

CHRISTIAN WIVES AND MOTHERS

Ephesians 5:22-33

Introduction:

- 1. In the beginning of time, God created the home (Gen. 1:27; 2:18-25).**
- 2. The home as God ordained it is very simple:**
 - a. Father is the head, provider and protector.**
 - b. Mother is the center, caring for her husband and children.**
 - c. Children are cared for in a loving, safe environment.**
- 3. Despite man's deviations from God's plan, the home remains the foundation of society.**
- 4. The home and woman's place in it are being challenged today:**
 - a. Feminists denigrate the roles of wife and mother.**
 - b. The desire for worldly things takes mother out of the home.**
 - c. Immorality destroys many homes.**

Discussion:

I. GOD CREATED WOMEN TO BE WIVES.

- A. God made Eve for Adam as "a helper comparable to him."**
 - 1. None of the animals were suitable.**
 - 2. Woman was made from man so is of the same nature.**
 - 3. Woman is different from man, but not inferior.**
- B. God made woman subordinate to man in the church and the home.**
 - 1. Woman usurped man's leadership role in Eden (Gen. 3).**
 - 2. As a result, her husband would rule over her (Gen. 3:16).**
 - 3. Paul gave two reasons for man's leadership in the church (1 Tim. 2:11-15).**
 - a. Adam was first formed, then Eve.**
 - b. Adam was not deceived, but the woman was.**
 - 4. Women have the same opportunity for salvation as men (Gal. 3:28).**
- C. Paul used the marriage relationship to illustrate the relationship of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:22-33).**
 - 1. Wives submit to their husbands as the church to Christ.**
 - 2. Sarah is an example of respect for her husband.**

"For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive

to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror" (1 Pet. 3:5,6).

D. Husbands must love their wives as themselves.

1. Christ loved the church enough to die for it, so must husbands love their wives.
2. Husbands must seek to honor and understand their wives:

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7).

3. If one’s wife works outside the home, the husband should share the work at home.
4. The following poem is good advice for husbands:

Amid the cares of married strife;
In spite of toil and business life;
If you value your sweet wife!
Tell her so!

There was a time you thought it bliss
To get the favor of one kiss;
A dozen now won’t be amiss!
Tell her so!

Don’t act as if she is past her prime,
As though to please her were a crime;
If you ever loved her, now’s the time!
Tell her so!

She’ll return for each caress,
An hundredfold of tenderness.
Hearts like hers were made to bless!
Tell her so!

You are hers and hers alone;
Well you know she’s all your own.
Don’t wait to carve it on a stone!
Tell her so!

Never let the heart grow cold;
Richer beauties will unfold;
She is worth her weight in gold!
Tell her so!

II. GOD CREATED WOMEN TO BE A MOTHERS.

A. There is not a more important job than motherhood.

1. A wife and mother is a companion, teacher, baby-sitter,

2. nurse, cook, maid, chauffeur, counselor, manager, etc.
It is impossible to put a dollar value on a mother's work.

B. The home is mother's supreme domain.

1. Woman's greatest service is in the home (1 Tim. 2:15).
2. A woman to be supported by the church was one who had engaged in home duties (1 Tim. 5:9,10).
3. Younger widows were commanded to "marry, bear children, manage the house" (1 Tim. 5:14).
4. Older women must teach younger women their duties:

"... the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed" (Tit. 2:3-5).

C. Mothers have great opportunity to train their children spiritually.

1. Jochebed trained Moses (Exod. 2; Heb. 11:23-26).
2. Hannah gave her son to God (1 Sam. 1:10-28).
3. Lois and Eunice trained Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15).
4. A poem illustrates the opportunity mothers have:

There was a little girl who asked her Mom one day,
"Could you help me learn my Bible verse, and teach me how to pray?"

Now Mom was busy as mothers are, so she continued with her chores. She said, "We'll do that later, dear. Now go and play outdoors."

The years passed swiftly by, and the girl into a woman grew. One day her mother said, "Let's sit and talk awhile when all my work is through."

"No, Mother," she said, "I have no time to sit with you and chat. While you were busy, I found things to do like drugs and sex, and money is really where it's at."

Mothers, listen when your children ask, "Mom, will you help me when your work is done?" Put aside your chores and sit down. You may save your daughter or son!

Conclusion:

1. The sweetest words in any language are "home" and "mother."
2. Children are blessed who grow up in a home with a Godly mother in it.
3. The best way to be a good wife and mother is to be a Christian.

