

Young Women: Love Your Husbands, Love Your Children #2

John Isaac Edwards

In addition to loving their husbands, sound doctrine calls upon young women “...to love their children” (Titus 2:4).

2) **Love Your Children.** To the woman, God assigned the role to “...bring forth children...” (Gen. 3:16). Paul wrote Timothy, “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully” (1 Tim. 5:14). Being a mother involves much more than conceiving and giving birth to children. It requires lots of love that causes her to tend unselfishly to the needs of her children. What are some things young women will do when they love their children as the Bible teaches?

Recognize them as being of the Lord. When Eve conceived and bare Cain, she said, “I have gotten a man from the Lord” (Gen. 4:1). The Psalmist stated, “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward” (Ps. 127:3). When Hannah was barren, she “...prayed unto the Lord...” and “...asked...of the Lord (1 Sam. 1:10, 20). How would you respond if one were to ask, “Where do children come

from?” You might just say, “They come from the Lord.” It is the Lord who “...maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children...” (Ps. 113:9).

Seek the Lord’s guidance. When Manoah’s wife was told, “...thou shalt conceive, and bear a son” (Judg. 13:3), she came and told her husband. “Then Manoah intreated the Lord, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born” (Judg. 13:8). Manoah asked, “How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?” (Judg. 13:12). Children do not come out of the womb with an instruction manual tied to their umbilical chord. Yet the Lord has not left us without a child-rearing handbook. His word, the Bible, is the how-to guide for motherhood.

Observe all the Lord’s commands. The angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, “Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe” (Judg. 13:13-14). The Lord had

some special instructions for Samson’s mother as he would be “...a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death” (Judg. 13:7). As Mrs. Manoah was to beware of all that was said unto her, young women today would do well to search the Scriptures and be careful to observe all that is commanded of them.

Give them unto the Lord. Hannah vowed, “O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life...” (1 Sam. 1:11). He did, and she did! Men like Samuel come from mothers like Hannah.

Realize your great influence, and set the proper example before them. As the twig is bent so grows the tree! Children are very impressionable, like clay in the potter’s hands! Mothers play a major role as to what shape children take. Remember the proverb, “As is the mother, so is her daughter” (Ezek. 16:44). Timothy was what he was appreciably because his mother was what she was! Paul wrote, “When I call to remembrance

the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (2 Tim. 1:5). Be a mother with an “unfeigned faith” like Eunice!

Teach them. Understand it is your job to be their teacher. If you don’t, who will and what will they learn? Deuteronomy reminds, “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Dt. 6:7). Teach them to love the Lord their God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might (Dt. 6:5).

Allow them to be corrected when they need it. The child-training manual says: “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” (Prov. 22:15). “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die” (Prov. 23:13). Suppose one said, “I love my son too much to do that.” The reality is if you don’t allow your children to be

disciplined when they need it, you really don’t love them enough! “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes” (Prov. 13:24).

Be one with your husband.

A man and his wife are to be one (Gen. 2:24). Children will often test the limits of their parents. If father says no, they will run to mother. What will she say? Consistency is important. They soon learn! Remember how great John was? Recall what was said of his parents, Zecharias and Elisabeth? “...they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Lk. 1:6).

Look well to the ways of your household. Imitate the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. “She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens... She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed

with scarlet... She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness... Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised...” (Prov. 31:10-31). Such a mother is one whose children “...arise up, and call her blessed...” (v. 28).

Every mother should be a faithful Christian. Don’t allow your husband or children to attend the services without you. Bring your children to Bible study and worship, seeing that they have their Bible and Bible lessons ready. See that they get to bed on time so as to come into the house of the Lord refreshed, prepared to give the Lord our very best which He so rightly deserves! Commit yourself to being “...faithful in all things” (1 Tim. 3:11), not just for your sake, but for your children’s sake to help them “...be...faithful unto death...” (Rev. 2:10).

Some may be better wives than they are mothers or better mothers than they are wives. Young women need to learn to love their husbands and their children. Be attentive to both.

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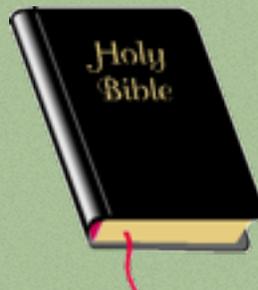
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