

## MOTHERHOOD is not for Wimps!



*"We are all monuments to the choices we make - some of our monuments happen to look like our children!"*

*"We all live in a culture that tends to be afraid of 'family', of marriage and of kids. Unfortunately these things all seem to take a beating. I remember, for example, when I got engaged (19 yrs. old) I received many warnings (jokes of course!) about being tied down to marriage. Then when I was 1<sup>st</sup> pregnant, I got all the warnings for the 2 year old stage. After that I heard all about those teenage years. Fortunately for me, I knew better, mainly because I had a mom who thought differently. She loved the fact that they had kids, and seemed to find the joy & potential of every stage along the way.*

*Now we have 5 grown children, their spouses and grandchildren! As I said earlier, we are not perfect – we've had our blow-ups & mess-ups and believe me, I remember them well... sigh. But somehow through it all, we've learnt to be 'family'. 'Family' by the way, means: relations or relationship. We are committed to our kids for life and we believe in them – we believe in their potential today and for the great things God has in store for them in the future. Does that mean that we don't see their faults? No, but **we deal with every situation with their potential in view**. The Bible says to train (start) a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it (Prov. 22:6). It is our ongoing job as parents to continue to do be their encouragers – in essence, their greatest fans!*

*I want to challenge you to think outside of your personal, home-based-box for the next while and to pray that God will help you see what He sees. He dearly loves you and your family and wants to give you insight on the next step to take. He wants to mend and heal broken homes, and He wants to enhance them. For just as a child does not see from our perspective when they are young, we cannot see from God's unless we allow relationship / family to be truly what it is intended to be. But that is the joy & the struggle of growing, for as God teaches us of Himself, we in turn can teach our children and anyone else that we have influence with.*

*This is my prayer for all of you; that God will show you what He sees from His perspective. He believes in what He has created and knows that when we operate with His character we can know the greatest joy, the largest blessings, and the fulfillment of all the dreams that He created us and our families for in the first place."*

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.  
2 Thessalonians 3:5

**Love** **1 Corinthians 13** (NIV) *love*, that is, *affection* or *benevolence*; specifically (plural) a love feast: - (feast of) charity ([*-ably*]), dear, love.

**EVERYTHING** must pivot from love. When love is the motivation, what we do is sustainable. When anything else is the core reason for why we do what we do, it will eventually fade away or crumble. Love is the heart and purpose of God and He has proven over thousands of years, that love never fails.

Love is patient - *suffereth long*: to be long spirited, that is, (objectively) forbearing or (subjectively) patient: - bear (suffer) long, be long suffering, have (long) patience, be patient, patiently endure.

Love is kind - to show oneself useful, that is, act benevolently: - be kind.

It does not envy - to have warmth of feeling for or against: - affect, covet (earnestly), (have) desire, (move with) envy, be jealous over, (be) zealous (-ly affect).

It does not boast - (braggart; perhaps by reduplication of the base of G4008); to boast: - vaunt itself.

It is not proud - in the primary sense of blowing; to inflate, that is, (figuratively) make proud (haughty): - puff up.

It is not rude - to be (that is, act) unbecoming: - behave self uncomely (unseemly).

It is not self-seeking - to seek (literally or figuratively); specifically (by Hebraism) to worship (God), or (in a bad sense) to plot (against life): - be (go) about, desire, endeavour, enquire (for), require, (X will) seek (after, for, means).

It is not easily angered - to sharpen alongside, that is, (figuratively) to exasperate: - easily provoke, stir.

It keeps no record of wrongs - (or 'thinketh no evil') to take an inventory, that is, estimate (literally or figuratively): - conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth - *delight* or *rejoice*: to sympathize in gladness, congratulate: - rejoice in (with).

It always protects - "bears all things" to roof over, that is, (figuratively) to cover with silence (endure patiently): - (for-) bear, suffer.

Always trusts - "believes" to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

Always hopes - to expect or confide: - (have, thing) hope (-d) (for), trust.

Always perseveres - to stay under (behind), that is, remain; figuratively to undergo, that is, bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere: - abide, endure, (take) patient (-ly), suffer, tarry behind.

Love never fails - never: not even at any time, that is, never at all: - neither at any time, never, nothing at any time. - fails: to drop away; specifically be driven out of one's course; figuratively to lose, become inefficient: - be cast, fail, fall (away, off), take none effect.

# Great moms:

Love MUCH!

- Are surrendered totally to God's will and cause
  - Romans 12:1
- Spend time regularly with their God – dwell.
  - James 4:8
- Have a worshipping spirit – heart of gratitude
  - John 4:23
- Pray without ceasing!
  - Be full of the Holy Spirit.
  - Look for God's perspective.
  - Luke 12:12 ...for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say (John 14:26)
- **LEAN** on their Father! They put their full trust in Him.
  - God has promised to guide and protect, to watch and listen. He has given us His name. (1 Kings 9:3)\*
- Know that their children are gifts from God.
  - by dwelling, we are reminded who the Father is, and who the creator and giver of life really is. Psalm 127:3

Dwell  
with  
God

Trust  
God

- 
- Know who they are in Christ ... not their kids (or spouse)
  - Are well fed
    - You cannot give what you don't have (Matthew 10:24)
  - Know their own boundaries
    - Learn how to say no
    - Recognize the season that you are in, and that it is a season
  - Allow God to search them and teach them
    - Psalm 139:23

Be @  
peace  
with  
yourself

- 
- Do to others ... all the time!
    - our task is never ending
    - we are here to serve their destiny.
  - Forgive 70 x 7
    - Teach them to say sorry and why. Matthew 18:21,22
  - Say sorry 70 x 7 (unlike Jesus...)
    - Well, if we need to forgive endlessly... the reverse is probably true. Besides it's 'do to others as if you were the others right?'
    - we don't have to be right all the time. Being 'right' is not always the 'best' way.
  - See the bigger picture and don't take offense in the moment.
    - Parenting is not accomplished in the primary years, even though much groundwork is laid.
    - Don't get stressed out about people's remarks or judgments. Hang up a sign that says: 'We're not finished yet!!'

Be  
humble  
micah 6:8

- 
- See from an eternal perspective, keeping their eyes on the goal ... the prize that awaits all of us in Heaven
  - Keep potential in view
    - Everything has eternal consequences. Make sure you are pruning properly and nurturing sufficiently ... Proverbs 22:6
  - **BELIEVE** the best
    - God has faith in us. We must have faith in our kids. They are designed and created for specific purposes. It is our duty to help guide them to what that may be.
    - Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139:16

Bring  
Heaven  
to  
earth

- **Speak life**
  - Proverbs 18:21
- **Give their kids Jesus**
  - Be generous with your family. Wear God well and give Him to them. Talk about Him, exhibit Him, and lead them to Him.
  - Matthew 10:8, Deuteronomy 6:5-7
  - make a routine of daily reading and praying together as a family
- **Let their kids give Jesus back**
  - let them give Jesus back to you. Learn from your children, they are close to the heart of God.
  - Let them pray out loud, discuss the Bible, and share their testimonies with you. They won't be so shy when they are older if they do it while they're young.
- **Expel darkness**
  - It's your house – keep it clean! (spiritually & hygienically)
  - Romans 13:12

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- **Don't lean. Lead.**
    - You are not their friend or sister. You are their mother. You have been given authority by God to lead them. They are required to honour you – give them a leader to honour. (Ephesians 6:1-3, Deuteronomy 5:16)
  - **Discipline properly**
    - Proverbs 13:24 – a refusal to correct is a refusal to love...
  - **Teach by example**
    - One of your primary roles is to teach. But always remember that you teach by example. They will reflect you.
    - Never stop growing. If you stop, you will run out of things to teach.
    - Share your personal journey (with wisdom of course). It will help them understand how to deal with life issues.
  - **Create routine**
    - We are "creatures of habit" and it makes sense that children need routine; it's a form of security for them. (even our weather has routine!)
  - **Are flexible**
    - As much as we need routine, we cannot run things so tight and rigid that all the fun of life is squeezed out. Live a little! (guys are usually better at this)
  - **Recognize the seasons**
    - Again, ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize the season you are in. They need different things at different times and we must always be searching to see where they are at. For example:
      - babies are totally dependant.
      - toddlers want to venture out, but are still very dependant ('I can do it myself')
      - teens need more space, but are lost without boundaries and affirmation
    - We are not owners of our children; we are stewards for our God. They are His children and He has given us the task to raise them up, disciple them, and release them. The 18 years or so that we spend investing our lives in them are like a slow release tablet from total dependency to seeing them moving out on their own – totally dependent on God.
  - **Listen**
    - STOP and let them talk
    - get on their level
  - **See their kids eyes**
    - It's true that our kids do not come with a service manual, but they do come with a window to their soul. Luke 11:34
    - Our eyes tell a lot about us. Constantly watch. Ask God for discernment. You will know many things just from their eyes ... the truth, when to back off, when to hug & encourage, when to laugh, when to be quiet, etc.

walk  
in  
your  
God-given  
authority

Ponder ...  
Luke 2:19