The Definition of a Mom

Proverbs 31:10 – 31

5/9/21

Well today is Mother’s Day, the day when families pay special tribute to their moms in various ways. We take them out to dinner or buy them special gifts… but the sad thing is that often times Mother’s Day is really just a day when families try to atone for an entire year of neglect, disrespect, and for a lack of appreciation. It shouldn’t be that way, as we should show our appreciation every day of the year, and not just on one day, but unfortunately for some it is.

Now most people agree, whether they are Christians or not, that we are living in a post-Christian era; that doesn’t mean that the Church is dead, or that Christianity is dead, but means that the influence that Biblical Christianity once had on our nation and our culture has diminished to a point where it wouldn’t be recognized by Christians 100 – 200 years ago. And that includes morality, education, social action, and maybe, most importantly, parenting.

Basically, what’s happened is that secular humanistic reasoning has taken the place of Biblical truth when it comes to setting the parameters for the home and family. By contrast, a Christian should be one who sees the home, and marriage, and parenting as framed within the parameters of God’s infallible and authoritative Word (The Bible).

* The truth of God’s Word should not only shape our beliefs and practices in all areas of life, but they are absolutes that guide us through life. And so, our opinions and beliefs are only legitimately Christian, to the degree that they line up with God’s Word. The problem is that today, our minds have been darkened by secularism and sin, and a lot of folks can’t tell if something is Biblical or secular at all.

We expect that from the world, but we’re unfortunately seeing the same thing within the Church as well.

* The trend that we’re seeing in the Church is that church folks are acknowledging the sufficiency of God and the Bible, but they fail to see a need to subject their personal opinions, reasoning, and emotions to the guidelines of Scripture in all areas of life, including what happens in the home.
* We read something like Romans 12:2 which says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind…” And we think that only applies to our moral behavior, but not to things like marriage, or raising kids. Instead, we leave those things up to Dr. Phil and such.

But, ALL parts of our lives should be directed by the truth of Scripture, whether its education, finances, political involvement, our jobs, our marriages, or parenting. Having said all that, please turn with me to Proverbs 31:10 – 31. This portion of scripture describes to us what a woman of God and a Godly mother is from Gods own words.

**Proverbs 31:10 – 31.**

***10 Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies. 11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. 14 She is like a merchant’s ship, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day’s work for her servant girls. 16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. 18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night. 19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber. 20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. 21 She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes. 22 She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns. 23 Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders. 24 She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants. 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. 26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. 27 She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. 28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 29 “There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!” 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. 31 Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.***

The word or phrase “virtuous” is the Hebrew word “chayil” which literally means “strength and valor, and in all ways excellent.” Throughout the Bible this word is translated as able or capable 8 times, it’s translated as strength 10 times and as valiant over 40 times. Basically, it refers to moral strength, integrity, and efficiency.

Now as we look through these verses, we get a good understanding of what the writer meant by “virtuous.” There at least 5 qualities there…

* **She is trustworthy & devoted**. If you look at verses 11, 12 and 23, you’ll see
	+ She has her husband’s confidence, and she enhances his reputation.
* **She is a woman of diligence and wisdom**. We see that in verses 13 – 19.
	+ She’s not afraid to work, she’s a wise shopper, and she plans ahead.
* **She is a giving person**. Verse 20 says that she extends her hand to the poor.
	+ In other words, she has planned well enough to be able to not only take care of the family’s needs, but also the needs of the poor in her society.
* **She is dependable**. We see that in verses 15, 21, 27.
	+ When adversity comes, be it bad weather, or something else… you know she’s already got a plan to deal with whatever it might be.
* And lastly; **she is a woman who loves the Lord**. We see that by reading all the verses of our text.
	+ She is someone who is guided and directed by God’s Word and God’s wisdom.

Now ladies, you might read through that and say to yourselves, “This isn’t describing a woman, its describing Super Woman!” And that’s actually a pretty good assessment. It’s describing a woman who is living in a supernatural way with a supernatural God. And it must be that way because there are few things that are more important to society than godly mothers. The Bible is clear in its teachings, both explicit and implicit, that the family is the foundation of society.

And while fathers are responsible for the way the family goes, mothers are the glue that holds the family together. And so; since mom’s are so important to the family and society, I want to quickly look at some of the problems they face, so that the rest of us can really show our appreciation not just this Mother’s Day BUT every day of the year.

First, **GUYS**… we need to look at motherhood and femininity with respect, (femininity, not feminism).

* The Bible warns us over and over again about the anti-Christian forces that are constantly at work to get us to adopt the values and attitudes of the world. But again; Romans 12 tells us that we are not to be conformed to the worlds pattern. We aren’t supposed to be shoved into the mold that the world has for us. Let me just be blunt and tell you what I mean by that… Motherhood is more important than having a career! Not saying women can’t do both… I’m just saying that it’s important that they understand which one is more important!

Secondly; 2nd Timothy 3:1 – 5 says, *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness by denying its power. From such people turn away!”*

* Now you notice what Paul was saying there. He told Timothy that the perilous times will come in the last days because people will be lovers of themselves and lovers of money. Boasting pride and blasphemy are all sins of pride that comes from loving oneself. Disobedience to parents and un-thankfulness also come from a sense of over exaggerated self-worth. It goes on… but this is the world we live in. And so; what do you think this does to the woman, who by the very nature of her creation, is geared to needing love, affection, and reassurance? What does it do when the husband loves himself more than his wife, or when he loves money more than his wife or her kids disrespect her?

Did you know that Satan’s first attack was against the wife, and it immediately affected the home? He still attacks us today, including moms and wives. But then you couple that with the fact that people, sometimes husbands are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, they are proud… kids are sometimes disobedient, people are unthankful, unloving… and these humanistic, unbiblical ideas and beliefs and behavioral patterns affect the family, and the home, and especially the mother, because she is the keeper of the home.

Now those of us who are husbands and fathers… we need to take note of this, because even though our wives are to be the keepers of the home… we’re supposed to be the protectors of the home. In-other-words, we should not allow these sorts of things infiltrate our homes, and our lives and the lives of our families. We can’t do a whole lot about it out in the world, but we can make sure that it isn’t infiltrating our homes!

Turn quickly to Ephesians 5:23-29 - *23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. 25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husband’s ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.*

* So this passage clearly says that husbands are the head of the house, but also it says that we are to love our wives, just like Jesus loves the Church.
	+ In-other-words, we are to love our wives sacrificially… And let me just tell you, if we fail to love our wives like this, what we’re doing is disobeying a commandment given to us from God’s Word, and we are distorting the picture that marriage provides of Christ and the Church to the world.
	+ There’s a saying, “As goes the home, so goes the Church, and as goes the Church, so goes the world…” Well, this passage is where that idea comes from. Christian marriage is a picture of Christ and His Church to the unbelieving world.

Secondly, if we fail to love our wives like this, we sin against our wives and our children, because as you know kids pick up on our attitudes and actions. One thing that gets me more riled up than just about anything else is to see a kid disrespect his or her mother. That causes my blood to boil. Unfortunately, a lot of times, they pick that up from their own father. This should not tolerated in any house.

Back to Proverbs 31…

As you can see from our text, the demands on mothers are rough! They include grocery shopping, preparing meals (sometimes for picky eaters), washing and ironing, house cleaning, caring for the many needs of the family, and on and on… and again; And many today do all these things and work!!! We look at that list and we go, the lady that’s doing all these things is probably a basket case.

So, in the time left, I want to quickly talk about how moms can handle all of this without going ballistic and losing their minds. We already touched on one important part already, and that is the necessity of a loving husband and obedient kids. Let me expand on this just a bit more...

* Guys, to love your wife sacrificially means that you help. It is not beneath us to do the laundry. It’s not beneath us to occasionally do the dishes (you notice how I said ‘occasionally’?) So that’s one way we can help our wives be this virtuous woman. By helping out around the house!

Secondly, for you wives and moms… I want to encourage you this morning to have your priorities straight.

In Luke chapter 10 we read the story of Mary, Martha, and Jesus. Jesus had come to their house, and Mary found the time to sit at Jesus’ feet, to be near Him and learn from Him, while Martha got involved in the busy work. She found plenty of things to do, so that she didn’t have time to get alone and be with Jesus Then she even complained to the Lord about Mary’s unwillingness to help her.

* And what we learn from this is that mom’s need to make Mary’s priority their own priority. It doesn’t mean that they ignore the other duties of motherhood, but it means that they prioritize and have their priorities straight with spending time alone with Jesus. Putting Him first, above everything and even everyone.
* On the flip side, mothers who end up making Martha’s priorities their own, end up like Martha. They find themselves full of resentment, self-pity, tension and completely worn out!

Jesus Himself took time to pray and be alone with His heavenly Father. Mom’s do you find yourselves so busy that you don’t take time to sit at the feet of the Lord and listen to His Word, and take your burdens and cares to Him? The Bible makes it pretty clear that no wife or husband, or mom, or dad can be the kind of spouse or parent that God has called them to be without the Lords help. In-fact; Jesus said, “Without Me, you can do nothing!”

In closing this morning, let’s look at the last two verses of Proverbs 31 and then we’ll close (30 & 31).

* The woman who finds her value in her looks will either have so much plastic surgery and Botox done that she’ll end up looking like something out of a horror show, or she will devalue her worth to the point of self-loathing. But the woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom!
* The woman who fears the LORD doesn’t have to toot her own horn, and she doesn’t have to brag or boast about what she’s accomplished. Her OWN works will praise her. People will see it and know it. Her children will rise up and call her blessed and her husband will praise her.

So let me just encourage all you moms out there this morning.

* God doesn’t call you to be perfect; He calls you to walk in His perfection.
* It’s not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit – declares the LORD. So, take time to sit at the feet of Jesus, in-other-words, take time to get into the Word of God. Read the Bible, study the Bible, learn the Bible, memorize the Bible… you do that, and before long, you’ll find that you’re living the Bible. Fall in love with His Word.
* Compare what God’s Word says with what the world says, and if they differ, reject the worlds point of view.
* Keep your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, lay aside every weight of sin that so easily besets us, and look unto the Author and Finisher of your faith
* And lastly, know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made by God specifically to be our Mom and for that we are the ones who are blessed by an amazing virtuous woman!

Thank you for being so special Mom! We love you.