

A Virtuous Mother

Proverbs 31:25-31

Preface

We live in an age of disrespect. Youth is glorified and age is seen as something to avoid at all costs. On TV and in the movies kids are often portrayed as the witty heroes. Parents tend to be portrayed as pathetic, overbearing buffoons, especially dads.

Don't buy into that nonsense.

Parents deserve your respect and appreciation. Today, we honor and celebrate mothers as we reflect on what God's Word says about the virtues of a godly mother.

Scripture Proverbs 31:25-31

²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. *Proverbs 31:25-31 NIV*

Introduction

Proverbs 31 has lofty things to say about a virtuous mother.

A virtuous mother is one who fears the Lord. She strives to live her life under the guidance of God and His Holy Spirit. A godly mother seeks the leadership of God's Word as she faces the responsibilities of motherhood.

Today, too **many people under value the importance of motherhood**. Motherhood is far more than giving birth to a child. Motherhood is extremely important business. Being a godly mother is without a question, the most honorable and significant work in which you will ever undertake.

If a godly mother raised you, you are indeed truly blessed.

There is absolutely no substitute for a godly mother! No father, friend or new fangled, mixed up version of a family can substitute the divine connection that God intends to exist between a mother and her child.

Content - Virtues of a godly mother

1. Strength and Dignity

²⁵ *She is clothed with strength and dignity;*

God gives strength to mothers who seek Him. Strength is needed since their work is never done.

Illus: I read a story of a woman who received a telephone call from a friend who asked, "How are you feeling?" The woman replied, "Terrible, my head is splitting, my back and legs are killing me, the house is a mess and the kids are driving me crazy." Very sympathetically, the caller said, "Listen, go and lie down, I'll come over right away and cook lunch for you, clean the house and take care of the children while you get some rest. By the way, how is Sam?"

"Sam? Who is Sam?" replied the complaining housewife. "My heavens, I must have dialed the wrong number" said the caller.

After a long pause the housewife said, "Does this mean you are not coming over?"

So often, mothers work themselves to death trying to keep the household running. Soon we will be having baby dedication. No doubt those brand new mothers are already getting a taste of the endless worked involved in motherhood.

Illus: Someone once said, "There can't be anything to evolution. If there was, women would have more than two hands."

Strength isn't the only word used to describe the virtue of a godly mother. **There is also dignity.**

Def: Dignity - respect or appreciation of the formality or gravity of an occasion or situation.

Too many people and yes too many mothers today **do not recognize the dignity of motherhood**. Too many things take priority over motherhood.

Godly mothers appreciate the value of being a mother. They recognize the importance of the responsibility and fulfill their role with strength and dignity.

2. Optimism

²⁵ ...*she can laugh at the days to come.*

God's Word says a godly mother looks to the future with optimism and she instills that optimism in her children.

Mothers spread their optimism into the really important matters of the household; matters such as insults, hurt, attitudes, dreams, feelings, talents, shortcomings, hope, failures and successes.

Like physicians, they are constantly mending the brokenness.

Through the leadership and spirit of God, godly mothers know how to apply the correct measure of leadership, discipline, direction, affection, laughter and yes, optimism.

Mothers read to their children, teach them, pray for them, challenge them and disciple them. **The child's future is always paramount in her every action.**

Illus: For Most People in Our Culture - SEEING IS BELIEVING!
Seeing is NOT always Believing! Sometimes BELIEVING IS SEEING.

Godly mothers teach us the understanding that **seeing is not believing, but rather believing is seeing.** If we will believe in a brighter future, we will see a brighter future.

Godly mothers look to the future with zeal and optimism and spread their optimism throughout the family.

3. Wisdom and Faithful Instruction

²⁶ *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

Illus: I read a story about some preachers who were discussing the merits of various translation of the Bible. One remarked that he like the King James Version best because of the beauty of the old English used. Another preferred the New American Standard version because it was closer to the original Hebrew and Greek. Still another liked the contemporary style of the New International Version. The fourth preacher remarked that he liked his mother's translation best. Surprised, the other preachers asked, "What do you mean?" **"Yes, she translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I've ever heard."**

Mothers are constantly speaking wisdom and words of instruction. **They impact their children with God's answers to life challenges.**

Paul recognized this in Timothy when he reminded him of his sincere faith, which first lived in his grandmother (Lois) and then in his mother (Eunice). In other words, Timothy was the kind of man he was because of the kind of mother and grandmother that he had been blessed with. Their faith and love for God shaped Timothy into being a powerful disciple of God.

That is what mothers should do; raise-up disciples.

Illus: One man realized this one day, noting that he had literally poured himself into his son's life. He taught him to play baseball, football, basketball, took him hunting, fishing and even taught him how to drive. The boy went off to college and played ball for the college team, when the network TV cameras focused on his son, guess what the son said: "Hi Mom!"

Mothers just have a special role of communicating wisdom and instruction - seemingly always. Where would we be without the teaching of kindness and wisdom from our mothers?

Illus: Someone once said, "*Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the rough hand of the world cannot erase.*"

4. Responsible

²⁷ *She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

Illus: A school teacher asked a boy: "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were six of you- your mother, your father and four children. What percentage of the pie would you get?" "One-fifth," replied the boy. The teacher responded, "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions. "Remember, there are six of you." "I know said the boy, but you don't know my mother. She would say she didn't want any pie just so we could have more."

What does it mean that she acts responsibly? **She takes care of the business of running the household.**

She doesn't sit around idle but rather takes care of the matters of the household. This runs contrary to our modern society where matters of the household are often looked upon as insignificant.

I know what some of you are thinking right now. You are already bowing up with the idea of household responsibility. "This preacher doesn't understand. He is a male chauvinist." Well, come back on Father's day and see what I have to say to fathers.

For now, understand this. Too many people today put things ahead of their family. Things like TVs, Movies, Boating, Careers, Pleasure and even Drugs come before their families. It is a problem in our society today and it runs contrary to God's Word.

The godly mother watches over the affairs of her household and does so efficiently and responsibly.

Illus: Illus: This past Saturday Pam and I went to the shoe store to get me a new pair of shoes. I found a pair I really liked but they only had a size 11.5 which was too large. That evening Pam suggested I see if I could order them online. We found them and ordered them online around 7:00 PM on Saturday evening. On Monday morning, I received an email that the shoes had been shipped. On Monday afternoon the shoes were at my front door in a box. I was amazed. I looked at the label and they shipped from Kentucky. I said out loud to myself; "How did they do that?"

We can often say the same of mothers. **How do they do that?** Where do godly mothers get that strength, dignity, optimism, wisdom and instruction? Verse 30 gives us the answer. They fear the Lord. In other Word's **they understand their responsibility as being from God.**

Conclusion

Illus: I would like to conclude by reading you a letter.

Dear Mom,

I don't recall ever writing you a letter for Mother's Day but this year I just feel it is what I need to do. My words can never express what you mean to me and how grateful I am to you. However, I must express it the best I can.

More than anything Mom, I want to say thank you.

Thank you for taking care of me, my brother and sisters when life was so extremely difficult for you.

Thank you for never throwing in the towel and giving up.

Thank you for spanking me when I broke your new lamp with my kick-ball after you had already warned me to stop playing ball in the house.

Thank you for letting my friend Gary Holliman come over and spend the night so many times when you were tired and exhausted from work. Oh, and thanks for rounding up enough money to buy chips and coke for us to have a snack.

And, mom, remember the year you warned me not to expect a birthday gift because we had absolutely no money? Thank you for remembering your green stamps and surprising me with a rod & reel. You always found a way.

Thank you for fixing something to eat for all of my teenage friends whenever they came over. I now understand what it means to have your children bring their friends home.

Thank you for always loving me even when I failed and when I was good or bad.

Thank you for being proud of me even when I did things to disappoint you.

Thank you for convincing me I could do anything even when you knew I had limitations.

Thank you for carefully mending my heart each time it was broken.

Thank you for showing love, grace and forgiveness to me. I now understand where that comes from.

Thank you for praying for me, even today.

I thank God for having such a wonderful mother who did so much for me at such a high price. I thank Him for a mother who gave up so much of her life for her children. I want you to know I can truly say, "I am blessed."

With all my love,

Your son,

Bobby

I gave this letter to my mother on Mother's day in 2005. She was so proud and blessed by this simple letter that today it hangs framed on the wall of her living room.

Our mothers covet our praise and thanks.

Godly mothers especially deserve our thanks and praise.

Invitation

Illus: Mother's sons saying "I don't know what mother was (believed)."

Illus: My father trying to blame it on my mother.

If you are a mother who places the Lord first in your life and raises your children in the teachings of God, I pray that this sermon has brought great blessings.

If you are a mother who DOES NOT place the Lord first in your life and DOES NOT raise your children in the teachings of God, I pray that God has used this sermon to grip your heart and turn your soul to Him. I pray that God's Word will burn within you to be the godly mother He desires you to be.

³⁰ *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

Do you fear the Lord? Do you recognize the responsibility God has placed in your hands?