

The Godly Mother

On this month in which we celebrate Mothers' Day it is fitting that we should be reminded of the call and value of motherhood.

For most of history - even in cultures that were not Christian - motherhood was prized by nearly all women. But liberal western culture of which our nation is a part, has become inundated with feminism and self-indulgence and so has a distorted view of both marriage and motherhood. The fact that abortion is still so prevalent in our nation is a testimony to that. Women do not desire to get married and have children - aspiring rather to be entrepreneurs, CEO's, professional athletes, politicians, military service personnel, and the like. They want to accomplish what they see as significant - to make a mark in this world - and they do not see motherhood as having any part in that. In fact, motherhood gets in the way of their ambitions.

But the Bible teaches us that for women - motherhood is of the greatest significance. So godly mothers are to be prized.

What does the Bible teach about motherhood - and more specifically, what it means to be a godly mother?

1. The Godly mother fears the LORD.

The world sees a woman's beauty of greatest importance. Its obsession - as indicated by magazine covers, and other media - is with beautiful models, movie and pop stars. But God's Word says that "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Proverbs 31:30

2. The Godly mother sees her children as a gift from the LORD and commits them to Him.

Hannah in the OT was a wife without children. So she cried out to God and He blessed her with a son. And she dedicated that son to God.

"And [Hannah] vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life." 1 Samuel 1:11

Now even though her giving of her son to God was of a different kind than that of mothers today, every godly mother will commit her children to the LORD and raise them as such.

3. The Godly mother protects her children.

The people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt. And as they multiplied they became a threat to the King of Egypt. So he declared that all baby boys born must be put to death. But one woman refused to do this and so went to great lengths to protect him.

“Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” Exodus 2:1-9

God honored this mother’s actions, and so Moses, that first great prophet of Israel was spared.

4. The Godly mother works hard for her family.

“She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.” Proverbs 31:27

The modern woman is self-indulgent and career driven. The godly woman is one who puts her household before herself.

5. The Godly mother is prized and praised by her husband and children.

The godly mother will no doubt one day hear the words of the LORD spoken to her, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” But she will also receive the affirmation and praise of her family in this life.

“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” Proverbs 31:27-28

I am so thankful for my grandmothers, my mother, and my wife, all of whom were and are godly mothers! They are truly to be praised!