



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?**

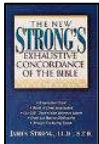
Mothers are not often mentioned in the Bible, and less often focused on. Yet, the legacy of mothers is obvious - we will begin with some focus on that legacy, and its passing from generation to generation.

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

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

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,"*



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

Romans 16:1-2: (NKJV) *"¹I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, ²that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also."*

Phoebe was a helper of the Apostle Paul because of her reverential attitude.

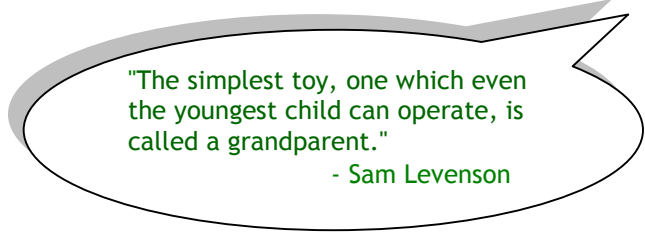
1 Timothy 5:9-10: (NKJV) *"⁹Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work."*

There was a system in place for talking 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: (NKJV) *"Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things."*



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.



Lo'is (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.

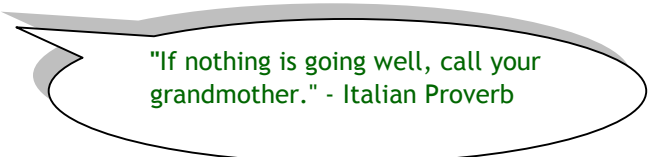
Euni'ce (good victory, originally the name of one of the Nereids), the mother of Timothy, and the wife of a Greek; spoken of as possessing unfeigned faith, and described in Acts 16:1 as a believing Jewess.



Lois and Eunice were looked upon with great respect. It is a compliment of heritage and they lived their faith.

2 Timothy 1:5: (KJV) *"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."*

Acts 16:1-2: (NIV) *"He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. ²The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him."*



When I think of Grandparenthood, I think of experience, strength and the wisdom of the ages.

Proverbs 8:1-11: (NKJV) *"¹Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? ²She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. ³She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: ⁴"To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. ⁵O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. ⁶Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; ⁷For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. ⁹They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; ¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her."*

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...

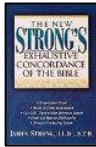
Titus 2:4-5: (NASB) "4so that they may encourage the young women to **love <5362>** their husbands, to **love <5388>** their children, 5to be **sensible <4998>**, **pure <53>**, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child." - Sophia Loren

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: *"¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:"*

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: (NRSV) *"¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."*

Proverbs 1:8-9: *"⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ⁹For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."*

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

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

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: (KJV) *“²⁶And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³²He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ³⁴Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷For with God nothing shall be impossible. ³⁸And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”*



“Mary Did You Know,” Kenny Rogers

Mary's profound observance:

Luke 2:12-20: (KJV) *“¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”*



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

John 19:25-28: (NIV) *"²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," ²⁷and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. ²⁸Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."*

Motherhood is really the centerpiece of the family bond.

"A mother who is really a mother is never free."
- Honore de Balzac



"Tough," Craig Morton

A Virtuous Woman:

Proverbs 31:10-31: (NIV) *"¹⁰A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ¹¹Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ¹²She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. ¹⁴She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. ¹⁵She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. ¹⁸She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. ²⁰She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. ²¹When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. ²²She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. ²⁵She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." ³⁰Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*



"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.

"Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at de sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground."
- Zora Neale Hurston



"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: (NIV) ⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years. ⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

Luke 1:24-46: (NIV) ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." ²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ...³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. ³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" ⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord."



"Mothers" (author unknown by CQR)

Somebody said a mother is an unskilled laborer ...somebody never gave a squirmy infant a bath.

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby...somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, normal is history.

Somebody said a mother's job consists of wiping noses and changing diapers...somebody doesn't know that a child is much more than the shell he lives in.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct...somebody never took a three-year-old shopping.

Somebody said being a mother is boring...somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said teachers, psychologists, and pediatricians know more about children than their mothers...somebody hasn't invested her heart in another human being.

Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out"...somebody thinks a child is like a bag of Plaster of Paris that comes with directions, a mold, and a guarantee.

Somebody said being a mother is what you do in your spare time...somebody doesn't know that when you're a mother, you're a mother ALL the time.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices...somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child wind up and hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother...somebody never helped a fourth grader with his math.

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first...somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books...somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery...somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten.

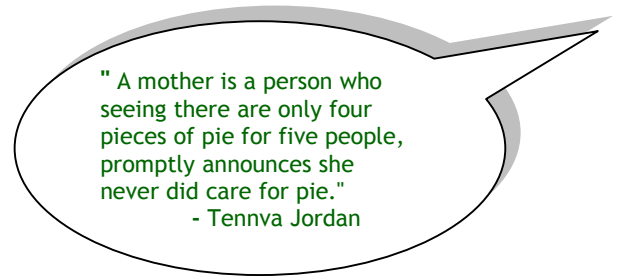
Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back...somebody never organized seven giggling Brownies to sell cookies.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married...somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home...somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said being a mother is a side dish on the plate of life...somebody doesn't know what fills you up.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her...somebody isn't a mother.



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