

What are Mothers for?

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I. Introduction

What is a mother's job, what is she supposed to teach her sons and daughters? Many young men and women today are wandering aimlessly. They don't know who they are much less their purpose in life. They may be twenty-something or thirty-something chronologically, but inside they're lost teenagers full of doubt and fear. They struggle to take responsibility, to take control of their lives. What can a mother do about this?

II. Mothers are Crucial to Their Children and to the World

In some corners of our society, motherhood is seen as something that's bad for women. But God sees motherhood completely different: without mothers, there is no human race (Genesis 3:20; 1 Corinthians 11:11-12). Without their key input, the future leaders of the world (both men *and* women) will be ill equipped (Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 30:17; 31:1). Without their necessary dominion, the advancement and success of the human race fails (it's not just men who are supposed to rule in this world: Genesis 1:27-28). If a mother plays such a crucial role, what are the key lessons she must impart to her sons and daughters?

First, the Gospel, i.e., the goodnews that God has for them, she should be the first to introduce her children to God and His plan for their lives. She must explain to her children who God is, that He's not only the Lord of the universe (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16) but also the Lord and Savior of *their* universe. Thus, she will explain how God became flesh, lived and died for their sins so that He could impart to them His life, eternal life which will enable them to deal with all the doubt, fear, and confusion in their lives. She'll also show them who they are, that they are not who their friends or enemies or teachers or the voices on TV or what the culture says they are. Instead, they are who God made them (Psalm 139:13-16), which will protect them from all the negative influences and false opinions about themselves.

Second, how to live life with God, she will teach them the Bible but not how to study it like a Book. Instead, she'll show them how to make the Bible come to life so that Jesus is not some character in a book but the Lord of their daily lives. That is, she will show them how to hear and live God's voice, how God the Father has given them the Spirit of His Son Jesus Christ which means that they will never be alone (Galatians 4:6), that Jesus will empower them to face every challenge (Galatians 2:20), that Jesus understands how difficult their life is because He lived it, and how they can always call on Him, 24/7 (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Third, what it means to be a man and a woman, mothers (and fathers) are the first ones to show their children what the genders are and how they function. There's a lot of gender confusion out there. Moms can clarify all that confusion by showing their children what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman:

Men and Women are equal, both are made in God's image and created to rule (Genesis 1:27-28). Both have His Spirit and life beating inside them which means that they are both His children and both have access to Him anytime they need it (Galatians 4:6; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 3:7). So as individuals before God, men and women are absolutely equal.

In function men and women have different roles, a mother will explain to her sons and daughters why God gave the man the lead role and the woman the role of submission. She'll explain why this is not disparaging to women but glorifying to women. She'll also explain why men and women struggle with these roles:

Why man is given the lead and woman submission, the fact that God made man the leader and woman the follower is not a comment on ability or competence. There are many women who are more capable and competent than many men. The reason for the roles was not to give the man the upper hand; it was to emulate the order in the Godhead in whose image men and women are made (Genesis 1:27): in the Godhead the Son is always in submission to the Father (1 Corinthians 11:3) even though He's equal to God in every respect (Colossians 2:9). This is why man was given the lead role and woman the role of submission (1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9, 11-12; Ephesians 5:22-24).

Why men and women struggle in their respective roles, why is there so much tension between men and women? Because when God first made us, we rejected (and we keep on rejecting) God's definition for these roles: before we walked away from God, there was absolute harmony between the genders (Genesis 2:18-25). But after we walked away and defined the roles ourselves, we stepped into a curse that is active to this day (Genesis 3). Now, the woman will want to lead, to rule over the man; and the man, instead of putting her first (Ephesians 5:25), will respond with domination of his own (Genesis 3:16).

Why a woman's role is anything but weak, this culture puts a giant emphasis on women being strong and independent; what they mean however is that a woman is equal to a man in every respect. Whatever he's allowed to do, she should be also. He's no longer the authority in the home; it's now 50/50. But this erases God's divinely appointed roles. First of all, God doesn't want weak women; He wants them to be strong and independent (Genesis 21:8-12; 1 Peter 3:1-6). Second, He also wants them to be submissive but submission doesn't mean weak (Proverbs 31:16, 24). "Submission" is not a bad word. In fact, submission is who God is at His core. Instead of demeaning you, submission brings you joy and glory (Proverbs 31:13, 28-31; Philipians 2:5-11).

Why a man must not be a macho stereotype, in addition to showing her daughters what it means to be a woman, she must show her sons what it means to be a man. All of the trouble that we find ourselves in today regarding sexual abuse which spawned movements like #MeToo is the result of boys who don't know how to be men. NO man is EVER supposed to behave like a crude, rude, abusive, bully in order to get what he wants, especially sex. Any man who behaves in this manner is a boy masquerading as a man. God would NEVER stand for such behavior from men (e.g., Deuteronomy 22:25). This is why mothers must show their sons how to be a man. And the model for all men is Jesus; He was the opposite of abusive or a bully. Instead, He always put others before Himself and that's exactly how He tells all men to behave (Mark 10:42-45; Ephesians 5:25).

If you think you failed as a mother, don't worry, God is good, I've helped 6yr olds, 80yr olds, and everyone in between. And I've yet to come across one individual whose parents didn't fail them. It's not that these parents were bad people. In one sense it wasn't their fault because their parents never showed them, and their parents before them never showed them, etc., etc. Think for a second, how much training do we get to be parents, to be mothers and fathers? Practically none. We end up doing what our parents did, or what we heard from a friend or neighbor, or what we read in a book, or what some expert on TV said. But the question is, was that information right.....or was it guesswork?

It's not that you can't get good information from Oprah, Dr. Phil, a book, or some other source. Whenever their information echoes God's advice on parenting, it's correct. But whenever it differs, then it's complete guesswork, often, very bad guesswork, e.g., "Make sure you give your teenage boys condoms and your daughters the pill; you don't want any teenage pregnancies." This advice is beyond foolish; it destroys the proper view of sex, intimacy, commitment, and relationship. Being a mom or dad is more difficult than any other profession, including Rocket Scientist. Yet you get little to no training. You could never go to NASA and say, "I've never studied rocket science or practiced in this field but I'd like to be a rocket scientist. Can you show me to your rockets?" You wouldn't get past the parking lot! Yet to be a parent all you have to do is get someone pregnant or get pregnant. Parents need to be equipped; sons and daughters need to be equipped.

And it's not that you did everything wrong as a parent. For the most part, all parents love their children and want them to succeed. They don't set out to fail them or damage them. My mother didn't show me the things mentioned here, but she also didn't completely fail me or my brothers. In many ways, she modeled a life of sacrifice for us. She also corrected us whenever we did wrong. She had a tremendous influence on all three of us as I'm sure all you mothers have. So, if you're a mother and you failed in these key things, don't beat yourself up. Ask the Lord to teach you, to show you how to instill these things in your children now, even if they're adults. And if you have grandchildren, you also have an opportunity to influence their lives. So don't let the enemy convince you that there's no hope, that God is angry with you. God is your loving Father who always forgives, who is ever patient and longsuffering with us (2 Peter 3:9). Ask Him and He will equip you to equip your children (Colossians 1:9-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Does a mother's effort make a difference? Absolutely! When a mother instills these lessons in her children, it will protect them. They will know who they are and their purpose in life. Therefore, no one nor anything will ever make them feel less than. It will make her daughters strong and protect them from abuse and bad relationships with boys masquerading as men. Her daughters will know what to do when someone tries to mistreat or take advantage of them. They will know their purpose in life and pursue it with passion. Her sons will know how to lead and take responsibility. They won't become predators who prey on women. Instead, they will seek to serve and protect those around them. Both her sons and daughters will know who God is, who they are, and how to live life with Him. They will know how to bear God's image well, all of which will protect them from the various issues that plague young people.

A mother and grandmother have a tremendous impact on a son, Timothy was an incredible young man (Acts 16:1-2; Philippians 2:19-22). He was one of Paul's key troubleshooters (Acts 19:22; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2), which is why God chose him for a job that required courage, strength, wisdom, and godliness (1 Timothy). How did Timothy become such a tremendous man? It was due to the influence of his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois, who taught him from a very young age the ways of God (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). As a mother, your efforts will bear fruit (Proverbs 22:6).

III. Conclusion

She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.