**Mothers**

There are two factors that probably influence the overall character of a man more than anything else: 1) the character, quality, and involved leadership of his father; and 2) the character, quality, and loving dedication of his mother. Such is no guarantee of financial success, but when parents strive to put God first in their lives, and teach their children to do the same, homes are better, schools are better, communities are better, churches are better, states are better, countries are better, and the world is better.

While I am a big believer in the importance of the proper influence of a husband and father in the home- because of the importance God’s word places on them (*e.g.* Eph.5:23,25-33; 6:4), the placed occupied by a wife and mother is certainly no less important. Consider these words from Prov.31:18-31:

*“Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her saying: ‘Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.’ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”*

Since today is “Mother’s Day,” I thought we’d spend a few minutes contemplating just a couple of points from the wealth of biblical instruction, examples, and emphasis on this priceless position (cf. Prov.31:10ff).

Any effort to catalog all the various roles (nurse, educator, restaurateur, taxi driver, homemaker, seamstress, coach, etc. etc. etc.) a mother fulfills seems nearly impossible- either in biblical or practical terms. But even a more complete list would likely fail to grasp the real importance of the being a mother. While 1Tim.2:15 is admittedly a difficult passage over which many commentators and scholars have disagreed regarding its exact meaning, there is no doubt that a woman who properly fulfills her role of being a mother of *faith, love, sanctity,* and *self-restraint* will greatly enhance the opportunities for her own salvation as well as that of her family! However, all of these things seem to likewise fail to emphasize one of the most important roles of being, and benefits to having a *godly* mother- the role of **counselor**.

A father’s wisdom and leadership is essential, but often too pragmatically educational. By contrast, a godly mother’s counsel usually takes into account her husband’s knowledge, wisdom, and wishes, but tempers these with healthy doses of *empathy, compassion,* and *tenderness.*  Her counsel, teaching, and guidance have a **mother’s heart**! This, in my opinion, is exactly why Adam was deemed *incomplete* alone, cf. Gen.2:18. He lacked the heart of a godly wife and mother!

With these things in mind, let’s look at a simple text from Prov.6:20-22 as the basis of our further considerations this morning of a godly mother’s guidance and wisdom.

**I. A Godly Mother’s Heart:** (from Prov.6)

1. **Provides Wise *Counsel,* v.20;**

Note carefully the *objective nouns* of this verse. The son is instructed to *“observe the* ***commandment*** *of your father,”* and to not *“forsake the* ***teaching*** *of your mother.”* So? The word translated by the NASV as *“teaching”* is marginally also rendered as *“****law****”* (Heb. *torah- direction, instruction, law*) Dad may well (and should, as *head* of the home, Eph.5:23) be responsible for the *commands* (Heb. *mitsvaw- command* of God or man; *code of wisdom*) by which the family operates, but Mom also *lays down the law* by which those commands are enforced!

Aside from the order of these things, and more importantly to our purposes, wise children will listen to and obey the ***counsel*** (teaching based on law) of their parents, Eph.6:1-3. I’ve never received a “Mother’s Day” gift, but I suspect the best one any godly mother ever received was the joy that comes from seeing your children walk in the paths of the wise counsel you have given them, Prov.4:1-9 🡪 15:20 🡪 23:25.

1. **That is Intended to be Permanently *Connected*, v.21;**

A lot of what mothers say to their especially young children- and perhaps to some not so young ones as well, seems somewhat mundane, like, “Don’t pick your nose,” or “Don’t play with your food,” or “Pick up your wet towel and hang it up.” But even in these routine instructions, there is wisdom. She’s trying to teach you how to be a good, responsible, and godly person! Listen to her words, and heed them. Take even these seemingly ordinary instructions with you as you go off on your own and you will understand the true value of them. Heed the proverbial advice:

1. *“Bind them continually on your heart”-* which means to allow yourself an emotional attachment to her wise counsel regarding how to live and function, cf. 1:8b; and,
2. *“Tie them around your neck”-* things tied around the neck are seldom lost! Allow her wisdom and guidance to go with you everywhere you go (and as she always told you, “You’d lose your head if it wasn’t attached to your neck,” keep them *around your neck!*). Such things will *adorn* your life with *grace* and *beauty* more than any other “necklace” you could ever wear, 1:9!
3. **So that It can Provide the *Course* of Your Life, v.22.**

Notice carefully what the verse says your mother’s wise counsel will provide as you travel your *course* of life:

1. *“When you walk about, they will* ***guide*** *you.”*  What adult son or daughter hasn’t faced a circumstance in which they just didn’t know what to do or which way to turn…. until they called Mom? Just to hear her voice, and to be reminded of those simple but love-filled instructions and life reminders that they’ve heard a thousand times before, but are graciously given with motherly compassion yet again, makes it all “better,” cp. Psalm 119:105.
2. *“When you sleep, they will* ***watch over*** *you.”* The wise counsel and guidance of a godly mother provides protection, and the sense of security that goes with it. How many different things did your mother tell you not to do because, “It will hurt you,” or “Poke your eye out!”? One of her major goals was to get you to adulthood healthy and whole! This kind of love, concern, and watch care is something kids don’t typically get (as much at least) from Dad- who will let you get hurt or bleed to “Teach you a lesson!” I remember my mother saying to my father, “Joe Buck, that’s going to hurt him!” only for him to respond, “It won’t kill him.” But godly mothers care for, and pray for their children constantly- *physically* and *spiritually.* Remember and cherish her concern and words that were rooted in the deepest of love and desire for your well-being. She likely worried over you constantly, so try to ease that burden of concern by heeding her wise counsel, cp. Phil.4:6-7 (and you mothers please try not to worry quite so much).
3. *“And when you awake, they will* ***talk*** *to you.”* I dare you, whether you mother is alive or deceased: Try to forget what “Momma always told me…” I’d bet you can’t do it, nor should you. Allow her words, spoken from the heart even in times of frustration or desperation, and given with the best of knowledge and wisdom she had to offer, will stay with you until you die. Such is as it should be. Though Deut.6:4-9 is specifically addressed to fathers, I know of no father who can obey it without a lot of help from his wife- the mother of his children!

**II. Conclusion**

1. **Mothers, we love you and honor you for your commitment to God, our fathers, and us!**
2. **Children, manifest that love and honor by allowing her wise counsel to *guide, protect,* and *teach* you always… and by picking up your dirty clothes and putting them in the hamper!**