible? (Godly oriented or worldly oriented?)
3. What is the atmosphere of my home? Is it tense or relaxing? Is it a haven and a refuge? Or is it hectic and noisy?
4. Are the children a help in the home or a hindrance? Have they been taught chores and responsibility? How well trained are they?
5. Do my husband and children feel loved and appreciated when they walk in the door or do they feel like intruders on "my time" (your life is not your own).
6. Do I guard my time with the Lord jealously so that I will be the wise, loving, patient mother I should be? ("...without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5; "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me," Phillipians 4:13)
7. How hospitable am I? Do I reach my hands out to the poor and needy of my neighborhood? (Some may never go to church, but they will come to your house for dinner.) Am I a light in my neighborhood?
8. How well do I know each child? (Their strengths and weaknesses?)
9. Do I look well to the ways of my household? ie. Do I discipline when it needs to be done? (Proverbs 29:15 "...a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.")

10. Am I teaching and modeling Jesus Christ to my children?
11. Do I rule over my own spirit when stretched with time pressure, fatigue, and unruly children?

Mothers, God never gives a command without giving the wisdom and ability to follow through with it. Isaiah 40:11 says, "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." Deuteronomy 6:6,7 says, "'And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; [to love the Lord your God with all your heart] you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.'"

Mothers, you are the best teacher your child could ever have. Don't sell yourself short.

Those of you mothers with young kids, train them now, before it is too late. Children are like wet cement, shapeable and moldable for a short period of time. Those of you mothers that say it is too late for that or that you wish you could do it over - prayer can reach the most unteachable heart. How often do you pray and intercede for your children?

#### MOTHERS WITH OLDER CHILDREN

Mothers with older children, you can still have a great and mighty influence in their lives. PRAYER. How much time do you spend interceding for them? and their friends as well? All Hell cannot tear a child away from a praying mother.

Consider this song Matthew Ward wrote about his mother called, "The Power of Love":

I walked into her room and saw here there,  
She knelt so silently, I knew she was in prayer.  
There was a presence in the room I'd felt before,  
But I was frightened, so I turned and closed the door.  
Love was calling out my name.

Looking back on that day, it's plain to me,  
My Mama's heart was crying out for my release.  
It took years for me to be finally free.  
Her prayers were answered, though she never lived to see that  
Love was calling out my name.

Love has the power to make the weakest man tower  
To make the strongest man cower.  
God has no end to His power.  
Love is a fire whose flames reach higher and higher,  
Love burns with endless desire to see us whole.

I understand my mother's heart for me  
Wanting Jesus to make me all that I could be.  
Now the situations changed, I'm on my knees  
Praying for my baby's eyes to someday see that  
Love is calling out her name.