

Mothers

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Introduction: No one rises to any higher plane of moral accomplishment than does a godly mother. No one selflessly sacrifices as a mother. No task on earth requires more dedication, commitment, and highly refined skills tempered by compassion and patience, as a mother. As we look at the various functions of motherhood, let us be moved with gratitude for our mothers.

I. Godly mothers are managers of the home.

A. "She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness" (Prov. 31:27).

B. Keeping the home is her primary responsibility (1 Tim. 5:14).

1. Notice God's order - marry, bear children, guide the home.

2. Also notice this young widow is not encouraged to put an occupation first though she might need one (Matt. 6:33).

3. She is encouraged to pursue a family so that adversaries (slanderers and false accusers) have nothing to say.

C. The "virtuous woman" was an example of a domestic manager.

1. An efficient manager of the home (Prov. 31:15, 18).

2. She has her priorities in order (Prov. 31:21-22, 24).

3. Such a woman contributes to a bright future for her family (Prov. 31:25).

II. Godly mothers are models of obedience.

A. Foremost, she is obedient to the Lord (Matt. 6:33).

B. Second, to her husband (1 Peter 3:1, 5-6).

C. She becomes the role model (Titus 2:4-5).

D. At a banquet, the mother of George Washington was sitting beside a distinguished French officer. Turning to Washington's mother, the officer asked, "How have you managed to rear such a splendid son?" She replied, "I taught him to obey."

III. Godly mothers are teachers of good things.

A. The book of Proverbs commands obedience to mothers (Prov. 1:8).

B. Mothers have important lessons to teach. Notice what King Lemuel's mother taught him (Prov. 31:1, 3-5, 8-9). In fact, it is through King Lemuel's mother that we learn of the virtuous women in Proverbs 31.

C. Moses' mother instilled in him the kind of faith that allowed her to hide Moses in the bulrushes (Heb. 11:23-26; Ex. 2:1-10). Did Moses learn that from the household of Pharaoh? His mother instilled the kind of faith that says going it alone is far more important than a “good” life.

D. Timothy's mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois likewise taught him in the faith (2 Tim. 1:5, 3:15).

IV. Mothers are to be respected and honored.

A. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" (Prov. 31:28).

B. The Old Law required reverence for mothers (Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16).

C. We are also to honor them (Eph. 6:2).

D. Consider what God thinks of a disrespectful child:

1. Prov. 19:26, 20:20, 30:17

2. "Disobedience to parents" is a manifestation of perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-2; Rom. 1:30, 32).

E. A man stopped at the flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived 200 miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother, but I only have 75 cents and a rose costs \$2." The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I will buy you a rose for your mother." He placed his FTD order of flowers to his mother and bought a rose for the girl. As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride. She accepted his offer and directed him to a cemetery where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave. The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up the flowers and drove the 200 miles to his mother's home. Love is best expressed in deeds (1 John 3:18).

Conclusion: "Like mother, like daughter" is a Bible expression (Ezek. 16:44).

Most of us can trace the admirable qualities we possess to our mothers. Have you taken the time to thank her?

“Mother’s Are...” by Floyd Wood

Blowers of noses and washers of ears,
Smootherers of bumped spots and wipers of tears,
Bathers of babies and umpires of spats,
Finders of boots and mittens and hats,
Helpers with lessons and makers of beds,
Shakers of dust cloths and combers of heads,
Button-sew-oners and winders of clocks,

Menders of dresses and darners of socks,
Tellers of stories and readers of books,
Judges and juries of conduct and looks,
Doctors of heartaches and hearers of prayers,
Generals directing all family affairs,
Tenders of home fires and builders of men,
(Oh, for the gift of an adequate pen!)

If we could only adequately tell the worth of mothers!