

Mother

John Isaac Edwards

One of the sweetest words ever said is the word “Mother.” Let’s turn our attention to some of the things the Bible has to say about Mother.

Honour Mother. The word “honour” means to hold in respect, esteem. The law taught, “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exodus 20:12). Paul penned, “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:2-3). This respect was a ground for national permanence with Israel and a ground of our well-being and longevity upon the earth.

Forsake Not the Law of Mother. Proverbs 6 records, “My son, keep thy father’s commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee” (Proverbs 6:20-22). I’ve often heard people say, “I remember something my mother use to say.” We all can remember the loving and caring words of a mother’s wisdom. Don’t forsake her laws!

A Foolish Son Is the Heaviness of Mother. “...A wise son maketh a glad father: but

a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother” (Proverbs 10:1). This verse says something about the influence of a child over his parent’s happiness. Children have it in their power to make bright the evening of their father and mother’s life, or to cloud it with a deep, dark gloom of hopeless misery.

Despise Not Mother When She Is Old. The wise man said, “Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old” (Proverbs 23:22). Old age brings infirmities (Ecclesiastes 12:3-5). Don’t despise her for these infirmities (the same infirmities may come your way one day). Children are to repay their parents (1 Timothy 5:4).

Bring Not Mother to Shame. “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). Mothers have a role here. Often mothers leave their children, failing to provide the care, love and guidance they need most. A child left to do as he likes, undisciplined, is a shame to his mother. Many a mother has been brought to shame by a rebellious and unruly child. Can you begin to imagine the shame and disgrace that a godly mother might bare and take to her grave with her?

We need more godly mothers who are instilling God’s word in the hearts of their children. Don’t forget to honor your mother.

Binding Opinions on Others

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There is a realm of personal faith where brethren may disagree agreeably (Romans 14). A cause of much disturbance among brethren is when Christians try to bind their personal opinions on others.

Use of a Pitch Pipe. A pitch pipe is an expedient included in the command to sing (Ephesians 5:19). Whether or not a song leader uses a pitch pipe in leading the congregation in song is a matter of individual determination. If you don't think a pitch pipe should be used, then don't use one when you lead the singing. But, don't get upset and cause a ruckus when a brother chooses to use one.

Observance of Christmas. The observance of Christmas in a non-religious way as a national holiday is a judgmental decision. If you are of the persuasion that you can't send cards, give gifts, put up a tree or string lights around your house, that's perfectly fine. But, at the same time, you have no more right to enforce this personal belief on others than they do to bind the observance of Christmas on you!

Women Wearing Slacks. I've known situ-

ations where some have made a sister wearing slacks so uncomfortable that she never came back to the services of that church. Such is a shame! If you don't think a woman should wear slacks, don't wear them. But, don't bind your opinion on others!

Going to a Place That Sells Alcohol. This too is a matter of personal conscience. True, the Bible condemns all forms of drinking, even social drinking (1 Peter 4:3). But, if a Christian goes to a place to eat, buy groceries or to the pharmacy that sells alcohol and does not drink or buy liquor, that's his prerogative. If your conscience won't allow you to go, don't go. At the same time, you have no right to tell a brother or sister not to go and they have no right to make you feel bad for not going.

Some bicker over matters of opinion that don't mount to a hill of beans and wonder why the church doesn't grow. There's a real need for brethren to be forbearing and tolerant of one another in matters of opinion, and not be so dogmatic about these things to the point that they don't get along. Let's learn to receive one another and work together in spite of our differences of opinion.

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