

# Wives And Mothers In The Home

**Introduction.** A beautiful bride stands beside her proud father. All her family and closest friends have come to be a part of her long-awaited day. All eyes will be upon her but she will have eyes for just one person in the room -- that young man who has wooed, won, and now awaits to claim her hand and heart in marriage.

Their courtship has been clean and godly. Their dating has been directed by principles of purity. They have fallen deeply in love with each other. Voluntarily they have agreed to enter into matrimony. They are entering into a new and exciting relationship. From this moment on this young lady will have a completely different type of life. Before she was a daughter living at home, but now she is a wife with a home of her own to help manage.

She must now show herself a woman. She is no longer living in a world of dolls, slumber parties, etc. Now she is married and there will be the normal adjustments that all couples face as they settle down to the routines of establishing a home, building a happy and harmonious marriage, and preparing to rear a family. Immaturity will not work in these roles. These responsibilities demand a woman -- not a girl who is still acting as a child.

## I. ***She Is To Guide And Keep The Home***

- A. The wife will determine the tone of the home. She can either radiate a spirit that will make her husband and children long for home every time they are away, or she can display a disposition that will make home anything but a place of pleasure.
- B. Paul says mothers are to "guide the house" or "rule the household" (1 Timothy 5:14). Mothers should work hard to maintain a home that radiates an atmosphere of spiritual activity, reflects purity and peace, and is a refuge of holiness and serenity. Nothing is so powerful in parental influence as an example of sobriety, righteousness, and godliness.
- C. The Bible portrays the mother as a faithful wife, one who loves her children, displays a proper example before them, is respectful of the authority over her, and is a keeper or worker in the home.
- D. The twenty-first century concept of motherhood calls for her part in the biological production but turns the rearing of the child over to another. The Bible does not condemn a woman working, but she cannot neglect her responsibilities. With both parents gone the children are left to fend for themselves. Obviously, this arrangement is far from the biblical pattern, and the result is that seeds for future trouble are sown.

## II. ***She Is To Love Her Husband And Children***

- A. Love demands loyalty, kindness, and gentleness to the husband and children in thought, words, and deeds (Titus 2:4-5). The best definition of love is in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and it has several practical ramifications.
1. Love will keep a wife from nagging her family. Nag means "To scold, complain, or find fault constantly; to be a constant source of anxiety or annoyance."
  2. Love will keep her from demeaning him in front of friends.
  3. Love will prompt the wife and mother to help the home with its problems.
  4. Love will persevere in adversity as well as in success and prosperity.
  5. Love will keep alive her confidence in him when others become skeptical.
  6. Love will prompt her to be a faithful wife and good mother.
- B. The only way to achieve this kind of love is through respect (Ephesians 5:33). Young women should never go out with men they do not respect. If a young lady dates a man and respect is lacking, there is little likelihood that the marriage can survive. The man who lives up to the scriptural standards that were discussed in the preceding lesson will be the kind of man for whom the wife can develop respect.

## III. ***She Is To Be Subject To Her Husband***

- A. Wifely submission to the husband began with Eve (Genesis 3:16). This subjection continued throughout the Old Testament era (1 Peter 3:5-6), and women who will please Christ should be advised to do the same (Ephesians 5:22-24).
- B. When a wife rejects the rulership of the husband in the home she has rejected more than her husband -- she has rejected God. She furthermore shows disrespect for both God and her husband, similar to 1 Samuel 8:7 where the Israelites rejected God and Samuel being over them. The choice narrows down to whether the wife wishes to obey God and honor her husband in this matter, or disobey God and dishonor the man whose name she has agreed to take through the marital vows.
- C. Following Jesus will provide the incentive for every Christian wife to be truly submissive to her husband. Jesus Christ never attempted to remove Himself from the Father's authority. Had He done so He would not have been our perfect Redeemer. His greatest happiness was found in being submissive to the Father's will (Luke 2:49; John 8:29). When a woman decides that she should liberate herself from any submission to man she is asking for trouble with the Lord and in the home.

D. There is no ultimate good coming to God's cause, the good of man, the betterment of woman, or the strengthening of the home as a result of women's equality. A woman gains much by being submissive in the realms commanded by God and this includes submission to her husband. The beauty of a face and the striking figure will ultimately fade while the beauty of a meek and quiet spirit will yield eternal rewards (1 Peter 3:1-4).

#### IV. ***She Is To Be A Trainer Of Souls***

- A. When a child is born, there is wrapped up in those few pounds of flesh an immortal spirit that will live forever. That child will have both an earthly and eternal role to fill. He or she will need care, training, discipline, and education to help them live happily and satisfied in an evil world.
- B. The direction of a person's existence is normally formed during the first few years of a child's life and these years are normally spent with his mother. The production of a better individual for society and a prospective heir of heaven has a direct connection to the mother's success or failure during these tremendously important, formative years. Truly this is a unique role.
- C. A good mother in Bible times believed that the teaching of God's word to her children was one of the supreme tasks of motherhood (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). Jesus has committed a sacred trust into the hands of mothers. Children have souls and souls need truth. How rewarding it will be for a mother to see a son or daughter fulfill a role as worthy husbands and wives and consecrated Christians. What a joy it will be for a mother to stand approved in judgment and to observe their children on Jesus' right hand.

#### V. ***Some Wives And Mothers We Don't Need***

- A. Lot's wife (Genesis 19:26, 30-38). Lot's wife died in disobedience. Also, had she have lived it is highly doubtful that the incident of Lot's incestuous daughters would have produced the Moabites and Ammonites.
- B. Jezebel (1 Kings 16:31; 21:25). Possibly no one ever made a worse choice for a wife than Ahab. How weak men fare in life is largely determined by the character of the person whose magnetic powers are greatest over them.
- C. Job's wife (Job 2:9-10). This incident not only demonstrated the mettle of Job's character, but it also served to evaluate the lack of real character possessed by his wife. The loss of family, wealth, and health was just too much for her continued faith in God's goodness.

- D. Maachah (1 Kings 15:11-13). The mother of King Asa was given to idolatry. Many women today have their own pet idols. They may worship at the altar of youthful appearance, recreation, fashion, or popularity.
- E. Herodias (Mark 6:14-29). Not only was Herodias living in sin because of her adulterous marriage, but she also encouraged her daughter Salome to become the welcome object of the lustful eyes of drinking men.
- F. Drusilla (Acts 24:24). Drusilla was also in an adulterous marriage. She had left her first husband for the added glamor of being the wife of a Roman governor. Many women have turned their back on marriage vows and home responsibilities because another man with better looks, more money, or a finer house sought her companionship.

#### VI. ***Some Wives And Mothers We Do Need***

- A. Rebekah (Genesis 24:16). Rebekah was a virgin when arrangements were made for her to leave her land and marry Isaac. Every young woman should enter marriage with the determination that her husband will be the only man who will ever touch her body.
- B. Ruth (Ruth 3:11). Ruth's union with Boaz of Bethlehem produced two illustrious descendants: David and Christ. Ruth had stability of character, persistence, industry toward daily duties, and a sense of love, honor, and integrity that needs to be emulated more in our day.
- C. Vashti (Esther 1:10-12). Vashti's husband, King Ahasuerus, wanted her to expose her striking beauty before the lustful eyes of men who were drunk. Vashti would not compromise her convictions to please a drunken king.
- D. The worthy woman (Proverbs 31:10-31). All the great ingredients for motherhood meet and merge in this woman's personality: strength, honor, happiness, wisdom, kindness, foresight, and industry.
- E. Mary (Luke 1:28). Deep humility marks every aspect of this mother's life. All throughout the gospel accounts, we see Mary exhibiting the superb qualities of true motherhood. God used motherhood to allow His Son an entrance into the world; He still depends upon motherhood for a continuation of His Son's cause on earth.
- F. Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3). Each time we hear this woman's name mentioned, it is in connection with her husband, Aquila. As a team they are mentioned half a dozen times in the work of building up the body of Christ.

**Conclusion.** Wives and mothers need to lift up the Bible in their homes. They need to exalt Christ in their daily lives. They need to exalt Him as God's Son, their Savior, and the Redeemer of all their children. When

Christ and the Bible are lifted up within the home, God's Son and His holy word will lift up motherhood to be the role it should consistently assume.

In the next full century a woman's descendants may be numbered in the hundreds. Within five centuries the number may climb to the hundreds of thousands. Look at the multitude of Israelites that came from Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah in the short centuries between Jacob and Moses. Whether or not a woman is a loyal child of God may determine the eternal destinies not only of her immediate offspring but may also effect generations yet unborn.