

May 13, 2018 AM
Pastor Ken Hepner

“Godly Mothers Change the World One Life at a Time”
Proverbs 31:10 – 31

Introduction:

On this mother’s day Sunday morning, as we open up the Word of God together, the message the Lord has given me is to look at what was in the heart of God when He created this incredible gift called motherhood. It is my deep conviction the Lord God had specific things in His heart and mind when He created motherhood.

The Bible carefully protects that we are created in the image of God, **Male** and **Female**, so there must be things in the nature and heart of God that we can only see through the living expression of femininity’s beautiful characteristics. Listen to the words of Genesis 1:26, 27:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.’”

As part of the expression of the **Image** of God we **See** in **Women**, there are specific things that lie deep in the heart of God, which are expressed in and through the gift of godly motherhood. It is my firm conviction when God created motherhood in the Garden of Eden, with its built-in instincts of deep love, nurture, and protection; He was giving all of humanity marvelous gift and a jewel-studded crown on creation!

The deep bonds of maternal love between a mother and her child are vividly and beautifully portrayed in the Scriptures. I will give you two cases in point:

I Kings 3 Solomon is judging a case between two mothers who were prostitutes who lived in the same house. They both had baby boys. The one baby died and the other baby is alive. Both mothers are claiming the living baby as their own. Solomon had to decide whose baby was the living child. Solomon used the maternal instincts of caring and nurturing love to decide the case. He called for a sword to cut the living baby in two and give half to each mother.

I Kings 3:26, 27 *“The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, ‘Please my Lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!’ But the other woman said, ‘Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!’” Then the king gave his ruling: ‘Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him: She is his mother.’”*

In Isaiah 49:15 the Lord asks the rhetorical question about motherhood, “*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has born?*”

Moms, you have been gifted and equipped by God to communicate beautiful Elements of God’s Nature in your family, things like purity, gentleness, nurturing love, tenderhearted servanthood and kindness to your children. To the degree that you are successful in transmitting these values to your child, you have had a hand in shaping the destiny of a child, and therefore, you are changing the world one life at a time!

Pretty much everything in life can be approached from one of two perspectives. We can approach things from the positive and see the wealth of possibilities in every situation we face in life. Or we can approach that same situation with a negative perspective seeing the wealth of problems and difficulties the situation presents to you. This is especially true of the hours of love you pour into being a mother, behind the scenes where no one can see except you, your child, and the Spirit of God!

- You can approach your hours of painstaking time in loving, teaching, enabling that little life you hold in your arms by seeing all of his/her potential possibilities. You can be thinking as you invest in that little life with a positive attitude, “I may be raising the next Billy Graham or Priscilla Shirer!” You can see problems they face as opportunities to help them learn problem solving skills!
- You can approach your hours invested in your child with a negative attitude, seeing all that could go wrong, all of the potential dangers and pitfalls, all of the potential problems that will confront your child. You can hole up in your family and seek to build protective walls around your child so none of these negative things will touch them. If you do they will not grow or mature through facing adversity and making good decisions.

Earlier this year as I was reading my way through the books of I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles, I was struck by how often the authors give us glimpses into the family lives of the kings who ruled Israel and Judah. The authors’ focus was on the kind of mother who bore and raised that king.

Over and over the authors tell us **if the king had a Godly Mother** who loved the Lord God and trained her son in righteousness, the king turned out to be a God-honoring and godly leader. **If the Mother was Wicked** and idolatrous the king turned out to be a wicked and idolatrous leader. Their mothers had tremendous influence on the kind of person they would become and the kind of leader they would be.

For you mothers who are raising small children, infants through kindergarten age, I simply cannot overstate the importance of pouring the Scriptures, training your child in truth and righteousness, investing in the kind of person he or she will be. Those early years are vital to the child’s development in righteousness and desire to follow the Lord Jesus in life!

The writer of Proverbs wrote a Scripture that is used on just about every mother's day, so I really don't want to disappoint you this morning my sisters. He wrote "*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.*" Proverbs 22:6. Let me illustrate that truth about those first years being years to cement the truth in a child's heart with two really great illustrations of it in Scripture:

The first illustration is Jochebed the biological mother of Moses. She only had him for his early and formative years, then for fourteen years he was raised in the polytheism and occult ways of his Egyptian mother, Pharaoh's daughter who took him and raised him as his own. Yet as an adult, he rejected the ways of polytheism and spiritual darkness of Egypt and chose to rather be identified with his people Israel, God's people!

The second illustration is Hannah the mother of Samuel. She only had him for his early and formative years, then she took him to the tabernacle at Shiloh and gave him to the Priest Eli to raise. Eli was the father of biological sons who were totally wicked and vile rotten apples in the Priesthood. Yet, Samuel raised in that environment and turned out to be a man of God, a true prophet in Israel. What was the difference since they both had the same father figure? Hannah trained him in righteousness in his childhood. And when he was old he did not turn from it!

Moms, amidst the grocery shopping and cooking, amidst the trips to the Doctor and Dentist, amidst the shuttling of children to church, school, and sports activities, amidst the diapers full of nuclear waste, the laundry and ironing, and when you step on Legos in the dark and do the screaming foot dance in the middle of the night remember this truth.

You are God's tender Loving Gift for Shaping a Life and your years to influence that life are very short. Tomorrow they will have families of their own. Renew your mind with this key question consistently. Am I raising a child or am I investing in a life that will be godly and will help to change the world?

Let's look at a familiar Scripture from Proverbs 31, to see what the Lord says about what a godly mom is and does according to the Scriptures!

I. Priority 1 – She Loves Her Lord Supremely:

Proverbs 31:30 "*Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*"

We are given a powerful truth in these words the followers of Jesus should be shouting from the housetops and proclaiming in every conversation we have with everyone who will listen to us: True beauty is not something a woman **Puts On**. True beauty is something a woman **Brings Out**! We live in a society that seems to worship tight skin, youthful looks, and skin deep beauty; where a person is encouraged to look hungry all of their days!

We who call ourselves the children of God are part of a movement of people who believe a personal encounter with Jesus Christ forgives sin, cleanses us of all unrighteousness, confronts our self-interest, and makes us alive to God by His indwelling Spirit. If that is what you believe along with me, it seems to me we ought to be holding out a very clear confrontation the Word of God declares in the face of “worldly and secular ways of living.”

Romans 12:1, 2a *“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

John 15:18, 18 *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”*

People who hear and heed the words of Scripture do not take our cues on how to live from Hollywood or the secular media. We are called to be in direct opposition to the “world-like” brand of Christianity that tries to see how close it can come to embracing worldly values and still be Christians. We ought to be taking our cues on what makes a woman truly beautiful from the Word of the Lord not the lord of the world!

True beauty is something a woman truly is and what she does to look beautiful on the outside is a true reflection of the beauty she feels and releases from her Christ-seeking heart! This timeless truth is written by the Apostle Peter:

I Peter 3:3, 4 *“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should come from your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God’s sight.”*

The truth is being made clear here that **a beautiful woman of God Invests quality Time making sure her Heart is beautiful before a holy God** before she worries about how beautiful she looks in her physical appearance. A godly woman is concerned with what Jesus sees in her heart, soul, and spirit as He looks at her, which has dramatic effect on her roles as a wife and a mother. She opens her spirit to the Holy Spirit and welcomes Him to pour into her streams of living water!

I love what Luke tells us about Jesus’ mom Mary when she was being confronted with the prospect of becoming pregnant by God’s miraculous intervention in her body. She considers what it means to be a godly mom to the Son of God and said to the angel Gabriel: *“I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be to me as you have said.”*

Moms would you alter the world by shaping the lives of your precious children? The process begins in your own heart first. If you would be an instrument of enabling and encouraging the

spiritual truths of God to flow into your child's heart, soul, and mind, your child must see the presence of Jesus living in you transforming your desires by His desires. In short are you investing time making your heart look beautiful to Jesus moms?

II. Priority 2 – She Loves Her Husband Deeply:

My sisters, as you think about practical aspects of motherhood, you may be thinking I am even more off in my thinking than I normally am. But bear with me as I try to make clear what I believe the Lord Jesus put on my heart. To me one of the most important ways you can demonstrate how much you truly love your children is in how much you love their father. You can choose by words and actions to let them know how wonderful you think their dad is.

There are three things in this chapter I want us to pull out to look at together as we think about your being godly moms who love your husbands.

First, she builds his **Character** with her **Words**. Verses 25, 26 *“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at days to come. She speaks with wisdom.”*

- Sisters are you aware of just how important to your husbands your opinion of his is? Are you aware that you are one of his primary places he draws strength from, that he needs your respect and love? By your words and actions you either build him up or tear him down inside.
- The last thing on earth any man needs is to hear words of criticism and calling him into question. Your words can wound his soul deeply, especially if those words of criticism and judgment of him are spoken in public.
- It is interesting to me that the woman of this chapter is clothed with strength and dignity therefore, she can speak with wisdom, tact, and love to her man.

Second, she builds up his **Manhood** with her **Love**. Verse 22, *“She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linens and purple.”*

- Sisters you build up your husband's manhood by the way you choose to demonstrate your love to him emotionally and romantically. A man feels wonderful security in his soul when he believes his wife has shown him he is the only man in the world for her.
- Earlier we saw that a woman does not put beauty on the outside she brings true beauty out of her heart. To balance what was taught there, I believe the Scriptures teach godly women to exchange the bed linens, exchange the smell of Mr. Clean for his favorite perfume, exchange the cheerios and food particles from your hair for flowers, make his favorite meal, and ship the children off to grandma and grandpa for a sleepover.

Third, **she has elicited a wonderful Response from her husband's Inmost Being**. Look at verses 11 *“He has absolute confidence ... total trust in her.”* And verse 22 *“He is highly respected among the men when he takes his seat among the elders of the land at the city gate.”*

Moms in a day of child-centered marriages the greatest gift of security you can give your child is a mom her loves their dad! If you, as married couples fall into the temptation to live a child-centered marriage, doing for your children, every sports event, and fail to invest in your love for one another when you get to Raina's and my age there will be no relationship left between you!

III. Priority 3 – She Teaches Her Children Diligently:

Proverbs 31:11 *“Her children lack nothing.”* And verse 28 *“Her children arise and call her blessed.”*

Moms, may I give you a strong word of encouragement about your child's instruction in godliness? **Your children's Training and Discipling in righteousness begins in the home with you.** At most Cedar Grove gets your child for three hours a week. The school system has them for 7 hours a day. But you have them 24/7.

Are you supplementing their Christian, Biblical truth diet with what is happening in our Sunday School and children's worship, or is this all they are getting? **The Bible presupposes that godly Instruction is to take place in Your Home.** You are your child's first discipler and teacher!

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 *“These commands that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

The Apostle Paul chose as the pastor of the Church of Jesus in a very difficult city, Ephesus, the young man of God Timothy. One of the reasons Paul chose Timothy was that he was a man of truth and integrity of heart and soul. He was a man of truth because he had been instructed and trained in righteousness by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois from the time he was a small child. As an adult he was placed as the pastor of a Church in a hard place to be followers of Jesus, the city of Ephesus, Turkey!

Moms you are a gift of God to your husbands and to your children. You have the opportunity to shape the face of your world by investing in the little lives you lead and nurture! Moms are you teaching your children the truths of the faith consistently? Are you seeking to raise a son or daughter or are you training up young hearts and minds who will live the truth of God and help to change the world one life at a time?

“Godly Mothers Change the World One Life at a Time”
Proverbs 31:10 – 31

Introduction:

Let’s look at what was in the heart of God when He originally created the gift of motherhood.

The Bible carefully protects that we are created in the image of God, **M**_____ and **F**_____.
Genesis 1:26, 27

As part of the expression of the **I**_____ of God we see in women, there are specific things in the heart of God that are expressed in and through the gift of motherhood.

The deep bonds of love between a mother and child are vividly portrayed in Scripture:

- Solomon judging the case of the two prostitutes, I Kings 3:26, 27
- Isaiah 49:15

Moms, you have been uniquely gifted by God to communicate beautiful **E**_____ of God’s **N**_____ to your family.

Everything in life can be approached from the positive or the negative perspective. That is true of your hours of loving sacrifice mothers.

In the historic books of the Bible the authors give us glimpses into the family the kings grew up in. If the king’s mother was **G**_____ and trained her son in righteousness he was a good king. If the king’s mother was **W**_____ and led her son into idolatry the king was wicked.

Moms of small children your training small children in righteousness can’t be overstated. Those early years are formational. Proverbs 22:6

- The illustration of Jochebed mother of Moses
- The illustration of Hannah mother of Samuel

Mothers you are God’s tender loving **G**_____ for **S**_____ a **L**_____ for Jesus and your years of influence are very short.

I. Priority One – She Loves her Lord Supremely: Proverbs 31:30

In a culture that obsesses over physical beauty, God’s word says true beauty is not something a woman **P**_____
O_____, it is something she **B**_____ **O**_____ of her heart and character!

As people who have encountered Jesus, sins are forgiven, hearts are cleansed, the Spirit lives in us confronting our self-interest, we must live in diametric opposition to how our world, culture teaches us to live!
Romans 12:1, 2a; John 15:18, 19

We ought to be taking our cues on a woman’s true beauty from the **W**_____ of the **L**_____ not the **L**_____ of the **W**_____.

True beauty is something a woman is, a reflection of the beauty she feels from her Christ-seeking heart. I Peter 3:3, 4

The truth is a beautiful woman **I**_____ quality **T**_____ alone with God making sure her **H**_____ is being made beautiful by the Spirit!

Moms, will you change the world by shaping the lives of your children?

II. Priority Two – She Loves Her Husband Deeply:

One of the most important ways you can demonstrate how much you love your children is in how much you love their father.

She builds his **C** _____ with her **W** _____ Proverbs 31:25, 26

She builds up his **M** _____ with her **L** _____ Proverbs 31:22

She elicits a wonderful **R** _____ from her husband's **I** _____
B _____ Proverbs 31:11 and 22

III. Priority Three – She Teachers Her Children Diligently:

Proverbs 31:11 and 28

Moms, your children's **T** _____ and **D** _____ in righteousness begin in the home with you as their first instructor!

You bring them to Cedar Grove perhaps three hours per week. The school has them seven hours per day. But you mothers have them 24/7!

Are you supplementing their Christian diet at church or is that all they are getting? The Bible presupposes Christian **I** _____ will take place in **Y** _____ **H** _____: Deuteronomy 6:6, 7

One of the reasons why Paul chose Timothy to be the pastor at Ephesus...

Moms you have the opportunity to shape the world by investing in those little lives the Lord has entrusted to you!

The story of a mother's love ...

Discussion Starter Questions for Home Groups

1. God created people in His image male and female. What are some aspects of the image of God we see through the men and some aspects of His image we see through women?
2. The fact is marriage was God's idea, male and female wedded together to be made one. What are the central messages God communicates about Himself and His kingdom through godly marriages?
3. Do you agree with the Scriptures that the early years of a child's life are formative? Why is it so important to the Lord that children be taught His Word?
4. Why do you think the world system we live in is so focused on the female anatomy? What is the message the world system sends about women? Why?
5. What things does a godly woman do to insure that her heart is beautiful before God?
6. Do you think most married women understand how important their opinions of and words to their husbands are to the man who loves them?
7. What are some ways you can think of to create a more meaningful time of Christian instruction and nurture in your home? Grandparents do you know how important your words of love and godliness are to your grandchildren?
8. Read together aloud Deuteronomy 4:9 – 14 and discuss insights you have from the text about your home being a place of instruction for your family.
9. Read together aloud Deuteronomy 6:1 – 9 and 20 – 25 and discuss insights you have from the text about your home as a place of instruction in godliness.
10. What are some things you learned from the positive aspects of the maternal images in your life? What are some lessons you learned from the adverse? How can you invest in teaching your children and/or grandchildren this year?