



## *A Mother's Hands*

*reach out to bless her children and*

*reach up to praise the Lord.*

*They're always loving, often praying, and  
Ever giving more than she keeps for herself.*

*A mother's hands may tire,*

*But they never expire in their efforts*

*to do good for those she loves.*

*A mother's hands may age,*

*But her influence lasts forever.*

*Lift up your hands in the sanctuary,*

*and bless the Lord. Psalms 134:2*

We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

Thank you for being our Guest today!

## “The Honor of Motherhood”

Older women... are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

### Titus 2:3-5

Because God created us in his image and because he designed marriage and the family to be the building blocks of ordered civilization, each role within the family unit is sacred. Motherhood is no less or more honorable than fatherhood (Ex. 20:12). Parenting, like marriage (1 Pet. 3:7), is an equal partnership with distinct roles.

The words “sacred” and “honorable” may not be the first adjectives that come to a mother’s mind when dirty dishes are stacked in the sink, piles of laundry are strewn about and messy children with sticky fingers are screaming in the background and drawing on the walls. But we must remember that for a thing to be true does not depend on our perception. Perception is not always reality. Truth is reality and the enemy often blinds us to it. What we must train ourselves, by God’s grace, to do is to see the truth, to perceive the reality. Only the light of Jesus can cure this blindness (2 Cor. 4:3-6) and the truth of his gospel reveals the reality of motherhood.

Sadly, some women see themselves as victims of their chromosomes. They are unable see the beautiful image of God reflected uniquely in themselves. In seeking to find equality with men, a thing which the Bible affirms on page 1, they attempt to obliterate what makes them distinct. Instead of finding freedom, they find only bondage. But the truth is liberating (Jn. 8:32) and it tells us about the reality of motherhood in places like Titus 2:3-5.

**The privilege of motherhood** – The older, more experienced Christian women are to “train” the younger to live out the practical implications of the gospel in their lives. Their unique duty clearly centers around the home. If this offends our modern sensibilities it only proves how far out of touch we are with our Maker. We could hardly overestimate the value of a loving mother’s influence. It is a mother’s task and privilege to oversee the forging of their child’s personality, the shaping of their heart, the building of their character.

**The priorities of motherhood** – The phrase “working at home” does not suggest mothers are forbidden to work outside the home (Prov. 31:13, 16-18). But it does teach that her first priority is her family and managing her household. Notice that “love” is something that must be taught. Although there is such a thing as natural affection, we who are younger often need instruction and guidance on what love does and says. If this motherly love is missing in a family, nothing can ever fill that gap. No degree, career or amount of extra income can replace parental love. Being in a position of leadership, purity, self-control and kindness are also vital for mothers. Every area of her life must be informed by these things.

**The potential of motherhood** – When a mother sees the reality of her exalted status, sees herself as God sees her in Christ, a whole new world opens up to her. Underneath the monotony there is a holy vocation. She understands the immense potential for good that the faithful exercise of God’s will can have, and the disastrous consequences if she should shirk her duty (the very “word of God may... be reviled”). If she should succeed to exhibit love, self-control, purity, respect and kindness (and by God’s grace and power she can), she has the power to shape the future.

Naomi, Ruth, Hannah, Mary the mother of Jesus, Lois and Eunice. They were perhaps overlooked in their day but they receive the highest honors in God’s sight. They are great in God’s kingdom. They are mighty soldiers in God’s army. They are feared by Satan and frustrate all the powers of darkness below. God makes Christian mothers great when they come under his loving, wise rule and serve their families with that same love and wisdom.

Selected

One good thing you can give and still keep is your word.

## This Week's Q&A

**Q: How many mothers are mentioned in the Old Testament by name?**

**A: Eighty four**

*Abigail*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Chileab (2 Samuel 2:2–3).  
*Abigail*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Amasa (2 Samuel 17:25).  
*Abihail*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Ahban and Molid (1 Chronicles 2:29).  
*Abihail*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Mahalath (2 Chronicles 11:18).  
*Abijah*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Ashur (1 Chronicles 2:24).  
*Abijah*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29:1).  
*Abitai*. Mother of Shephatiah (1 Chronicles 3:3).  
*Adah*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Jabal and Jubal (Genesis 4:19–23).  
*Adah*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Eliphaz (Genesis 36:2–4).  
*Ahinoam*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Jonathan, Ishui, Melchi-shua, Merab, and Michal. (1 Samuel 14:49–50).  
*Ahinoam*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Amnon (2 Samuel 3:2).  
*Aholibamah*. Mother of Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah (Genesis 36:5).  
*Ahlai*. Mother of Zabad (1 Chronicles 11:41).  
*Anah*. Mother of Aholibamah (Genesis 36:2).  
*Asenath*. Mother of Manasseh and Ephraim (Genesis 41:50–52).  
*Atarah*. Mother of Onam (1 Chronicles 2:26).  
*Athaliah*. Mother of Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:26).  
*Azubah*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of King Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:42).  
*Azubah*<sup>2</sup>. Mother of Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon (1 Chronicles 2:18–19).[\[28\]](#)  
*Basemath*. Mother of Reuel (Genesis 36:4).  
*Bathsheba*. Mother of an unnamed child and Solomon (1 Samuel 12:15–24).[\[29\]](#)  
*Bilhah*. Mother of Dan and Naphtali (Genesis 30:4–8).  
*Bithiah*. Mother of Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah (1 Chronicles 4:17–18).  
*Eglah*. Mother of Ithream (2 Samuel 3:5).  
*Elisheba*. Mother of Nadab, Abishu, Eleazar, and Ithamar (Exodus 6:23).  
*Ephah*. Mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez (1 Chronicles 2:46).  
*Ephratah* (*Ephrath*). Mother of Hur (1 Chronicles 2:19, 50).  
*Eve*. Mother of Cain, Abel, Seth, and other sons and daughters (Moses 5:2, 16–17; 6:2).  
*Gomer*. Mother of Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah, and Lo-ammi (Hosea 1:4–6).  
*Hagar*. Mother of Ishmael (Genesis 16:15).  
*Haggith*. Mother of Adonijah (2 Samuel 3:4).  
*Hammoleketh*. Mother of Ishod, Abiezer, and Mahalah (1 Chronicles 7:18).  
*Hamutal*. Mother of Jehoahaz and Zedekiah (2 Kings 23:31; 24:18).  
*Hannah*. Mother of Samuel, as well as three more sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 1:20; 2:21).  
*Helah*. Mother of Zereth, Jezoar, and Ethnan (1 Chronicles 4:7).  
*Hephzibah*. Mother of Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1).  
*Hodesh*. Mother of Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcham, Jeuz, Shachia, and Mirma (1 Chronicles 8:8–10).  
*Hushim*. Mother of Abitub and Elpaal (1 Chronicles 8:11).  
*Jecoliah*. Mother of Uziah (2 Chronicles 26:3).  
*Jedidah*. Mother of Josiah (2 Kings 22:1–2).  
*Jehoaddan*. Mother of Amaziah (2 Kings 14:2).  
*Jehudijah* (*Hodiah*). Mother of Jered, Heber, and Jeduthiel (1 Chronicles 4:18–19).  
*Jerioth*. Mother of Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon (1 Chronicles 2:18).[\[30\]](#)  
*Jerusha*. Mother of Jotham (2 Kings 15:33).  
*Jezebel*. Mother of Ahaziah, Jehoram (Joram), and Athaliah (1 Kings 16:31; 22:53; 2 Kings 3:2, 13; 9:22).[\[31\]](#)  
*Jochebed*. Mother of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses (Numbers 26:59).  
*Keturah*. Mother of Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah (Genesis 25:2).  
*Leah*. Mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah (Genesis 29:32–35; 30:21).  
*Maachah*<sup>1</sup>. Mother of Absalom (2 Samuel 3:3). 18:2–4).

*Maachah*<sup>2</sup> (*Michaiah*). Mother of Abijam (1 Kings 15:2).  
*Maachah*<sup>3</sup>. Mother of Peresh and Sheresh (1 Chronicles 7:15–16).  
*Maachah*<sup>4</sup>. Mother of Sheber, Tirhanah, Shaaph, Sheva, and probably Achsah (1 Chronicles 2:48–49).  
*Maachah*<sup>5</sup>. Mother of Gibeon, Abdon, Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth (1 Chronicles 9:35–37).  
*Mahalath*. Mother of Jehush, Shemariah, and Zaham (2 Chronicles 11:18–19).  
*Matred*. Mother of Mehetabel (Genesis 36:39; 1 Chronicles 1:50).  
*Merab*. Mother of five sons (1 Samuel 18:9; 2 Samuel 21:8).  
*Meshullemeth*. Mother of Amon (2 Kings 21:19).  
*Milcah*. Mother of Huz, Buz, Kemuel, Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel (Genesis 11:29; 22:20).  
*Naamah*. Mother of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21, 31; 2 Chronicles 12:13).  
*Naarah*. Mother of Ahuzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari (1 Chronicles 4:6).  
*Naomi*. Mother of Mahlon and Chilion (Ruth 1:2, 20–21; 2:1).  
*Nehushta*. Mother of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8).  
*Peninnah*. Mother of an unspecified number of sons and daughters (1 Samuel 1:2, 4).  
*Puah*. Mother of an unspecified number of children (Exodus 1:15–21).  
*Rachel*. Mother of Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 30:22–24; 35:18).  
*Rahab*. Mother of Boaz (Joshua 2:1, 3; 6:17–25; Matthew 1:5).  
*Rebekah*. Mother of Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:24–26).  
*Reumah*. Mother of Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah (Genesis 22:24).  
*Rizpah*. Mother of Armoni and Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 21:8).  
*Ruth*. Mother of Obed (Ruth 4:17).  
*Sarai* (*Sarah*). Mother of Isaac (Genesis 21:3).  
*Shelomith*. Mother of an unnamed son (Leviticus 24:11).  
*Shimeath*. Mother of Zabad (2 Chronicles 24:26).  
*Shimriah*. Mother of Jehozabad (2 Chronicles 24:26).  
*Shiphrah*. Mother of an unspecified number of children (Exodus 1:15–21).  
*Tamar*. Mother of Pharez and Zerah (1 Chronicles 2:4).  
*Timna*. Mother of Amalek (Genesis 36:12).  
*Zebudah*. Mother of Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:36).  
*Zeruah*. Mother of Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:26).  
*Zeruiah*. Mother of Abishai, Joab, and Asahel (1 Chronicles 2:16).  
*Zibiah*. Mother of Joash (2 Kings 12:1; 2 Chronicles 24:1).  
*Zillah*. Mother of Tubal-cain and likely Naamah (Genesis 4:19, 22).  
*Zilpah*. Mother of Gad and Asher (Genesis 30:9–13).  
*Zipporah*. Mother of Gershom and Eliezer (Exodus 18:2–4).

He who offers God a second place offers Him no place at all.

In an article titled "10 Fun Facts About Mother's Day", number 10 stated that American moms are influencing 73.1 million children under the age of 18. That number is fascinating to me. Sometimes, I think we moms forget how influential we are. I know that everyday life is hard, and it is difficult juggling it all but coming from a mother of grown children... SLOW down! You will never be able to get this moment back again. Take the time to enjoy your children. Read the Bible together, Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says ***"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*** Listen to your children, no matter the age, talk about whatever it is they want to talk about (really LISTEN, which means NO ELECTRONICS IN YOUR HAND, it's amazing what you will learn). Pray together, let them witness you leaning on God for your strength in troubling times so they will do the same, Proverbs 3:5-6 says, ***"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*** Always make sure they know that they are loved unconditionally, I Corinthians 13:13 says, ***"And now, abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*** Most individuals struggle as an adult because of something from their childhood. I've been the cause of my own children's struggles. We are given a handbook to follow as mothers and it is the Bible. If we will use it as our guide, we will be successful. We will make mistakes, our children will make mistakes but at the end of the day, we can proudly say we gave our children the foundation that will follow them through life even if they chose to ignore it, they will never be able to deny its existence. We as mothers are given one of the most important jobs on earth...don't take it for granted, don't waste it, don't be burdened by it...instead embrace this amazing God given gift and opportunity!!!

-from one mother to another, Kelli Bolton

A man who trims himself to suit everybody will soon whittle himself away.

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Mail me to  
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