Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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Honoring Motherhood

(Jerry Fite)

Godly women are honored in the Scriptures, whether they are married or single, or mothers or not. **Miriam** was remembered as God's appointed "prophetess," and fulfilled her "leadership" role in leading the women to praise Jehovah for His victory over Pharoah in the Red Sea *(Exodus 15:20-21, Micah 6:3).* While still single, the **five daughters Zelophehad** respectfully inquired regarding the practice of land inheritance passing only to sons, when a deceased father had no sons. They asked, *"Why should the name of our father be taken away from among his family, because he had no sons?"* God responded to Moses, saying, *"They "speak right,"* and the practice was updated accordingly *(Numbers 27:4, 6-7).* **Martha and Mary** are both remembered for their *"service,"* with Mary choosing the *"good part"* in setting priorities *(Luke 10:42).* We are never told if they sought marriage or had children.

Today, we honor godly women who have embraced the role of motherhood. Older women are to train younger women, teaching them to *"love their husbands, to love their children, to be sober- minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5).*

Motherhood knits together three important Scriptural threads deserving of honor. Marriage, motherhood, and management are all knit together to the glory of God. The woman is deserving of honor who willingly joins herself to a man to help make his life better. She submits to her husband's authority as "unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). Her husband is blessed with her love, while the word of God has no reason to be blasphemed. With marriage and motherhood knit tightly with love, the sense of belonging is communicated with love to the fruit of marriage, children. As a worker at home, the mother provides a sense of belonging for her family. On the fly, motherhood *"manages" the* daily essentials of life *(cf. I Timothy 5:14).*

The place of belonging called home becomes a refuge for enduring failures, a launching pad for children seeking their potential, and a healthy atmosphere for glorifying God in all things. Motherhood tightly knotted with love for the husband and children becomes sustained by love and respect. *"She looketh well to the to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up, and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praiseth her..." (Proverbs 31:27-28).*

The mother's management skills often come to light early on a Sunday morning. The baby or babies need to be fed, changed, and dressed. All must head to the car, be buckled in for departure so all can be in their respective classes before 9:00 A.M. That is the goal, but a last-minute dirty diaper, spit up, or a "I can't find my shoes" cry from an older sibling can make a mother feel less than efficient, as she frantically makes last minute adjustments.

The godly mother participates in public worship, and is constantly on guard so her children will not be a distraction in the worship services. So, a trip, or perish the thought, multiple trips to the cry room may be needed. Is this not a distraction? Please remember, we know you are not only considering others, but you are also training your children to sit quietly. Dear mothers, the look you or your husband are getting as you depart is one of respect and thankfulness. Meet the needs of your child; we will quickly get back concentrating on why we assemble. God bless you, mothers!