

Image Of God

Things Our Mothers Taught Us:

- TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

- RELIGION

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

- TIME TRAVEL

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

- LOGIC

"Because I said so, that's why."

- FORESIGHT

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

- IRONY

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

- THE SCIENCE OF OSMOSIS

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

- STAMINA

"You'll sit there until you've eaten everything on that plate."

- CIRCLE OF LIFE

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

- ANTICIPATION

"Just wait until we get home"

- ROOTS

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

- WISDOM

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

- JUSTICE

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Today as we honor the women in this place for Mother's Day...I want to look at how we see the heart and character of God in women.

Back at creation...we see God create both man and woman:

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In the image of God...male and female. Because Jesus came as a man, and the Father is obviously a man, and the Holy Spirit is referred to as He in the scriptures...we get this idea that a man is the perfect image of God...but women are created in His image too!

So what do we see in women that reflects the image of God?

Proverbs 31:25-31 (CSB)

Strength and honor are her clothing,
and she can laugh at the time to come.
26 Her mouth speaks wisdom,
and loving instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the activities of her household
and is never idle.
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also praises her:
29 "Many women have done noble deeds,
but you surpass them all!"
30 Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting,
but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.
31 Give her the reward of her labor,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

This passage is a part of the Proverbs 31 passage about a virtuous wife...it's a reflection of what that kind of woman looks like. And I see these attributes, these characteristics of God as what a mother should look like.

I know many of you here are not mothers or not yet mothers. What I want you to know is that you are spiritual mothers to someone inside or outside of this room.

Even our high school girls who are helping upstairs with the kids...they are spiritual mothers to those children they are helping with.

So what does this look like?

Proverbs 31:25 (CSB)

Strength and honor are her clothing,
and she can laugh at the time to come.

How many of you know some women who are strong? Strength and honor are her clothing.

A woman of God, who knows the Lord, relies on Jesus, seeks His presence, she wears strength and honor like clothes. They are something that comes from God, that covers her up.

***baseball game, blankets

When we look at a strong woman...we assume she is just thick skinned, things don't bother her, but in reality...it's the strength of the Lord that covers her. We see God's strength when she's connected to Jesus.

And she wears honor...this word for honor means the beauty of holiness. What the Holy Spirit has done IN her begins to appear ON her.

And when this happens she can laugh at what's to come. There's nothing life can throw at a woman who is clothed in strength and honor that she can't just laugh at. Because Jesus is greater.

Proverbs 31:26 (CSB)

Her mouth speaks wisdom,
and loving instruction is on her tongue.

Let's be honest...mommamas have great wisdom...

Momma said there'd be days like this. (The Shirelles)

Momma said life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get. (FG)

Momma said be careful what you do, don't go around breaking young girls hearts. (MJ)

Momma said knock you out. (LL)

Ok they do give good wisdom...but it's not just that they give good advice, it's that it's loving instruction. Typically men give direct, raw, hard instruction...which is something that God does as well. But ladies tend to give that loving instruction side of God.

This shows us the side of God that's more nurturing, more grace filled, this is something that God has put in women that bear His image.

Thank you Jesus!

Proverbs 31:27 (CSB)

She watches over the activities of her household
and is never idle.

God has created women to be watchmen. They are given this innate knowing...husbands...kids...you know what I'm talking about...she knows EVERYTHING. And I'm glad she does! It's for your good and protection!

If you've seen this bird around the corner in the rocks, it's a Killdeer and they nest in the rocks. She's sitting on that nest and she's watching...she's aware of what's going on around her nest. And when you approach...she comes at you!

Mommas don't rest. See I can go to sleep when my kids aren't home yet. I wake up the next day and just assume they are home. My wife will try to stay up until they get home no matter what time it is.

A godly woman is never idle...she's always watching. Even if it looks like she's not doing anything...I can tell you what she IS doing...watching!

This characteristic of women reflects our God who's always watching. He's never idle...His eyes scan back and forth across this earth...

Proverbs 31:28:29 (CSB)

Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also praises her:
"Many women have done noble deeds,
but you surpass them all!"

2 things that should happen for the Woman of God...not just at home by her family...but in church with her spiritual family...Call her blessed and praise her!

When we call her blessed..this is a time where we pronounce blessing. We speak it out that regardless of how her day or week has been, that she is an image bearer of Almighty God and she is blessed!

We recognize who she is in Christ...not how she fails in her own strength but what God does through her.

And then we praise...this means to shine a light. Church this is part of what Mother's Day is about...let's shine a light on these ladies...let's reveal how we see Christ in them!

Let's build them up, they have done great things for the kingdom of God!

Proverbs 31:30 (CSB)

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting,
but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.

Charm and beauty...man can they fool us...in a world where we are attracted to people because of their personality or appearance...there is nothing more beautiful than a woman who loves and honors Jesus!

If you want to spend hours in the mirror getting yourself all fixed up...that's ok..but while you're looking in that mirror...recognize the child of God looking back at you...talk to Jesus. Declare His word over your life... hear what He says about you...

I'm telling you that spending that time with the Lord will do more for you than makeup will. It'll do more for those around you too!

Proverbs 31:31 (CSB)

Give her the reward of her labor,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

This is for the rest of us...we are to give the woman of God the reward (fruit) of her labor (time, work)

This is different from the praise just mentioned...that's the praise of people, this is the praise of her works.

When we produce the fruit of her labor...her strength and holiness, wisdom and instruction, her watching, her relationship with Jesus...if we produce godliness in our lives because of what she does...the works themselves will praise her publicly.

When they look at those around her...her husband, children, spiritual children, friends, and they see the impact that her godly life has had on them...the light is shined on her...which then she shines back to Jesus!

She gets the reward for her labor...and Jesus gets the reward for His!

I'm thankful for the ladies in this place today...even if you're not yet a mother to your own children...remember that you are spiritual mothers to those around you...

And in these aspects we've looked at...we see the image of God in you...and it's beautiful!

Don't ever think you are less...work with what God has given you for this season...

Romans 16:13 (CSB)

Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother—and mine.

Rufus' mom was a mom to Paul...seemingly a spiritual mother...and when you can do that for someone...look at the effect it had on Paul (the praise of her works, the reward of her labor)

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 (CSB)

Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. 8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. 11 As you know, like a father with his own children, 12 we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

This is the goal church...that these spiritual mothers have an impact on all of us to the point that we all would care for, encourage, comfort, and urge others to walk with Jesus!

You don't have to have 'arrived' or be a spiritual giant to be a spiritual mother.

It is about sharing your life and sharing the word with another sinful human being, and being real and acknowledging where you too need to grow...

We all influence people. None of us are 'neutral' people. We all influence people in different ways...so let's do it in the image of God and be intentional and conscious of how we influence others!

This is the work of God...this is how we bear His image!