



The Biblically-Healthy Household Pt 2: The Dignity of Motherhood

May 10, 2020

☐ Happy Mother's Day Ladies! ☐

Text: Matthew 7:24-27

From Part 1, where we discussed that the biblically-healthy household is “Built on the Rock of Christ:”

Proposition 1: Every part of our lives is stronger and healthier when built on the Rock of Christ
Proposition 2: Family is no different. No matter how a household looks on the outside, or what it achieves from a worldly perspective, true biblical health can only be found in Jesus!

This is also true on of our view of women!

For the last 10 years or so, our church has been shouting from the rooftops the good and Godly things Scripture has to say about womanhood and motherhood. I submit that when both men's and women's views of women and mothers are built on the Rock of God's Word, women flourish! Each Mother's Day, we attempt to paint this wonderful picture. It goes something like this...

I submit to you that woman, especially the Christian woman, is:

1. **Beautiful** in her role as a daughter of Christ, reflecting our Lord's tenderness and care, His patience and tenacity, His submission to and love for His Father.
2. **Beautiful** in her role as an unmarried servant of the Kingdom, making the mission of her family and the church her priority until she weds.
3. **Beautiful** in her role as wife and mother, taking up her role in the picture of Christ and His church (Eph 5), exalted in her role as the submitted bride.
4. **Beautiful** in her role as a mentor and discipler of her children, pouring consistently and exhaustingly into her progeny day after day, crying aloud for them in the secret place as only a mother can.
5. **Beautiful** when she models modesty, rejecting the examples of the world and witnessing to all of creation the Christian virtues of propriety, meekness, and humility. —McLeod, RTHC

As it relates to mothers, here is a quote I've been reading for years:

“Only women can be mothers. Have we forgotten this fundamental? Only a woman can carry in her body an eternal being which bears the very image of God. Only she is the recipient of the miracle of life. Only a woman can conceive and nurture this life using her own flesh and blood, and then deliver a living soul into the world. God has bestowed upon her alone a genuine miracle — the creation of life, and the fusing of an eternal soul with mortal flesh. This fact alone establishes the glory of motherhood.

This is one reason why the office of wife and mother is (such a high calling). This is the reason why nations that fear the Lord esteem and protect mothers. They glory in the distinctions

between men and women, and attempt to build cultures in which motherhood is honored and protected.” —NCFIC Article

“The world needs Christ loving, husband helping, home making, dominion taking, kingdom making women. The Bible not only teaches women to be possessors of gentle and quiet spirits, it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous and strong and distinctively feminine. They are supremely secure and are not frightened by any fear. They are brimming with confidence in the future and are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They are happy because they fear the Lord and love His ways. Their worth is far above rubies, and they bring gain to their households. They are girded with strength and their clothing is of fine linen. The law of kindness is upon their lips. They do their husbands good all the days of their lives. They are “pillars sculptured in palace style” (Ps 144:12) with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place.” - Scott Brown

But why? Why do we say the same things over and over again?

Because we have been and are in the midst of one of the most gender and role confusing times in the history of the the church IMHO! This is especially true as it relates to womanhood and motherhood. Essentially everything the Bible says about women and mothers has, if not outright been overthrown, then certainly been questioned, critiqued, challenged, as well as misrepresented, misunderstood, and sometimes even mocked!

This is so sad! Again, why is it sad?

The Dignity of Motherhood

Because the biblical testimony concerning womanhood and motherhood is honorable, her role is necessary, and her office, to the point today, is **dignified**.

From the Webster 1828 Dictionary: **Dignity** is...

- *True honor; nobleness or elevation of mind, consisting in a high sense of propriety, truth and justice, with an abhorrence of mean and sinful actions; opposed to meanness. In this sense, we speak of the dignity of mind, and dignity of sentiments. This dignity is based on moral rectitude; all vice is incompatible with true dignity of mind.*
- *Elevation of deportment; as dignity of manners or behavior.*
- *An elevated office, civil or ecclesiastical, giving*

To say then that womanhood and motherhood is *dignified, particularly in Scripture*, is to speak to the honor of its high office; it is to describe its moral purity and rightness before God; it is to elevate in the mind of the hearer its bearing, worth and value!

This is what we have lost. There was a time when women understood their innate value both before the LORD and men. There was a time when men gave preferential treatment to women because...they were women! Their tenderness, beauty, and exalted status as “the weaker vessel” demanded a certain propriety, care, and honor!

The Biblically-Healthy Household upholds this Dignity in at least seven ways. It:

1. Understands her creation and purpose.

- I'm convinced a biblically-healthy household upholds the dignity of all the women and girls in that household.
- In such a home, it is clearly understood that women were also made in God's image:

Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them. **28** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- And made for a wonderful purpose!

Genesis 2:18 (KJV) *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 2:21-23 (KJV) *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; **22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. **23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

- So from the first book of the Bible, we see that woman was created in the image of God. She is not less than man; she is also a full image-bearer.
- The NT gives more clarity here:

1 Corinthians 11:8-12 (NLT) *For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man. **9** And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man. **10** For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority. **11** But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women. **12** For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.*

- We also see that she was designed with a purpose. She was:
 - Made for man (Gen 2:18)
 - Made from man (Gen 2:21)
 - Brought to man (Gen 2:22)
 - Named by man (Gen 2:23, 3:21)

Genesis 3:20 (KJV) *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

- “Eve” in Hebrew is “chavvâh.” It means “lifegiver!” How can this be bad? Wow!

2. Honors her **office.**

- So the biblically-healthy family honors her office...her God-appointed station!
- Everyone in the household is taught and begins to eventually understand the gift that is womanhood and motherhood.
- Adam was given a dominion mandate that can only be accomplished with the help of his helper!
- Woman was designed to help. She was created to bear children and be a comfort. She both beautifies and is foundational: she is a “corner stone, polished *after* the similitude of a palace.” (Ps 144:12)
- In the NT, we see that she is also a picture of the church!

Ephesians 5:25 (KJV) *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Ephesians 5:31-32 (KJV) *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

- As such, she holds a high and holy office and sanctified station! She is the *ishshâh*; the *chavvâh*. She images the church. She is a helper fit. She is mother and grandmother, aunt and sister.

3. Treats her **gently.**

- The biblically-healthy household, understanding her design and her office, treats her with dignity and with honor.
- When we as a society had a bit more sense, we used to train boys in “chivalrous” behavior and girls to humbly receive such treatment. That is no longer the case.

Proverbs 30:11 (KJV) *There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.*

- Now in our genderless/transgender foolishness, men often act like women and women like men. This should not be!
- Think with me: how did and does our LORD treat His church? He gave Himself for her, blesses her, and intercedes for her! She is His bride!
- In fact, husbands are commanded, under the pain of not having their prayers heard, to treat their wives gently:

1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

- I suggest getting back to some old-school ways, speaking kindly and tenderly to women and using proper honorifics: "Mother," "Grandmother," "Sister," "Ma'am," etc.
- Of course today you might be called patronizing, condescending or misogynistic (or be cussed out!) by holding open the door and saying "ma'am," but Scripture says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." **James 4:17 (KJV)**
- Do (and train your household in) what is right anyway!

4. Receives her **teaching**.

- Because she is a full image bearer and a joint-heir in Christ, God will powerfully gift many of the women in your life.

Acts 2:17 (KJV) *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

Proverbs 1:8-9 (KJV) *My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*

Proverbs 30:17 (KJV) *The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.*

- A biblically-healthy household is open to hear her! Like Debra or Huldah, or Lois and Eunice, God uses women to powerfully bless His people with knowledge and wisdom.
- The NT prohibition against women being pastors and elders and having authority over men (1 Tim 2:11-14; 1 Cor 14:34-35) does not mean women do not have a voice. On the contrary, we need her teaching! We need mothers and spiritual mothers speaking into our lives!

5. Protects her from **harm**.

- As the biblically-healthy household begins to understand the gift that is womanhood and motherhood, a natural, and I believe divine sense of protectiveness arises! In the context of protecting women, Paul writes to Timothy:

1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV) *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

- The biblical testimony or narrative strongly suggests that the daughters of Zion, from the time they are born, should always be covered and protected.

- In a biblically-healthy household, every effort is made to make sure that the women there feel safe, are provided for, and can flourish in their biblical gifts and passions as unto the LORD.

6. Needs her prayers!

- You might remember the story of Hannah, one of two wives to Elkanah, in 1 Samuel chapter 1. She had no children and the other wife, Peninnah, mocked and berated her.
- Scripture says that she was bitter of soul and cried out to the LORD:

1 Samuel 1:11 (KJV) *And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

- The LORD heard her prayers and gave her a son, Samuel, who went on to become a great prophet.
- Many of us have a Hannah-type testimony of a praying mother, grandmother or spiritual mother...a woman who would get on her face before God with fastings and supplications on our behalf.
- Members of a biblically-healthy household understand their need for such prayers!

7. Encourages her to teach younger women.

- Oh what a great need this is: for the seasoned daughters of Zion...for older and godly women to teach the younger women! Scripture says:

Titus 2:1-5 (KJV) *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

- The only way to ensure this divine dignity is passed on is to teach it...to disciple others in its glory and honor.
- Older women teaching the younger to be self-controlled, to love their families and to be pure and to maintain the proper household focus is not only good; it is the kind of sound doctrine that keeps God's Word from being reviled!

Final Thoughts:

In closing, I'd like to read a few words from Jabez Burns, who lived from 1805-1876. He said:

Mother! The name that is associated in every virtuous mind with all that is amiable and delightful. Mother! Most tender, endearing, and expressive of all human appellations! A title employed equally by the royal prince, the sage philosopher, and the untutored peasant—by the savage and the civilized in all nations and through all generations. A relation mercifully founded in the constitution of our nature—universally felt and uniformly acknowledged. And who among all the children of men, except those who in early infancy were bereaved of their anxious parents, has not happily experienced the inexpressible influence of its charming and delightful power? Who of all the great and the mighty upon the earth does not recognize the unnumbered blessings that he has enjoyed through this endeared relation?

His own infinite wisdom and boundless goodness prompted the almighty Creator to ordain this beneficent relation, with all its sweet attractions and happy endearments. Must He not, therefore, have made it honorable, noble, and dignified? And [should] its elevation and importance be forgotten and neglected? Surely it demands our most intelligent consideration and devout acknowledgment. But what mind has ever possessed a capacity enlarged and matured to comprehend fully the true dignity of a mother?

Amen brother Jabez. Amen!

May all the mother-aged sisters watching have a wonderful Mother's Day. The men and young girls in your life love you and appreciate you!

Treat her special today; she deserves it!