Priorities of an Honorable Mother

Selected Scriptures

5/9/2021

Introduction: Matthew 19:19 - *"Honor thy. . . mother"*

- ***Every Christian Mother needs to know her God-assigned Priorities and Faithfully Fulfill them!***

4 Key Priorities of an Honorable Mother:

I. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Relationship with God</u>
(Her <u>Lord</u> is her # 1 <u>Consecration</u>) (*Proverbs 31:10* ; *Proverbs 31:30)*

II. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Husband's Fulfillment & Success</u>
(Her <u>Husband</u> is her # 1 <u>Commitment</u>) *(Genesis 2:18 & 20; I Cor. 11:8-9; Titus 2:4-5)*

III. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Domestic Responsibilities</u>
(Her <u>Home</u> is her # 1 <u>Career</u>) *(Titus 2:5c; I Tim. 5:14)*

IV. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Children's Needs</u>
(Her <u>Children</u> are her # 1 <u>Concern</u>)

A. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Spiritual</u> Needs
Proverbs 31:26; 1:8; 6:20; 31:1 ; 2 Timothy 1:5 ; 3:14-15

B. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Physical</u> Needs

C. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Emotional</u> Needs **-** *Titus 2:4*

D. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Training & Discipline</u> Needs
Proverbs 29:15

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Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

II. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Husband's Fulfillment & Success</u>
(Her <u>Husband</u> is her # 1 <u>Commitment</u>)

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him (Genesis 2:18)
For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. (1 Corinthians 11:8-9)
That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:4-5)

III. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Domestic Responsibilities</u>
(Her <u>Home</u> is her # 1 <u>Career</u>)

"…teach the young women to be . . . keepers at home" (Titus 2:5)
I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. (1 Timothy 5:14)

IV. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Children's Needs</u>
(Her <u>Children</u> are her # 1 <u>Concern</u>)

A. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Spiritual</u> Needs

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
She looketh well to the ways of her household (Proverbs 31:26-27)
My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: (Proverbs 1:8)
My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: (Proverbs 6:20)
The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. (Proverbs 31:1)
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. (2 Timothy 1:5)
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.(2 Timothy 3:14-15)

B. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Physical</u> Needs

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. (Proverbs 31:21)
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; (Proverbs 31:27-28)

C. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Emotional</u> Needs -

"That they may teach the young women to love *<u>(philoteknos)</u>* their children" (Titus 2:4)

D. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Training & Discipline</u> Needs

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

Priorities of an Honorable Mother

Selected Scriptures

5/9/2021

Introduction: Happy Mother's Day!

Matthew 19:19 - *"Honor thy. . . mother"*

Honor - to view as very valuable or precious; to respect as having great worth. To view as important; worthy of glory and respect).

There is a difference between a "mother" and an "honorable mother"

While in no way wanting to minimize motherhood, I must remind you that almost any adult female can be a mother. It is no major feat for a woman to become pregnant and bare a child (not withstanding all of the discomfort, nausea, and labor pains associated with delivering the child). Even out of wedlock, women become pregnant and have children. In our warped & twisted society it is increasingly being viewed as fashionable for girls to have children out of wedlock. And although this situation is totally contrary to God's ideal plan for successful homes and successful children, we must express gratitude to the young lady who will despite her failures of the past to seek to honorably love, and train, and rear those children. All mothers should be respected and honored for their "position's sake"; Children should simply honor mom because she is mom.

While it is true that many women of the "world" today prioritize their own interests; their own pursuits; their own pleasure; their own vanity; their own leisure etc. above the interests of their children, there are many who unselfishly seek to be faithful to doing what is right and what is best for their children.

Many in this room are trying to do their best in regards to their family. They know the tremendous power that is in their hands to shape and mold the generation to come. They take seriously the privilege to tend to their home and their children. To their credit, they desire to have the virtues that would make them a mother worthy of honor? However, perhaps due to ignorance as to their role as mothers, now-a-days very few have the qualities that God would esteem as being of utmost importance. Very few mothers know their God-assigned priorities and fulfill them with faithfulness.

However, if you let Him, God can show you what matters most in regards to mothering. You can be all that God wants you to be. You can be one He would view as a mother worthy of honor.

Today more than ever, we need mothers with right priorities!

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

- ***Every Christian Mother needs to know her God-assigned Priorities and Faithfully Fulfill them!***

4 Key Priorities of an Honorable Mother:

I. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her Relationship with God
(Her Lord is her # 1 Consecration)

Proverbs 31:10-31 literally describes the ABC's of a woman of excellence. The Hebrew paints a portrait of a virtuous woman by means of an acrostic, using all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Each verse begins with a successive Hebrew letter (like Ps. 119), from (aleph) to (taw).

"The whole passage is the hallowing of domestic life, a directory for wives and mothers, a beautiful ideal of how noble a thing a busy mother's life may be, an exhibition to young men of what they should seek, and a reminder for what younger girls should aim" (cited from "The Challenge" - Robert D. Foster, p. 31)

Proverbs 31:10
Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

"Virtue" = to have moral strength, to be of good quality in every aspect, to have noble and upright character.

Money can't buy virtue!

Virtue comes from God.

Ruth 3:11 - Boaz testified of Ruth: "For all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman."

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

A virtuous woman is a more precious possession than all earthly things which are valuable. She is a rare fortune!

Proverbs 31:30 - Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

No one is spiritually great with people who is not spiritually close to God.

Abide in Him Moms, and you will bear much good fruit in your children's lives!

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Illust. Susanna Wesley

II. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Husband's Fulfillment & Success</u>
(Her <u>Husband</u> is her # 1 <u>Commitment</u>)

Genesis 2 - "I will make him an help meet <u>for</u> him" - (v. 18) . . . **"an help meet <u>for</u> him"** (v. 20).
In this account of God's creation of woman, nothing is said of her being a "chiild bearer," although she was designed to give birth to children. All of the emphasis is on her being Adam's partner and helper. Wives, your first and foremost responsibility is to your husband (and vice versa).

I Cor. 11:8-9 - For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

"The woman for the man" - God didn't create Adam for Eve, rather He created Eve for Adam, to be his *"help meet"* (completer or suitable helper).

Every wife needs to realize that she does not exist for her own self; she exists for the benefit of the man God gave to her.

You were not made for your career -- you were made for your husband. You were not made for your children (although God did made you sot hat you would bear and care for them) -- you were made for your husband.

If you help him to be all that God wants him to be, you will fulfill the purpose for which you were made, and you will finally find joy in life.

See: Titus 2:4-5

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:4-5)

Affection for her husband
The phrase: "to love their husbands" is actually one word in the Greek - "Husband-loving" ("philandrous").
The word translated "love" is phileo, which describes an emotional, feeling love; or an <u>affection</u>.
Women are not the only ones starving for affection any more. Today, more than ever, <u>men</u> are.
God graciously created woman with a tender heart.
Women, being more emotional by nature than men, should find this type of love to be <u>easier</u> to fulfill than men do. (Men are commanded to have "agape" love for their wives - Eph. 5:25).

However, God says in the last days, people would be "without natural affection" ("a-storgoi" - meaning family love, loyalty).

Beware of "Child-Centered" Parenting.

How will being affectionate toward your husband make you a good <u>mother</u>?

a. It will provide <u>security</u> for your children
(they will not live in fear that the marriage is dissolving).

b. It will remove <u>selfishness</u> from your children
(by being affectionate toward your husband, you are teaching your children that they are not the only ones who get hugs and kisses. You are showing them that the world does not revolve around them. NOTE: The command to love husbands comes <u>before</u> children).

c. It will set an <u>example</u> for your children to follow.
(You will be the kind of woman your boys will gravitate toward when dating. You will be the kind of woman your girls will <u>pattern</u> their lives after.)

III. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her <u>Domestic Responsibilities</u>
(Her <u>Home</u> is her # 1 <u>Career</u>)

Titus 2:5c
"…teach the young women to be . . . keepers at home" (Titus 2:5)

"Keepers at home" = home worker

"Oikourgous" - from "oikos" - home
"ergon" - work

I Tim. 5:14 - "I will therefore, that the younger women marry, bear children, <u>guide the house</u>, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

"In a Jewish household, the married woman had to grind flour, bake, launder, cook, nurse children, make the beds, spin wool, keep the house, and was also responsible for hospitality and the care of guests." (Reinecker, p. 654).

The #1 task for a mom at home is to instruct her children in the Word of God.
Note the example of Eunice - Timothy's mother (SEE: Acts 16:1; II Tim. 1:5, 3:14, 15).
The problems of working women: Working women are a prime cause for:

1) Inflation
2) Child delinquency
3) Extra-marital affairs

Working at home <u>pays best</u>!

At home, you will find:

a.	The best <u>working conditions</u> -	no cursing; no womanizers.
b.	The best <u>salary</u> -	a contented, secure, stable family
c.	The best <u>fringe benefits</u> -	peace of mind, grateful children, a grateful husband
d.	The best <u>retirement plan</u> -	the approval of God - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A godly woman makes her home a haven, a refuge, a shelter --a wonderful place to come home to.

IV. An Honorable Mother Prioritizes Her Children's Needs
(Her Children are her # 1 Concern)

A. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's Spiritual Needs

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.

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."

2 Timothy 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.

2 Timothy 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.

What is evident here is that Timothy caught on to a belief system that he saw in his mom and grandmother. What they had was so real, so attractive, so evident, that it influenced Timothy's faith. Paul evidently led Lois and Eunice to saving faith in Christ as Messiah, and therefore he could also claim a bit of responsibility for Timothy's faith. Hence, he identified Timothy as a "dearly beloved son" in the faith (II Tim. 1:2).

Due to the influence of a Godly mother and grandmother, Timothy would become saved, would become a mighty preacher, and would be so influential himself that two books of God's Holy Word would be named after him!

"What Matters"

One hundred years from now,
It will not matter
What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much I had in my bank account,
Nor what my clothes looked like.

But the world may be a little
Better because
I was important in the life
Of a child.

Author unknown

An honorable mother:
Teaches her children the Holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:14-15)
(Her Lips flow with God's Word)

With the prospect of future apostasy (v. 1-13) on the horizon, Paul in this context gives Timothy some solid encouragement to remain faithful.

The discipleship (*mathetes)* training Timothy acquired as a boy would serve as a strong deterrent to his giving in to apostasy.

She teaches her children God's Word early (when they are very young)

> **"From a child" =** lit. from a babe.
>
> "Jewish children were taught to memorize passages from the Old Testament as soon as they could speak" (Hiebert, p. 97).
>
> "God-designed parental roles cannot be easily replaced or eliminated. At home and in church, we should realize that teaching small children is both

an opportunity and a responsibility. Jesus wanted little children to come to him (Mt. 19:13-15). Like Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, do your part in leading children to Christ." Life Applic. Bible Comm., p. 217

Many animals mature to adulthood in two years or less, but a child requires 18 years! Why the difference? Children, unlike animals, have a spiritual nature which requires the inculcation of moral truth. God intends for Christian parents not to just "raise" their children by feeding, clothing, and protecting them, but to "train the soul" of the child so as to produce an inner character that agrees with God's standards.

Prov. 22:6 - ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*** This is an axiomatic, eternal principle and promise from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to begin, or initiate a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

If we get our children accustomed to what is right, they won't depart!
"The way" = the proper road
"Old" = mature
"It" = the way (road) we trained them on

"Parents are commanded by God to initiate or start their child in a certain direction. He is not to be allowed to follow the path his nature would take him, but he is to be set on a new path. Dedication is not just a one-time initiation, but incorporates the entire training process. The result of the training is for this new way to become the child's own way of life. When this training transpires, the child will not leave the path even as he grows older and becomes an adult. . . Parents are not to wait for a child to choose his own way of life, but are to place him on the right path in early childhood. . . Parents must act as the external control over a child while he is developing his own internal controls. The parents' role is not to remain as the child's control for the rest of his life, but gradually to work themselves out of this job as early as possible." (Fugate, p. 65-66)

Children are most moldable when they are young
(Prov. 22:6 - *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it")*

Our children are like arrows (Ps. 127:4) -- they must be pointed and launched in the right direction.

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal"
(Eadie, p. 262).

This teaching should include:

1. Formal teaching in a structured situation (family devotions)

2. Informal training through normal life situations

3. Exemplary training through your life as a model

The Primary way in which a Godly Mother attends to her child's needs is through her prayers for them:

<u>HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S NEEDS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE</u>
By Mrs. John Marshall

1. That they will know Christ as Savior early in life. Ps. 63:1; 1 Tim. 3:15
2. That they will have a correct fear of God. Prov. 1:7
3. That they will not hate instruction but will heed rebuke. Prov. 15:32
4. That they will have hatred of sin (Ps. 97:10) and hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt. 5:6).
5. That they will be caught when guilty. Ps. 119:71
6. That they will be protected from the evil one in each area of their lives: spiritual, mental, emotional, physical. John 17:15
7. That they will have a responsible attitude in all their inter-personal relationships. Dan. 6:3
8. That they will respect those in authority over them. Rom. 13:1
9. That they will desire the right kind of friends and be protected from the wrong friends. Prov. 1:10-11
10. That they will be kept from the wrong mate and saved for the right one. 2 Cor. 6:14-17
11. That they, as well as those they marry, will be kept pure until marriage. 1 Cor. 6:18-20
12. That they will learn to totally submit to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances. James 4:7
13. That they will be single-hearted to be sold out to Christ. Rom. 12:1-2
14. That they will be hedged in so that they cannot find their way to wrong people or wrong places and that the wrong people cannot find their way to them. Hos. 2:6

B. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Physical</u> Needs

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. (Proverbs 31:21)
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; (Proverbs 31:27-28)

She is always there when the baby cries;
She is always there to wipe the teary eyes;
She is close at hand when the child falls;
Her ear is always attentive when the child calls.
(Vincent Sawyer)

C. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Emotional</u> Needs

Titus 2:4
That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love (philoteknos) their children…

Affection for her children

"To love their children" = lit. "children-loving" affectionate toward their children).

The same affection that is shown to the husband must be shown to the children. Children need affection!

--Affection brings comfort - it soothes
--Affection brings a calmness - It relaxes tension in the home
--Affection brings a cure - It eases pain
--Affection brings a cause to do right - Mother's affection is a great motivating factor in a child's life.

A woman determines the emotional climate of her home.

"Compassion, empathy, and gentleness communicate the love of God better than the best written word" ("Kindred Spirit," p. 22).

One woman stressed the importance of a mother's love this way: "If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, I am a housekeeper, not a homemaker. If I only have time for waxing and polishing, my children learn of cleanliness, not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on the newly cleaned window. Love wipes up the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother, I took glory in my house of perfection, but now I glory in God's perfection of my child." ("Family Life," May, 1982, cited in "Kindred Spirit").

God does not measure a woman's success by how much money she contributes to the family's income, nor by how spotless she keeps her house; but God measures success by how much she loves her husband and children -- This makes a real "home"!

Having a pretty house does not necessarily mean you have a home. *"A young soldier and his family were living in a hotel near a military base where he was stationed. One day, his little girl was playing in the lobby when a lady tactlessly commented to her, "Isn't it a shame you don't have a home?" Without hesitating, the little girl responded, "Oh, we do," she said, "We just don't have a house to put it in."* ("Kindred Spirit", p. 23).

"To My Grown-Up Son"

My hands were busy through the day,
I didn't have much time to play
the little games you asked me to,
I didn't have much time for you.
I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook
but when you'd bring your picture book
and ask me please to share your fun,
I'd say, "A little later, Son."
I'd tuck you in all safe at night
And hear your prayers, turn out the light,
Then tiptoe softly to the door.
I wish I'd stayed a minute more,
For life is short and years rush past,
A little boy grows up so fast.
No longer is he at your side,
His precious secrets to confide.
The picture books are put away,
There are no children's games to play,
No good-night kiss, no prayers to hear,
My hands once busy, now lie still.
The days are long and hard to fill,
I wish I might go back and do
The little things you asked me to.

D. An Honorable Mother Attends to her Children's <u>Training & Discipline</u> Needs

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

1. "The Rod"

The PATTERN of Discipline is our HEAVENLY FATHER
"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." (Proverbs 3:11,12)

"He that spareth (withholds) his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24)

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare (hold back) for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18)

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15)

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15)

"Withhold not correction from the child: for is thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." (Proverbs 23:14)

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." (Proverbs 29:17)

2. "And Reproof"

Discipline is more than spanking.

There are two parts to discipline (Prov. 29:15): "The Rod and Reproof" --
physical chastisement (negative)
verbal instruction (positive)

Ephesians 6:4 - "Admonition" = lit. "to put into the mind" (not merely factual information, but right attitudes and principles of behavior)
The rod without reproof will not be effective to properly teach your children. This is sure to "provoke them to wrath" (Eph.6:3)

Conclusion:

In our selfish culture, with ERA, women's lib, etc., and the "I gotta be me" attitude - it takes a real woman of character to stand up against our society's philosophy.

The world may change, but God's plan for wives/mothers does not!

When you see an unusual son, nine times out of ten, you will discover an unusual mother. George Washington had a pious and devoted mother; the mother of Nero was a murderess. (Foster, p. 31)

Consider Hannah. No wonder she reared a son who had such character as Samuel.

Remember Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, who passed on to her son unhypocritical (sincere) faith (II Tim. 1:5).

Think about Susannah Wesley, who raised nineteen children to love and fear God - spending an hour each week with each one individually to love and train them.

The immortal tribute to motherhood is true: "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world" (W.R. Wallace).

When it comes to honorable mothers, it's all about PRIORITIES!