

REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER!

-by Maxine McLellan

We must never underestimate or diminish the place of ministry, position, or power that a mother holds. Dr. James C. Dobson has declared, “Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child’s fear. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her children to do their best and be the best. But no editorials praise these accomplishments—where is the coverage our mothers rightfully deserve?”

King Solomon, in reflecting upon the godly influence of his mother wrote in Proverbs 1:8, “do not forsake your mother’s teaching.” The proper training of a child that leads to a mature, responsible adult capable of displaying godly character is not an easy task. It requires sacrifice and commitment that reaches beyond the boundaries of self-centred focus. Often it takes the wisdom of years to fully appreciate and understand all that was involved in moulding you into the person that you are. Let us not be too quick to throw away the foundational training that our mothers sought to instil in our lives. If you were one of those unfortunate individuals who did not enjoy the blessings of a godly mother who lead by example, then determine in your heart right now that you will be such an influence to the next generation as God gives you opportunity. Erich Fromm (1900–1980) wrote, “The child, in the decisive first years of his life, has the experience of his mother as an all enveloping, protective, nourishing power. Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth. To be loved by her means to be alive, to be rooted, to be at home.”

Reflect upon the relationship you have had with your mother and seek in some small way to express your gratefulness to her for all she has done for you. If there is not a close relationship today, then find a way to build a bridge of reconciliation and love. No one knows what the next year will bring and you do not want to let an opportunity slip away that can never be recovered. Dads, take a moment to express your appreciation to the mother of your children – your wife, for all that she does for you and for your children. Moms, remind yourself that your investment in the lives of your children really does count for eternity. As a stay-at-home mom who is involved in home schooling, it can be particularly discouraging when people accuse you of not making a worthwhile contribution to the workforce and hence to

society. Take heart in the words penned by an author unknown to us (be sure to include yourself as a member of the 'select group'): "I am the Administrator of an exclusive, family oriented, multi-grade academy designed with the express purpose of enhancing genius and maximizing potential in a select group of creative individuals!"

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