



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



Mothers Are Special

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By Rev. David Koch

Introduction – To all the Mothers:

- This is for all the mothers who froze their buns off on metal bleachers at football games Friday night instead of watching from cars, so that when their kids asked, “Did you see me?” they could say, “Of course, I wouldn't have missed it for the world,” and mean it.
- This is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up barf laced with Oscar Mayer wieners and cherry Kool-Aid saying, “It's OK honey, Mommy's here.”
- This is for all the mothers of Kosovo who fled in the night and can't find their children.
- This is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see. And the mothers who took those babies and made them homes.
- This is for all the mothers of the victims of the Colorado shooting, and the mothers of the murderers. For the mothers of the survivors, and the mothers who sat in front of their TV's in horror, hugging their child who just came home from school, safely.
- For all the mothers who run carpools and make cookies and sew Halloween costumes. And all the mothers who DON'T.
- What makes a good Mother anyway? Is it patience? Compassion? Broad hips? The ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt, all at the same time? Or is it heart? Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time? Is it the jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 A.M. to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby?
- The need to flee from wherever you are and hug your child when you hear news of a school shooting, a fire, a car accident, a baby dying?
- This is for all the mothers that sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the mothers who wanted to but just couldn't.
- This is for reading *Goodnight, Moon* twice a night for a year. And then reading it again “just one more time.”
- This is for all the mothers who mess up. Who yell at their kids in the grocery store and swat them in despair and stomp their feet like a tired two-year old who wants ice cream before dinner.
- This is for all the mothers who taught their daughters to tie their shoelaces before they started school. And for all the mothers who opted for Velcro instead.
- For all the mothers who bite their lips -- sometimes until they bleed -- when their 14-year-olds dye their hair green.
- This is for all the mothers who lock themselves in the bathroom when babies keep crying and won't stop.
- This is for all the mothers who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse. This is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to sink a jump shot.
- This is for all mothers whose heads turn automatically when a little voice calls “Mom?” in a crowd, even though they know their own offspring are at home.
- This is for mothers who put pinwheels and teddy bears on their children's graves.
- This is for mothers whose children have gone astray, who can't find the words to reach them.

-This is for all the mothers who sent their sons to school with stomachaches, assuring them they'd be just FINE once they got there, only to get calls from the school nurse and hour later asking them to please pick them up. Right away.

-This is for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. And mature mothers learning to let go. For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. Single mothers and married mothers. Mothers with money, mothers without. This is for you all. So hang in there.

Please pass along to all the moms in your life. "Home" is what catches you when we fall - and we all fall.

I. Mom you are special

If anyone is going to have influence and an impact on children and how they turn out as adults, mom you certainly will have that opportunity and ability. A mother has such close contact with her child, that without question, mom has the potential to greatly influence that child in a negative or positive way. Mom can direct that child toward or away from God.

When I look at the qualities and characteristics that are displayed in God's word by mothers, there are a few that stand out.

*** Love**

A mother is selfless in her love. She is willing to give. She gives her body as a place to carry her baby till birth. During this time she gives nourishment to that developing child. After the baby is born, she gets up in the middle of the night to feed, and care for that infant so it can grow to become an independent human being.

There is no love that compares to a mother's love. Yet for any kind of love to really touch someone, it includes giving. We can give without loving, but we can not love without giving. When our love reaches the point where we are willing to relinquish something we consider valuable, we value the individual more than what we were holding on to.

Usually there is a cost involved with giving. Some rights, or value, or something that I consider mine has to be yielded or sacrificed.

When I look at Hannah I see that she loved Samuel and she loved God and was willing to give SAMUEL back to the Lord. By doing so meant she had to yield her rights.

In order for Mary to become the Mother of Jesus there was a cost to her. She loved God more than

clinging to her reputation, even to her own life and she wanted to allow God to have His way in her life.

When Moses' mother saw that Moses was getting too big to hide any more, she loved him to the point of risking her life so he could be safe. She devised the plan for him to be taken in a basket by his sister, and left near the shore of a body of water, where the King's daughter came to bathe and would find the basket with Moses in it.

Moms will do incredible things because of the love they have for their children. This makes them very, very special.

1 John 4:7 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

*** Gentleness**

As a child growing up I remember the large pine tree that grew in our front yard. It was at least 75 years old, very tall and probably close to 6' in diameter. Each year in the spring, robins and blackbirds would come to nest in that tree. I could only anticipate with my sister what would happen to the baby birds when the spring storms came. Many times the babies would get knocked out of their nests during the storms. We would go and pick them up and put them in a cardboard box and try our best to keep them alive. We would feed them with an eyedropper to try and keep them alive. Feeding them that way was not at all like the mother, and try as hard as we could, being gentle and all that, the longest any of them ever lived was about 3 or 4 days. We could not sit over the birds and keep them warm, so we would put a desk lamp over the box for warmth, and we would put a towel inside the box to make it soft. We could not get worms and chew them up and feed them, there were lots of things we could not do.

I think of those mother birds sitting on the nest. Think about how gentle they are to warm those eggs till they hatch. How gentle they are to cover their

young especially in the chilly evenings of early spring to keep them warm at night, yet not smother them or sit on top of them and crush them to death.

I think of those mother birds who tediously fly to and from the nest to bring food to their young and feed them but not choke them with too much food, or pieces of food that are too large. They are gentle with their young.

Moms are special because they are gentle. They care for their children when they are sick, when they are discouraged, when they are picked on, when they are made fun of, when they get their hearts broken, when they face rejection. MOM is special.

1 Thes. 2:7 - but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

*** Faith**

Faith is referred to as a walk. The evidence and substance of faith is something that can be seen in our lives. Mom, children see the evidence of your faith. They see how you respond to situations that would cause fear. Are you confident that God will take care of the need? Are you able to trust God to meet your need?

I remember the faith of my mom. She would get up early and read her Bible and pray. When your children know you are having time with God, it leaves its impact on their lives.

I guess if there was one area of influence, mom, that you can make a difference in for your children, it is to pass on the torch of faith to your children, and your grandchildren. Pray for them. Live a life before them that they can see you trust God. They can see you praying and seeking Him for help and answers. This was the case for Timothy. When Paul writes his second letter to Timothy, he shows us the importance of the faith of a grandmother and mother.

Timothy became a man of faith because he was affected by the faith his grandmother Lois showed to his mother Eunice. Timothy saw that faith and it became personal with him as well.

2 Tim. 1:5 - I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Briefly I want to talk for a moment to the men and children of mothers here this morning.

II. Children are to honor Mom.

Ephes. 6:2-3 - Honor your father and mother-- which is the first commandment with a promise-- that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

The word honor means to value, prize or revere. I know that you will not always see things the way your mother does. There are times you will not understand a decision of your mom. She is still to be honored.

She gave you the means to have life. Without your mom, you would not be alive! Think of it. I am not aware of a baby that has come to term and been born without the help of a mother.

Value the relationship you have with your mom. Revere the wisdom she has. It has come through years of living. Revere the work she does - the laundry, the cleaning, the cooking, the transporting. Offer her your help, strength and time by willingly doing things that would lighten her load.

Listen to her wisdom. Don't argue with her – she is at least twice your age and when she gives you advice it is offered in your best interest. She has an investment in your life, and she should be able to speak into your life and be heard.

III. Men are to respect their wife, the mother of your children

1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Don't treat her as a second rate citizen. Your children will take their cue from you as to how they treat their mother. If you treat her with respect and honor, your children most likely will follow your lead.

If you want your prayers to be answered and not hindered, then you need to respect your wife, the mother of your children as an heir of the spiritual life God has given her.

Men, understand that your wife is a gift from God to you. If you neglect her emotional, spiritual, or physical needs, it will take its toll in your relationship which ultimately impacts your family.

Be considerate – give her dignity of the highest degree.

Conclusion:

In closing I want to share a story I came across recently of 4 brothers. These brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers and they prospered.

Some years later they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said, “I had a big house built for mama.”

The second said, “I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house.”

The third said, “I had a Mercedes dealer deliver a SL600 to her.”

The fourth said, “You know how Momma loved reading the Bible and you know she can’t read anymore because she can’t see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire bible. It took 20 preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for 20 years to the church, but it was worth it. Mamma just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it.” The other brothers were impressed.

After Mothers Day, Mom sent out her thank-you notes. She wrote:

Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway.

Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay at home. I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks

Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I’ve lost my hearing, and I’m nearly blind. I’ll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same.

Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you.

Mom you are loved, and respected. You are honored today for your life of love, gentleness and faith. Thank you for all you do to influence your children and grandchildren and others around you with the love of God. We salute you today and wish to honor you.

CALL THE MOMS FORWARD FOR A PRAYER OF BLESSING AND GIFTS.