

Three Tenets of Motherhood

Luke 1:46-49

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mary respected the Lord.
 - Consider Mary's response. ***Luke 1:26-38***
 - The angel said, *"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you;" vs 28*
 - The angel said, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." vs 30*
 - Mary said, *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." vs 38*
 - Mary willingly accepted God's will for her.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - God's word gives instructions regarding being a wife and a mother.
 - Mothers recognize the role of the husbands.
 - Mothers accept and honor their role as wives.
 - Mothers understand the need to teach their children to obey the Lord and the parents.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - During many challenges that cause doubt, resentment, and a desire to quit at times.
 - Keeping her heart right with God helps a mother overcome these challenges.
 - Keeping one's heart right will bring comfort, joy, and contentment.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
- God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - *“**Keep** your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”* (Prov 4:23, NKJV)
 - **“Watch** over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” (NASB)
 - **“Guard** your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” (LSB)

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - Consider a wellspring that provides water.
 - If the wellspring is polluted, then the pollutant spreads to everyone downstream.
 - However, if the water is pure and clean, then it gives life to those downstream.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - A mother's heart should be a wellspring of faithful service to the Lord and nurturing love and compassion towards her family.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - She should guard her heart against feelings of resentment, jealousy, hatred, and discontentment.
 - When a mother guards her heart, keeping it established in the Lord and His Word, then her actions and decisions will have a foundation of love and care.

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
- God's word helps the mother keep her heart.
 - Again -- “**Guard** your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” **Prov 4:23, LSB**
 - Also -- “The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.” **Prov 14:1**

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

- Mothers should accept God's will for them.
 - By accepting God's will and instructions, the mother is helping to lay up treasures in heaven for both her and her family. ***Cf. Matt 6:19-21***

Motherhood – A Respect for the Lord

Respect for the Lord is crucial to helping shape our children's lives toward serving the Lord.

Motherhood – Grateful to the Lord

- Mary saw her child as a blessing from the Lord.
 - Mary acknowledged what God had done for her.
Luke 1:46-49
 - Mary recalled God's mercy and grace shown to His people. ***Luke 1:50-55***

Motherhood – Grateful to the Lord

- Mothers are grateful to the Lord.
 - Children are a heritage (gift) from God.
 - *“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” Psalm 127:3*
 - It is a heritage that we are to nurture and care for and teach to serve the Lord.
 - It is a heritage that can bring joy and sorrow, excitement and anxiety, and hope and heartache.

Motherhood – Grateful to the Lord

- Mothers are grateful to the Lord.
 - Children are a gift of life.
 - Solomon wrote, *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.” Eccl 12:7*
 - Let us be thankful for the precious little lives given to us by God.

Motherhood – Grateful to the Lord

- Motherhood will bring both joy and sorrow.
 - Even during the most trying of times, mothers can find comfort in prayer.
 - Some prayers will cry out for guidance, encouragement, and strength.
 - Some prayers will be passionate petitions on behalf of their children.
 - Yet in every season, mothers continually offer up the *“sacrifice of praise to God...the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* **Heb 13:15**

Motherhood – Grateful to the Lord

Let all mothers be grateful for their children.

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

- Mary took her child to worship Jehovah God.
Luke 2:41-50

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

- Mothers have spiritual responsibilities.
- Raise up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. ***cf. Eph 6:4***
 - *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

- Mothers have spiritual responsibilities.
 - Diligently teach children in the way of the Lord.
Deut 6:6-9

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

- Mothers have spiritual responsibilities.
 - Be loving and consistent with discipline.
 - *“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.” Prov 23:13-14*
 - *“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”
Prov 29:15*

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

- Mothers have spiritual responsibilities.
 - Set the right example in all areas...
 - in prayer,
 - in Bible study,
 - in worship,
 - in behavior, etc.

Motherhood – Spiritual Responsibilities

When mothers fulfill their spiritual responsibilities, they will raise up their children in the way of the Lord.

Conclusion

- Motherhood . . .
 - Begins with a respect for God.
 - Produces gratitude towards God.
 - Involves spiritual responsibilities.

Conclusion

- Children:
 - Thank the Lord for your mothers.
- Mothers:
 - Love your children and do your best to follow God's instructions.
- Fathers:
 - Stand with the mother of your children, leading your family in the way of the Lord.