

**4 Ways Biblical Motherhood is a Vital Part of the Great Commission of Matt. 28:19-20:**

- With few exceptions women are called to motherhood.
1. **Christian Mothers Demonstrate the Holiness of Following Christ:** The world hates christian women. Here is the world's view of women: 1) Be married to a man that makes you the center of attention. 2) If you get pregnant, it is your body. 3) You should do exactly as you please, whenever it suites you. 4) Don't fall for old-fashioned ideas and constraints of marriage. 5) You can find fulfillment outside the home, don't let men tell you you'll be fulfilled staying at home taking care of the children. 6) You should demand what you want so that you get what you want from life. 7) The commands in the Bible were for the culture of the time, accepting those ideas would be a step back for women.
    - What Scripture Says to These Worldly Views: 1) V4, young women are to be sensible and love their husbands. 2) V4, women are to love their children. 3) V5, young women are to be sensible and self-controlled. 4) V5, they are to be pure. 5) V5, they are to be workers at home. 6) V5, they are to be kind and subject to their husbands. 7) V5, their obedience to the Lord is so that the word of God would not be slandered.
    - We no longer walk as the Gentiles walk in the futility of their minds, Eph. 4:17.
    - We are to live holy lives. We are new creations created in Christ Jesus, 2 Cor. 5:17.
  2. **Christians Mothers Give Small Children Spiritual Training:** Mothers teach their children respect for authority, to share, to recognize their sin and their need of the gospel by the pain of spanking. They learn forgiveness and love after the pain from loving, God-fearing parents. They learn the Scriptures and how to pray, sing, and worship God.
    - Lois (grandmother) and Eunice (mother) taught Timothy the unhypocritical faith as a child, preparing him for life and ministry, 2 Tim. 1:5.
    - Anne Bradstreet was a poet of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Her writings on motherhood revealed deep spiritual truth: 1) Motherhood isn't merely biological. Paul stated he was in anguish like childbirth for the Galatian church to see Christ formed in them, Gal. 4:19. 2) Spiritual motherhood not about mother but about the glory of God. 3) Spiritual mothers give a spiritual theology of suffering. 4) Spiritual mothers share their struggles and trust in God to give them strength. 5) Spiritual mothers think through hard things with their children. 6) Spiritual mothers have confidence in Christ.
  3. **Christian Mothers Give Adult Children Spiritual Training:** Proverbs gives numerous examples for children to love, respect, and listen to their mothers: Proverbs 1:8; 6:20, 10:1, 23:25. Marriage doesn't end a child's need for counsel and wisdom from their parents.
    - Lucy Hutchinson, a contemporary with Anne Bradstreet, trained her children to love one another, to love God, and love people. She stressed the importance of encouraging her children into adulthood. In much suffering, she endured to care for 9 children.
  4. **Christian Mothers are an Example of Sacrificial Christian Living:** 1 Tim. 5:3-8, provides details of those who are truly widows and why the church should financially provide for them. V9-10 speaks of the character and works of a widow who should be considered for support: she was faithful to her husband, she served others, brought up children as her top priority in life, she was hospitable to strangers and kind to the lost and new people, she would do the dirtiest of tasks, she helped the hurting, serving all people, and is devoted to good works.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

How does the description of faithful and godly women give a pattern for women of all ages to follow? In 1 Tim. 5:9-10, what characteristics show her devotion to her husband? What characteristics show her devotion to her children? What characteristics show her devotion to the church and how she treats visitors?

How will men and women bring the most glory to the Lord? How does a man bring glory to the Lord? How does a woman bring glory to the Lord? What about their God-given roles and place in life provide them both opportunities to honor the Lord? Should we be content and satisfied with what God has ordained? How do we show honor and thankfulness for what God has given us to do in life?

The world has lots of lies to lay upon people in the world who are deceived and blinded by Satan. How can our words be gracious to the lost in the world concerning raising children? How about how we speak to a man or woman about what is important in life? How might we be able to continue to speak into our kids lives well into adulthood? How can we be a great influence in their lives (including by starting young)?

As adult children get older and older in life, a blessing no doubt, what is the command and opportunity that God provides to older men and women in Titus 2? What is the value of wisdom and experience? Can believers “age-out” of service? How can older saints be useful to the younger generations? What does Titus 2 tell older saints to teach the younger saints? Are you mentoring or discipling anyone? Are you allowing other men and women to speak into your lives? What are the benefits and reasons for this ministry? From Titus 2:11-15, what is the reason we speak into the lives of younger believers?