

## A Mother Worthy of Honor

(Prov. 31:28-31)

**Introduction:** In the Old Testament the principle was established by God in the giving of the Law. Exodus 20:12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."*

In the New Testament the principle is reiterated by the Apostle Paul in the epistles. Ephesians 6:1-3 *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."*

The commandment to honor our parents is unique in that it is the only one of the Ten Commandments given that comes with an explicit promise attached to it, *"That you may live long on the earth."* God takes seriously our response to those in authority over us, and He does not tolerate rebellion!

Our focus today however; is not going to be on the response of the children to honor their parents, but on the life of the parent! **I want to ask the question:** *"Is your life worthy of honor?"* Do you live in such a way that your children want to honor you?

*What should a mother be to become "A Mother of Honor?"*

### I. She is to be a parent –

#### A. Our children are a gift from God –

1. **To the Hebrews**, (Gen 16:4; Luke 1:25).
2. Jesus clearly expressed his love and respect for children (Mark 9:36-37).

#### B. Our children need our guidance – The Lord has given us wise guidelines in His Word for strengthening ourselves and guiding our families.

1. **When the Lord gave the Israelites His instructions for life**, ... (Deut. 6:5-9).
2. **Having a passionate devotion to God and His Word is contagious.**
3. **Guiding our children to love the Lord and His Word is also accomplished by living out our faith in daily activities in front of our children.**

### II. She is to be a partner –

God wants husbands and wives to work together to grow, develop, and to come to know Christ and live by faith for Him.

In order to accomplish this; parents need to work together.

1. **If you are married**, you must work together (It's not all his or her job) raising children is our job! (You are the best example your children have of marriage. You are the best chance your kids have for coming to know Christ and following Him in their lives. **(What if my spouse isn't a Christian?** Then you must be the best example of a Christian wife and mother you can be and pray God will use our example to save your spouse (1 Pe. 3:1).
2. **If you are a blended family** – The things mentioned afore are still just as true! (*but you have some unique challenges*) (Like Sarah, you may find step partnering to be more of a challenge than you thought.)
3. **If you're a single parent** - It may surprise you to know you have something in common with Jesus mom –

### A couple of cautions are needed here–

1. God: not your child should be your major source of comfort.
2. Unacceptable behavior is unacceptable behavior whether there is one parent or two!
3. Your child(ren) are just that; your child or children not your confidant – your still their parent (by the way you can't be an effective parent and a friend) you must choose one or the other – God made you a parent!
4. One of the biggest struggles you will have is trying to deal with the stress of life and family - and still find time for personal time with the Lord.
  - a. As a single (parent) mom – the best thing you can do is take God as your partner...and invest in your time with Him. He knows all about parenting and even mothering.
  - b. The love and nurturing of God is sometimes compared to the love and caring a mother gives to a newborn child. Paul referred to new Christians as "babes in Christ" (1 Cor 3:1), implying a connection to Jesus and God as mother as well as father (1 Thess 2:7).

### III. She is to be a provider –

#### A. What they need is your love.

*No passage better defines how we should love our children than 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a.*

There are many ways to express our love:

- a. **Time** - By giving them your time you can fulfill both their *needs* and their *wants*!!
- b. **Touch** - I am concerned about the lack of affection I see in our society within families. I truly believe that many of our problems we are having with our teenagers and pre-teens are due to a lack of real affection at home!
- c. **Tender care** - How do we express tender care?
  - a. *We express tender care through our words.*
  - b. *We express tender care through our sympathy.*
  - c. *We express tender care by listening.*
  - d. *We express tender care by praying for them.*

#### B. What they need is your limiting – I Sam. 3:13

Proverbs 29:15 sums up the thought of many other scriptures when it says: *"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother"* (cf. Prov. 10:1; 15:5; 17:21,25; 19:13,26; 28:24).

- **The rod represents what we do to discipline our children**, it is *physical correction*.
- **Reproof is what we say to discipline our children**, it is *verbal correction*.

#### C. What they need is your lifting – Colossians 3:21

#### D. What they need is your leadership – Proverbs 22:6

### IV. She is to be a person of influence–

*Children are influenced more by what their parents do than by what they say.*

1. That's why our actions must match our words.
2. *This is especially important when it comes to promises.* We want our kids to know we are trustworthy.

**Conclusion:** Both the Old Testament and the New Testament make clear we are to honor our Father's and Mother's – But no one can make our children honor us; so, the real question today is **"Is our life worthy of Honor?"**