

Her Children Rise Up and Call Her Blessed

Proverbs 31:28

Introduction

1. The bible tells us to **“Render therefore to all their due:...honor to whom honor [is due]” (Romans 13:7).**
 2. US President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation in 1914 designating Mother's Day as a national holiday to honor mothers.
 3. This day should simply be a microcosm of the constant attitude and activity expressed by all, especially in the family – **“Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her” (Proverbs 31:28).**
 4. It is extremely important that we honor mothers in ways which correspond to the honor given them in God’s plan.
- I. The War Waged Against Mothers
- A. Ideologies of Modern Society Have Eroded at God’s Blessing of Mothers
 - a. The laws God has set in place have great purpose, and when they are ignored, challenged, and broken chaotic destruction ensues.
 - i. Laws of Nature, Spiritual Laws, etc.
 - ii. Domestic laws built on the foundation of God’s design and created order.
 - b. **“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’” (Matthew 19:4).**
 - i. Transgenderism and feminism have made a direct assault on this fundamental concept.
 1. Men can be women?
 2. Men and women are the same?
 3. Women need to do what men do to find fulfillment?
 - ii. Among many consequences is the degraded view of motherhood.
 1. Men can be mothers?
 2. Fathers and mothers are the same?
 3. Women need to abandon their post as mothers to find fulfillment?
 - c. **This is not inconsequential – you cannot destroy one of the most basic elements of God’s design for humanity, the home, and individual physical and spiritual development and expect everything to go smoothly.**
 - i. Cultural, political, societal problems.
 - ii. **Spiritual problems** – if mothers are no longer mothers as God has revealed them to be then spiritual purity, soundness, and maturity will waste away into the baseness of error and immorality.
 - B. Satan Has Targeted Women from the Beginning
 - a. **Genesis 3:1** – he is cunning and says TO THE WOMAN.
 - b. Why did Satan target Eve?

- i. **Genesis 2:18, 20, 23** – the woman was the helper comparable to Adam. (cf. **1 Corinthians 11:8-9**)
 - ii. **Genesis 3:12-13** – It was not enough for Satan to simply get them both to sin, but he wanted to tear and the very fabric of the pattern of God – he’s trying to destroy humanity!
 - iii. **1 Timothy 2:13-14** – the woman was deceived.
 - c. This is what Satan is doing now, and he is not simply targeting those in the world, but especially has his eyes on Christians.
 - C. Honor Your Mothers!
 - a. We must truly honor them – i.e. not with empty words, but choice words and actions reflecting a reverence and joy for the mother God has revealed in the Scripture.
 - b. **Proverbs 31:28-30** – speaks to children, husbands, and the women themselves (don’t buy the deceit of the day, but embrace the honor God provides in your role, especially as mothers).
- II. Her Children Rise Up and Call Her Blessed
 - A. For Her Joyful Fulfillment of God’s Role
 - a. Joyfully – **Philippians 2:14-15** – to reluctantly and begrudgingly assume God’s role for you is to undo everything you are to be doing by assuming that role – husbands will suffer, children will suffer.
 - b. Older women teach the younger – **Titus 2:4-5** – domestic role emphasized – wife, mother, homemaker.
 - c. **“love their children”**
 - i. It at first seems surprising that this would need to be taught – **2 Timothy 3:2-5; Romans 1:31** (“unloving,” *astorgos* – without natural affection, THAYER) – even then, especially now such natural affection is in danger.
 - ii. The Bible is filled with examples of motherhood being honored and coveted. Part of God’s majesty and lovingkindness is the blessing of women with this relationship – **Psalm 113:1-6, 9**
 - iii. **John 16:21** – Jesus used the genesis of this unique relationship as a parallel to the joy in seeing the resurrected Lord and experiencing Him more fully upon His ascension.
 - 1. **This experience and bond cannot be replicated.**
 - 2. **The mother has a unique capacity to show affectionate love to children THAT THE MAN DOES NOT POSSESS.**
 - 3. **THIS NEEDS TO BE PURSUED, EMBRACED, AND NURTURED** – **1 Timothy 2:15** – this is the sphere in which she was created to thrive, not the arena of men.
 - iv. Both male AND FEMALE are made in God’s image – **Genesis 1:27** – God reveals Himself through the imagery of a mother’s love:
 - 1. **Psalm 131** – like the child who is weaned, and thus denied the comfort of a mother’s milk, but who is still “with his mother” in calm comfort and assurance of care and

nourishment, so the Psalmist has contented himself with the comfort of God, and trust He engenders even when answers are not offered (v. 1).

2. **Isaiah 49:15** – though Israel is captive and punished, God has not forgotten them – the strength of a mother’s attention, care, and compassion is used as a strong indication of God’s – as great as these traits are in mothers, it is more so in God for His people.
3. **Isaiah 66:13** – the comfort of a mother used to describe God’s comfort for Zion in spiritual Jerusalem.

d. **“homemakers”**

- i. *Oikouros* – “working at home” (oikos, and a root of ergon, “work”) (VINE); specification gives contrast – “a stayer at home, i.e. domestically inclined” (STRONG); “watching or keeping the house, staying at home, domestic” (ALGNT); “staying at home, domestic” (BDAG)
 1. **1 Timothy 5:14** – **“manage the house”**
 2. This is clearly God’s distinctive role for the woman in the home – it is her glory.
- ii. **Implicit sacrifice** – especially to be emphasized with the surrounding context of modern society – as with other relationships, there is a sacrifice of self-interest/desire (career, etc.) and other opportunity in the emphasis and pursuit of matters of the home.
 1. **The very role of a mother requires constant attention, availability, and presence, which precludes her from giving emphasis to matters which would take her away from this great responsibility.**
 2. When others prioritize a different lifestyle, her work is at home with her children.
- iii. **Proverbs 31:11-15, 21-28** – all her industry is in the interest and pursuit of the wellbeing of her family.
 1. There is plenty a woman can do for her husband and children without having to leave the home!
 2. A pursuit of a career to the neglect of children in the home – leaving them to others – flies in the face of this passage.
 3. All a mother does is not for self, but for her children!

B. For Her Wisdom and Instruction

- a. While the father is primary, and must not abdicate his duty, the Bible shows the mother is greatly involved – **Ephesians 6:1, 4**
- b. **Proverbs 1:8-9; 6:20-23** – it is also the mother’s wisdom and instruction that decorates the life of children, and stays with them through their life as a guiding principle.

- c. It was his mother's instruction that King Lemuel recalled – **Proverbs 31:1-9**
 - i. **(v. 3)** – she has great insight into the danger's posed by immoral women, and the influence of women.
 - ii. **(vv. 3b-5)** – she warns against the damaging qualities of alcohol.
 - 1. **A mother would not keep something good back from her child.**
 - 2. The warnings of a mother have a unique ability to dull the edge that might be felt in such restrictions – SHE SAYS THIS BECAUSE SHE HAS SUCH GREAT CARE AND CONCERN FOR HER CHILD. **(v. 2)**
 - iii. **(vv. 8-9)** – she relates to him his position. To provide compassion, care, and comfort to the less fortunate.
 - 1. **What great strength this would have coming from a mother, and not simply a father!**
 - d. The unique perspective and experience women have given them wonderful ability to teach their children about God – **1 Samuel 2:1-10**
 - i. Context: **1 Samuel 1:6-7** – being provoked by Peninnah for being barren; **1 Samuel 1:10-11** – Constant in prayer to God to give her a child.
 - ii. God gave her a son – Samuel.
 - iii. How wonderful it is to have one with such capacity to teach the immeasurable qualities of God to children.
- C. For Her Purity and Incorruptible Beauty
- a. **“What is a woman?” – has become a relevant and polarizing question for our time.**
 - i. The most basic answer is the one most neglected and abandoned – a female.
 - ii. Even those who accept the objective biological truth concerning the question often do not understand what really makes a woman (in God's estimation).
 - b. What makes a woman is what God wants from a woman – **1 Peter 3:1-4** – chaste, obedient conduct in the fear of God, inward adornment of incorruptible beauty – gentle and quiet spirit.
 - i. **This flies in the face of modern society's woman** – manly, physical strength, corporate success, promiscuity, independence (i.e. from men or family scene), self-willed, etc.
 - c. **How will boys know what women to look for, and to watch out for, and how to treat women?**
 - i. **Proverbs 6:20, 24-29** – beware of the seductress.
 - ii. **Proverbs 31:30** – look to the model of the godly mother.
 - iii. The relationship a mother has with her son will engender in him respectful care for women.

- d. **How will girls know what it truly means to be a woman, and what qualities will attract a godly, loving, caring, protective man?**
 - i. **Titus 2:4-5** – mothers teach their daughters these things – **“that the word of God may not be blasphemed”** – they combine doctrine with practice and show the value of God’s word.
 - ii. Girls need mothers to show them what true beauty is, not for society to do so. (**cf. 1 Peter 3:4**)

Conclusion

1. One of the most important, unique, tender, and loving positions in the makeup of humanity is under attack – the mother.
2. It is our duty to look to God’s word, and reflect what it says about motherhood in our relation with mothers in our lives.
3. **Mothers are indispensable blessings of God which deserve the respect, encouragement, and safety which God’s word allots them.**