

Motherhood: Not about Labor and Delivery

Dad preached for 10 years; I was still living at home. That would be about 1,000 sermons. I can distinctly remember only four sermons:

- The one when he knocked over the vase of flowers sitting on the podium;
- The one when he accidentally spit out his dentures...and caught them;
- The one when he called me to the front for misbehaving; and
- The one on mercy.

I learned many lessons in life from my dad, but most of them were not from his sermons, and most of them were after college. The overwhelming majority of life's lessons were learned in the home...in the kitchen...with my mom. Some of those lessons are as vivid today as if they had occurred yesterday; a lesson on lying and deceit, and one on pride. (Yes, I was guilty on both occasions.) Yet, most lessons are hidden in the myriad of mundane day-to-day activities and rather boring conversations.

Without taking her hands out of the dishwasher or even glancing my direction she would instill a better attitude, correct childish reasoning, or question a faulty plan. There was nothing so profound as to be written down; nothing so wise as to be quoted. Yet, lessons; dozens and dozens of lessons, life lessons, taught, repeated, and lived out in practice each day.

My purpose is not to glorify my mother, but to magnify the God-given role of motherhood.

The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy concerning the role of women, but his instruction is not widely accepted today, even in the church. Paul reminded Timothy of Eve's place in the creation order, and also of the deception of Eve. It is clear in the creation narrative that things changed for women as a result of Eve's sin, and

that change remains in force today. Then Paul made a quite remarkable statement:

But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

(1 Timothy 2:15)

I am quite certain that Paul was not talking about 'labor and delivery' but rather the role of motherhood. You see, God did not strike Eve down and call for a 'do-over' so that he could create a 'new and improved' *Evelyn* for Adam. God extended grace to Eve and all women in the role of motherhood.

'Mom' is one of the greatest influences, if not *the* greatest influence, on the life of every person. Mothers instill values deep within a child which will last a lifetime.

Dads, you have the responsibility of making sure your children love and honor their mother. Your task does not necessarily end after they leave home. Help your wife fulfill her role as mother.

Children, most of you have a mother who is *there* more than dad. In fact, it is easy to see her as *usual*, *boring*, and sometimes an *obstacle to your otherwise exciting life*. Thank God that she *is* there for your mundane, boring life day after day. She...loves...you! God expects you to love and honor her...EVERY day.

Moms, our society does not value the role of motherhood but promotes a self-serving attitude in women. Are you willing to agree with this kind of thinking? What task is truly *more important* than the task of nurturing and instructing your own children in the Lord? Honor the Lord by taking very seriously your honorable God-given role as mother.

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