

## A Closer look at Mom

### *Prayer & **hold kids***

How many people this morning know that mom's deserve to be honored?

If you don't... I suggest you hang around the delivery suites at the hospital for an hour or two...

Well here is what the word of God says about honoring your mom:

Ephesians 6:1-3 CEV

*Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, "Obey your father and your mother, and you will have a long and happy life."*

Exodus 20:12 - (one of the big 10)

*Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you*

Deuteronomy 5:16

*Respect your father and mother, and you will live a long and successful life in the land I am giving you.*

Proverbs 1:8-9

*My child; obey the teachings of your parents, and wear their teachings as you would a lovely hat or a pretty necklace*

Proverbs 6:20-22

*Obey the teaching of your parents-- always keep it in mind and never forget it. Their teaching will guide you when you walk, protect you when you sleep, and talk to you when you are awake.*

So... the scripture says if we respect mom and dad, and if we obey them when they tell us to do stuff we will live a long and happy life. This is a promise of God.

Now some people don't have a mom or a dad and that is sad in some ways, but amazing in others. I have seen many moms or dads really come up to the plate to fill the gap. If you only have one or the other give them double honor, they are doing the job of two.

Now two of my daughters are 24 years old... It doesn't matter how old our children get, they will still be our children, just because they become adults doesn't mean we ever stop loving them.

Okay so every kid here this morning who wants to live a long life... you know what to do

### **Release Kids to Sunday School**

Now, I have talked about Mom's and Dad's but my primary focus this morning is on Mom's so this morning, but I am also going to talk about the attributes of a Great Mother, which is very often the same person in two roles.

Proverbs 31:10-31

*A truly good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find! Her husband depends on her, and she never lets him down. She is good to him every day of her life, and with her own hands she gladly makes clothes. She is like a sailing ship that brings food from across the sea. She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and for her servants. She knows how to buy land and how to plant a vineyard, and she always works hard. She knows when to buy or sell, and she stays busy until late at night. She spins her own cloth, and she helps the poor and the needy. Her family has warm clothing, and so she doesn't worry when it snows. She does her own sewing, and everything she wears is beautiful. Her husband is a well-known and respected leader in the city. She makes clothes to sell to the shop owners. She is strong and graceful, as well as cheerful about the future. Her words are sensible, and her advice is thoughtful. She takes good care of her family and is never lazy. Her children praise her, and with great pride her husband says, "There are many good women, but you are the best!" Charm can be deceiving, and beauty fades away, but a woman who honors the Lord deserves to be praised. Show her respect-- praise her in public for what she has done.*

### **Attributes of a good wife and mother**

What can we see here?

There are quite a few things that I can see right off the top, but before I talk about this scripture. I want to set some context. This scripture is written in a different time and a different culture. The responsibilities may have changed, but the main theme and concept of what is being said here has not. So in 2016 what observations can we take from this wise scripture:

- A good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find.
- A good wife is dependable
- A good wife takes care of her mate

- A good mom takes care of her family
- A good mom takes care of others not in her family and under her supervision
- A good mom is busy caring for the needs of her family
- A good mom manages well
- A good mom works hard
- A good mom is strong and graceful
- A good mom is cheerful about the future
- A good mom says sensible things and give well thought out advice

There is even a point to the Dad's here: Lift up and encourage your wife. Honor her as the mother of your children. We as men are warned that Charm can deceive and beauty fades away, but a woman who honors the Lord deserves to be praised and respected.

There is a warning to moms here though... Remember the word of God calls you a "Helpmate" This word actually means an essential counterpart. You are essential to your home.

**With much authority comes responsibility.**

Proverbs 14:1

*A woman's family is held together by her wisdom, but it can be destroyed by her foolishness.*

So... before anyone gets carried away her. Real moms and dads are not perfect. They make mistakes. Kids don't come with a manual when they are born. But the Word of God is given to us in advance... We as parents love our children and do the best we can for them.

Today, I am here to tell you it is okay to make mistakes. Everyone has... There is an answer for this but it takes time yet in the end it always fixes every mistake. This is so powerful it fixes mistakes made with friends...

1 Peter 4:8

*Most important of all, you must sincerely love each other, because love wipes away many sins*

So how do we know what love should look like?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting*

Have you ever noticed how moms sacrifice for their kids? Have you ever notice how when a child is in trouble, mom steps up to the plate to defend her child? Ever noticed how moms often put the needs of their children before their own?

I truly believe that our children are a gift from God. Now, I also believe that mothers are a gift from God as well... Jesus cared for his mother and ensured her care even as he was on the cross.

John 19:25-27

*Jesus 'mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home. (Matthew 27. 45- 56; Mark 15. 33- 41; Luke 23:44-49 - Synoptic)*

My friends this morning can we agree that our mothers were and in many cases still are an essential part of our lives? Do we begin to see their amazing value in our lives?

Mothers teach us so much (This list is taken from the internet)

Let's take a little diversion down a rabbit hole to look at some of the things Mom's have taught in recent years:

- My Mother taught me LOGIC: "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me," as well as, "If everyone else jumped off a cliff would you do it too?"
- My Mother taught me HUMOR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
- My Mother taught me GENETICS: "You are just like your father!"
- My Mother taught me ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until your father gets home."
- My Mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when I get you home."

- My Mother taught me RELIGION: "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- My Mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."
- My Mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Did you know that there are even some Mom specific definitions?

- BATHROOM: A room used by the entire family, believed by all except Mom to be self-cleaning.
- EXPERIENCE: The name men give to their mistakes.
- FEEDBACK: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.
- HINDSIGHT: What one experiences from changing too many diapers.
- INDEPENDENT: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.
- OVERSTUFFED RECLINER: Mom's nickname for Dad.
- OW: The first word spoken by children with older siblings.
- TOP BUNK: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman pajamas.

Now there are some situations that Pastors wife's have that others mom's might not...

There she is in the grocery store with the kid... let's say about 3 years old and the lovely pastor's wife has put the kid into a grocery cart.

Now, before they entered the grocery store mom says to the kid, "Now you're not going to get any chocolate chip cookies, so don't even ask." She put the kid up in the cart & he sat in the little child's seat while she wheeled down the aisles. The kid was doing just fine until they came to the cookie section. The kid spots the chocolate chip cookies & stands up in the seat & said, "Mom, can I have some chocolate chip cookies?" She said, "I told you not even to ask. You're not going to get any at all." So the kid sat back down. They continued down the aisles, but in their search for certain items they ended up back in the cookie aisle. "Mom, can I please have some

chocolate chip cookies?" She said, "I told you that you can't have any. Now sit down & be quiet." Finally, they were approaching the checkout lane. The little kid sensed that this may be his last chance. So just before they got to the line, this rascal stands up on the seat of the cart & shouted in their loudest voice, "In the name of Jesus, may I have some chocolate chip cookies?" And everybody round about just laughed. Some even applauded. And, due to the generosity of the other shoppers, the little boy & his mother left with 23 boxes of chocolate chip cookies.

So Mom's do you discipline the kid or commend his faith?

**Now where was I? Oh yes, mothers teach us so much...**

I think many of the mom's here can attest to the fact that their teaching never stops. They are constantly giving advice, teaching manners, life skills over and over again until they sink in.

My wife has a big kid in addition to our daughters; I believe that she remains ever hopeful that I will put down the toilet seat and put my clothes in the hamper. I am sure none of you other ladies with families out there have ever experienced anything like that...

Let me throw out this idea to you this morning...

Many of us have received loving care, guidance and wisdom from our mothers...

Did they make mistakes, uh huh, but if we really think about it; we were given our first experiences, in this world by them. They gave us an operational framework within which we could interpret the world around us. They helped us to understand who we were and gave us skills to understand others around us. Some have had to find surrogates to help when they have been abandoned, but it is this loving and caring environment, which creates the framework in which we interact with the world around us.

Many times we think things like: That's my way of thinking, those are my values, that's what I would do. This is how I handle stress, betrayal or failure...

Guess what... The foundation for the framework under which you make those decisions was established early on and a goodly portion of it came from your mom.

So what is the pastor's bottom line this morning? We looked at the promise God gives to children who listen to their mothers. Then we looked at the attributes of a good wife and mother. Then we talked about how our wives and mothers are essential counterparts of their spouses. We talked about the love of a mother for her children and her great responsibilities. We had a little bit of fun and conclude with the simple fact that whether we like it or not, mothers have had a profound affect on who we are today. Their value cannot be understated and so today on this

special day we honor them, but here is the challenge that every sermon must contain... Our mom's are worth it, let us determine to honor them everyday.

*Prayer*