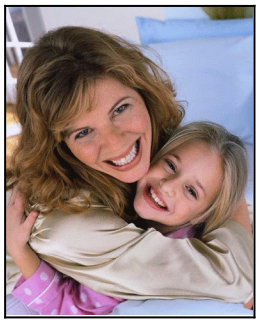
"FEATURES OF A GODLY MOTHER"



(Selected Scriptures)

Mother's Day, May 9, 2004

If God were to paint a picture of a Godly mother, what would she look like?

God's portrait of a Godly mother would include the following features:

I. Loving EYES (Proverbs 4:3)

II. A Scripture-filled MOUTH (Proverbs 31:26)

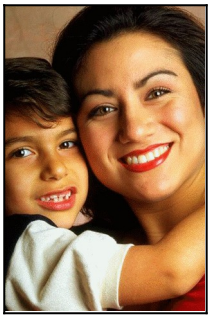
III. A Kind TONGUE (Proverbs 31:26)

IV. Edifying HANDS (Proverbs 14:1; 31:13)

V. A Strong BACK and Strong ARMS (Proverbs 31:17)

VI. Bent KNEES (Example of Hannah - I Samuel 1:27)

VII. A Gentle SPIRIT (I Peter 3:3-4)



VIII. Modest DRESS (I Timothy 2:9)

IX. Lengthy HAIR (I Corinthians 11:15)

"FEATURES OF A GODLY MOTHER"

Basically, a Godly Mother will reveal Jesus Christ in her attitude & actions and in her

(Selected Scriptures)

Mother's Day, May 9, 2004

INTRODUCTION:

Some time ago in the dark, secret chamber of your mother's womb, you were conceived. What started as a minute living embryo quickly developed into a fully-formed baby as you extracted from your mother every nutrient you needed for rapid growth.

For nine months she ate for two, endured morning sickness, and put up with cramps and discomfort, tossing and turning in bed trying to find a comfortable way to sleep.

On occasion a contraction was felt (sometimes mild, other ones stronger) -- a reminder of the trauma to come in the future. Then the day came when your mother would endure the most physical painful experience she has perhaps ever had or would have.

Your mother was rushed to a hospital or perhaps had a mid-wife to assist her as she experienced the inescapable labor pains of child birth.

After a time of intense agony, sweat, and tears -- there you were. What love, amazement, and anticipation was in your mother's eyes as she pulled you to her breast, comforted you, and continued giving of herself to meet your needs.

She for several years would feed you, change your diapers, clothe you, discipline you, teach you and do innumerable things to prepare you for a life of independence and maturity.

No doubt there were many times when she cared for you during sickness, comforted you during fears and anxiety, encouraged you to do right, and provided for your needs and many of your wants.

She perhaps spent many sleepless nights concerned for you; she was so proud of you as you received recognition for great achievements at school. She literally gave perhaps 1/4 to 1/3 of her life all for you.

We could go on and on with details of the attention she gave you during those formative years. She poured out much for you.

If she knew Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, she prayed for you, taught you God's Word and set a Christian example for you to follow.

Such women are hard to find today.

"There is nothing easy about good mothering. It can be backbreaking, heart wrenching, and anxiety producing. And that's just the morning." A good mom:

- Never bakes biscuits from a cardboard tube that goes "pow!"
- Appears instantly whenever any family member yells, "Mom!"
- Knows exactly which garment each child wants to wear every day and has it washed and hung in the closet.
- Is always home when you call.
- Uses coupons to save at least $25 every time she buys groceries.
- Never raises her voice.
- Attends every T-ball and soccer game

Let France have good mothers, and she will have good sons.
Napoleon Bonaparte

The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother.
Napoleon Bonaparte

If we want to change our nation, begin by enlisting the mothers.
Sir Winston Churchill

All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.
Abraham Lincoln

Virtues are learned at Mother's knee--vices at some other joint.

The greatest teacher I ever had was my mother.
George Washington

Any mother could perform the jobs of several traffic-controllers with ease.
Lisa Alther

Mothers understand what children do not say.
Jewish proverb

Note: The example of Susanna Wesley

If God were to paint a picture of a Godly mother, what would she look like?

God's portrait of a Godly mother would include the following features:

I. Loving <u>EYES</u> (Proverbs 4:3)

Proverbs 4:3
For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

After David's son through Bathsheba died, she had another son named Solomon.

Solomon was a special treasure to Bathsheba.

The adoring eyes reflect the unseen loving <u>heart</u> that a mother has for her children.

Prov. 15:30 - *"The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart."*

A Godly mother prioritizes her family (not a job, career, pursuit of fame and fortune).
She is extremely loyal, willing to make any sacrifice for her children's well-being (Example: Solomon's wisdom and the dead baby -- I Ki. 3:16-28).

She finds pleasure in meeting her family's needs.

It isn't gold and diamonds that cause the eyes of a loving mother to glisten. It is the special, God-given treasure of her children.

In our day of women's lib, abortion, and working mothers, children are neglected, abandoned, or murdered!

God said mothers would be *"without natural affection"* (II Tim. 3:3) in the Last Days. Don't let this Satanic mind set cause you to stop adoring your children. Don't lose sight of the wonder and joy that children are! Let that glow you had as you cradled them at birth continue!

Because her family is her life, she is deeply hurt if any of the children do not turn out right (*"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."* Prov. 10:1).

II. A Scripture-filled MOUTH (Proverbs 31:26)

Proverbs 31:26
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

The children of a Godly mother have the privilege of growing up and hearing Bible stories told to them; Bible principles taught as incidents each day provide an illustration for God's Word to come alive and be practical.

Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are hummed, whistled, and sung by this mother, as she is filled with the Spirit and imparts to her children the joy and peace of the Christian life.

A. She teaches her children God's Word

Prov. 1:8 - *"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."*

Prov. 6:20 - *"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother."*

Prov. 31:1 - *"The words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."*

II Tim. 1:5 - *"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."*

II Tim. 3:14-15 - *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

B. She disciplined and reproves her children God's way

Prov. 29:15 - *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."*

III. A Kind <u>TONGUE</u> (Proverbs 31:26)

Proverbs 31:26
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Nothing is as vicious and repulsive as a woman whose tongue is out of control.

Prov. 21:9, 19 - *"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. . . . It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman."*

Prov. 27:15 - *"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike."*

She thinks before she speaks.

If it won't build up others, she does not utter it!

Her words are not vain (empty, meaningless chatter), but they are practical. They meet needs. They do something beneficial.

Eph. 4:29 - *"Let no corrupt communication ... good to the use of edifying..."*

Single men: Beware of women who can't control their tongue!

"Law" = Torah - <u>Instruction</u>

As a mother, she instructs her children in a pleasant way, in a loving way, in a gracious way.

"Kindness" = devoted love; she is not the kind of woman where you listen in suspense, wondering what will come out of her mouth.

She faithfully speaks words that are kind, gentle, comforting, soothing. Her speech is graceful, merciful, and compassionate.

IV. Edifying <u>HANDS</u> (Proverbs 14:1; 31:13)

Proverbs 14:1
Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

Proverbs 31:13
She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

Just as her tongue edifies those who hear it, her hands edify the family for all to see it!

Her hands build up her home, not tear it down.

How do one's hands tear down a family?

--Through laziness, inactivity, and neglect

How can your hands edify your family?

--Through serving them by keeping a well-managed home. Many tear down their house without realizing what they are doing!

Whether you see it or not, you are either building your family up or tearing it down!

The quickest way to tear down a family is to rip it apart by insubordination to your husband's authority and by sharp cutting remarks or actions.

This woman's fingernails may not be polished; they may be cracked or cut short; perhaps soils ed at times. But they are beautiful before God's eyes!

Her hands may have lost some of the youthful softness but they are precious to the children they tend.

V. A Strong BACK and Strong ARMS (Proverbs 31:17)

Proverbs 31:17
She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

She does not get her strength from "pumping iron," but from "pumping" laundry, mopping floors, carrying children, pushing the vacuum, moving furniture, etc.

VI. Bent KNEES (Example of Hannah - I Samuel 1:27)

1 Samuel 1:27
For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

A Godly mother's knees may be hard not soft, calloused not smooth. But they reflect a mother who gave up sleep and self-pleasure to prioritize prayer for her family.

One of the greatest things a mother can do for her husband or kids is to fervently pray for them.

VII. A Gentle SPIRIT (I Peter 3:3-4)

1 Peter 3:3-4
Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; [4] But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

"Meek" = gentle (not hard or abrasive)

"Quiet" = tranquil (not clamorous or loud)

Not many things are said to be "precious" or of "great price" to God! If God values such, it must be good!

It is so refreshing to meet women with such sweet, Holy Spirit-produced personalities. And yet so rare!

So many women today are obnoxious, belligerent, snobbish, unapproachable, harsh, brassy, etc.

VIII. Modest DRESS (I Timothy 2:9)

1 Tim. 2:9
In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

IX. Lengthy HAIR (I Corinthians 11:15)

1 Cor. 11:15
But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Long hair is a sign of submission to the headship of the man.

It is no accident that so many of today's women's hair styles are short, butchered and hacked up. It is a reflection of the insubordinate, rebellious, independent spirit that prevails in western culture.

"Unisex" (one sex with no male/female distinctions) is the hair stylist's catchword.

CONCLUSION:

Basically, a Godly Mother will resemble Jesus Christ in her attitude & actions and in her character & conduct.

She will resemble Christ's transferable attributes because she is filled with His Holy Spirit.

If you want to be a godly mother, you cannot do it in the flesh, by your independent effort and planning. It must be God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

By the power of the flesh (the old nature), we are sure to fail (Rom. 7:18, 19). Without Christ's power, we *"can do nothing"* of any real, lasting, spiritual significance (Jn. 15:5).

Because the task is great and the time is short, mothers and fathers must parent under the control of the Holy Spirit. *"Be filled with the Spirit."* (Eph. 5:18)

Nine fruits of being Spirit-filled (Gal. 5:22)

1. "Love" - Agapao - a love that comes only from God.
   *An unconditional decision to meet needs.
   A parent filled with the Spirit has the power to be:
   --unselfish
   --give, not seek to get

2. "Joy" -

A Spirit-filled parent can bring a jubilant Spirit into the home.

Jesus
Others
You

The Spirit can give joy even in the midst of trials (Jms. 1:2ff).

A Godly mother will have Joy when her children walk in Truth (3 John 1:4)

Lazy and Undisciplined Children bring a mother to shame (Prov.10:5; Prov.29:15)

3. "Peace" -
   A Spirit-filled parent can bring a calmness into the home (in a society of turmoil and confusion).
   Worrying parents produce insecure children.
   Remember Phil. 4:7.

4. "Patience" -
   A cardinal virtue of Motherhood!
   --Patience not to blow up
   --Patience not to give up
   What do messy diapers, spilled milk, and disobedient children all have in common? They are all a test of your patience.

5. "Gentleness" -
   Lit. kindness.
   This describes a thoughtful Mom or Dad, who cares for his/her family.
   Their best interest is in mind.

6. "Goodness" -
   The parent who possesses this virtue does what is right, whether he/she feels like it or not.

7. "Faith" -
   EX: Hannah - I Sam. 1:9-18, 24-28. Hannah had faith to trust her son over to God.
   EX: Lois and Eunice (II Tim. 1:5), who passed their unhypocritical faith to Timothy.
   A parent who is filled with the Spirit sees beyond the temporal (this world).

8. "Meekness" -
   A gentleness, a soft manner of dealing with people.
   A Dad or Mom filled with the Spirit is not harsh.

9. "Self-control" -
   You have the ability to say NO to yourself.
   A Parent filled with the Spirit is not a slave to TV, food, pleasure, etc.

Prov. 12:4 - *"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones."*

Prov. 31:28 - *"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."*