

May 11, 2014

Motherhood

By Dan Flourney

We live in a time when the role of wife and mother is being depreciated by many, both men and women. The ideal role being touted today is that of “career woman,” either with or without children in the picture. The daycare center now raises American children, for the most part. “Career motherhood” deserves a tribute, long overdue in our culture.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow has rightly pointed out that one of the last things Jesus did before His death was to make provision for his mother. Longfellow wrote:

Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought, - the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven.

Mothers who are pleasing to God take time to teach their children to love, to be faithful, to put spiritual things above material things and to value spiritual relationships above all others. The Scriptures spotlight that which is important for young women in God’s sight, charging older women “that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4). The mother of Moses taught her Son in only a few short years to love God above all and to set his mind on that heavenly home. She taught him so well that riches, fame, power and even a king’s palace could not sway him away from doing that which was right in the sight of God. He is reserved a place in the “Hall of Fame” of Hebrews 11:

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible [Hebrews 11:23-27].

As we repay tribute to godly mothers, we are also reminded that the moral degradation of society around us must be laid at the doorstep of polluted motherhood. As John A. Shedd has said: “Simply having children does not make a mother.” Mere motherhood is not a badge of goodness or greatness. Our hearts are saddened and our stomachs turned to read of a mother drowning her children, and another stabbing her two boys to death. These women are not worthy of the name “mother.” We also read of many mothers who are guilty of neglect, cruelty, and abuse. Thoughtless, flippant, selfish women are not transformed into saints the moment they become mothers. How many mothers live and die without any realization that one of life’s highest privileges has been theirs? Motherhood should be looked upon as a woman’s highest calling because:

The mother in her office holds the key of the soul; and she it is who stamps the coin of character and makes the being who would be savage, but for her gentle cares, a Christian man. Then crown her the queen of the world!

Mothers who give to society God-fearing, honest, industrious, honorable, law-abiding sons and daughters are deserving of our highest praise. As King Lemuel observed long ago: "A worthy woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10). How true! Godly mothers are at a premium in any age, because they are capable of producing the hope of tomorrow for all of us.