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## What Makes a Mom?

**Titus 2:4:** (NASB) *"so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,"*



Today is a day of special significance, for it is the national holiday we know as Mother's Day. It is a day set aside to honor and respect the hardest working and most under-appreciated member of our family - mom. It is on this day that we give the cards, the chocolates, the balloons, the special meal, the phone calls, the flowers and the pampering to the moms in our lives...funny thing, it is on the other 364 days of the year that they give us all of those kinds of things. Seems like it would warrant a "Mother's Week" or a "Mother's Month," but I digress. Stay with us as we honor the most sacred institution of motherhood, with thoughts, Scriptures and music!

### Our only question: What Makes a Mom?

Mothers are not often mentioned in the Bible, and less often focused on. Yet, the legacy of mothers is obvious - we will begin with some focus on that legacy, and its passing from generation to generation.

We focus now on the "aged women," the grandmothers.

#### **First, the scripture before our theme text:**

**Titus 2:3:** (NASB) *"Older women likewise are to be*

**reverent** in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,"

"When a child is born,  
so are grandmothers."  
- Judith Levy

**Reverent:** Strongs #2412 hieroprepes (hee-er-op-rep-ace'); reverent (as in having a reverent demeanor)

**Romans 16:1-2:** Phoebe was a helper of the Apostle Paul because of her reverential attitude.

**1 Timothy 5:9-10:** There was a system in place for taking care of the elderly and the Apostle is instructing Timothy that those that you should really be focusing on are those that have truly lived the life of a Christian. Their diligence was given great honor and respect. This really describes what a mother would do.

Motherhood is service-hood.

**1 Timothy 3:11:** We will look at some faithful women who weren't initially Christians. They are brought up in the context of showing a great example of passing on goodness from generation to generation. This is the example of **Lois** and **Eunice**, grandmother and mother of Timothy.

"The simplest toy, one which even  
the youngest child can operate, is  
called a grandparent."  
- Sam Levenson

**Lois** (agreeable), the grandmother of Timothy, not by the side of his father, who was a Greek, but by that of his mother. Hence the Syriac has "thy mother's mother." She is commended by the apostle Paul for her faith, for, although she might not have known that the Christ had come, and that Jesus of Nazareth was he, she yet believed in the Messiah to come, and died in that faith.

Lois was firm in her guidance to her daughter, Eunice, who in turn was firm in her guidance to her son, Timothy.


**Eunice** (good victory, originally the name of one of the Nereids), the mother of Timothy, and the wife of a Greek; spoken of as possessing unfeigned faith, and described in Acts 16:1 as a believing Jewess.



Lois and Eunice were looked upon with great respect. It is a compliment of heritage and they lived their faith. 2 Timothy 1:5 Acts 16:1-2:

When I think of Grandparenthood, I think of experience, strength and the wisdom of the ages. Proverbs 8:1-11

Wisdom is central to a quality of life, and grandparents have the ability to bring wisdom to their children and grandchildren and so on.



"If becoming a grandmother was only a matter of choice, I should advise every one of you straight away to become one. There is no fun for old people like it." - Hannah Whithall Smith

"Grandmas are moms with lots of frosting." - Anonymous

*Now onto Mothers...*

Titus 2:4-5: (NASB) *"<sup>4</sup>so that they may encourage the young women to **love <5362>** their husbands, to **love <5388>** their children, <sup>5</sup>to be **sensible <4998>**, **pure <53>**, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

This is an admonition to the young women to dedicate themselves to their families, and to put together that family bond.

First level of love: **Strong's #5362 philandros, #5387 philostorgos, #5388 philoteknos:** The affection between spouses, parents to children and children to parents. This level is the most basic and instinctive.

Romans 12:10: (NKJV) *"Be **kindly affectionate <5387>** to one another with brotherly love **<5360>**, in honor giving preference to one another;"*

**Sensible/Temperate:** Strong's #4998 safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

**Pure/Chaste:** Strong's #53 pure, chaste, clear 1) exciting reverence, venerable, sacred 2) pure

Philippians 4:8: *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure <53>**, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

This is an interesting order- love your family, be of a sound and self-controlled mind and be clean/chaste/pure, exciting others to reverence.

There is a marvelous lesson here for young Christian moms. How many people search for a way to make their lives exciting and meaningful? How many people spend their efforts ever searching and never finding? Here the Apostle is showing a way to a vital and exciting life! It is the way of Godliness. It is in this way all of one's desires can be fulfilled, for these young women have the opportunity to love and build up their families, they have the opportunity to do the will of God and thereby to be obedient to His holy way! Motherhood is one of the most fulfilling vocations a woman could ever have! It accomplishes a major, life-altering mission of raising children.



**"Because You Loved Me," Celine Dion**

Ephesians 6:1,2: To honor your mother is to honor God.



*What About Mother-in-Laws?...Naomi is to be honored as a mother-in-law for her great love and compassion to her daughter-in-law: Ruth 1:1-16 Proverbs 1:8-9*

(Source: [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com) "How to make a Mom Happy," by Rae Writes)

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."  
- Honore de Balzac

**Step 1** Pay attention. No mom in the history of momkind has ever been happy about having to repeat herself. Listen to her the first time and pay attention. Make an effort to really do this and watch the happy happen.

**Step 2** Do your share of the housework without being asked or reminded. Make your bed, pick up after yourself, cook a meal, swish the toilet, wash your own dishes, etc. Don't wait for her to remind you. Whatever you do, don't wait for her to do it for you.

**Step 3** Buy her a present. Sure, it's the thought that counts, but every mom has a collection of homemade candy dishes and cards. Spend a couple of dollars out of your own money on something she will really enjoy and watch her eyes light up. Sometimes, the effort can mean even more than the thought.

**Step 4** Give her a real day off. Make it a full day and don't cop out by choosing Mother's Day or her birthday. Pick a random day and handle as many of the things she normally does as possible. Do the laundry, grab the mail, pick up groceries, make dinner and pick up younger kids at school.

**Step 5** Be nice. Have a good attitude and project good cheer throughout the day. Be polite and resist the urge to argue. A day without sarcasm or arguments can make even the most hardened mom happy.

**Step 6** Take her out. Take her to breakfast and her favorite bookstore. Go bead or yarn shopping if that's her thing or take her to the racetrack if that's what she would prefer. Whatever you do, make sure it is something she wants to do.

**Step 7** Talk with her. Ask her about her day and give her all the time she needs to answer. Let her go into detail or run off on tangents. People do a lot of talking to and at moms, but not nearly as much talking with them.

**Mary, the mother of Jesus, is to be honored for the whole of her character and for truly supporting Jesus throughout his entire life and ministry: Luke 1:26-38**



"Mary Did You Know," Kenny Rogers

**Mary's profound observance: Luke 2:12-20**

**The value of motherhood is obvious - as he is dying, Jesus honors and cares for his mother, Mary: John 19:25-28**



"Tough," Craig Morton

**A Virtuous Woman: Proverbs 31:10-31**



"For You, Mom," Giovanni Marradi

Perhaps there is no other vocation on this planet that so completely reflects an individual's character than that of motherhood. The nurturing and caring process that begins in the pre-natal stages and extends through a lifetime has built into it a unique 24/7 requirement. This requirement never turns off. It can be and will be observed and learned from at any time, yet the mother just goes about her day, just being, just caring, just loving - only as a mother can.



**When You Thought I Wasn't Looking**  
(anonymous)

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw you hang my first picture on the refrigerator,  
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw you feed a stray cat, and I thought  
it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw you make my favorite cake for me,  
and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I heard you say a prayer,  
and I believed there was a God that I  
could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I felt you kiss me good night,  
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned  
that sometimes things hurt,  
but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I saw that you cared and I wanted to be  
everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,  
I looked...and now I want to say thanks  
for all the things I saw,  
when you thought I wasn't looking.



Motherhood requires the mom to change and develop as the child grows. All stages of childhood need different things.



"A Mother's Day Simple Things," Jim Brickman

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, is to be honored for her life of dedication to the Lord and her humility in receiving the gift of God - her son John the Baptist: Luke 1:5-20  
Luke 1:24-46

*What Makes a Mom?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*