

From the Family Room

Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL

10 May, 2015

Thank You Mothers – We Love You Mama



I am not very good at writing about the value of the work of a mother. I have never been one. Never will be. I am the husband of a loving mother. I am the father-in-law to two amazing mothers to our grandchildren. I had a loving mother and mother-in-law. I had two awesome loving grandmothers. So I know what good mothering is about. The problem is everything I try to write about the value of a loving mother sounds clichéd and cheap. So on this Mother's Day I will use something written by good writers and give them credit for it.

We read the following words inspired by the Holy Spirit in Proverbs 31:25-31.

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

John Killinger wrote the following about mothers' love in Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise (Abingdon Press).

I believe in the love of all mothers and its importance in the lives of the children they bear. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity. I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next. And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of her joy.

These great words make buying a Mother's Day gift kind of hard. So, what should we give mothers for their special day today? Herb Frost wrote the following advice in *Readers Digest* on what to avoid buying. Do not give them anything that plugs into an electrical socket. It is too practical and will probably be totally unappreciated. As a rule, avoid all useful items. It has been a rule for many years that we should avoid buying jewelry. If we buy the jewelry she really wants, she may get upset at the large amount of money we spent. If we bought the jewelry that costs what we can afford so that she will not get upset, she probably will not say anything but think, “Is that all I am worth?”

One piece of good advice handed down through the years is for the husband and children to make a list of 31 things mom does for the family for which she is seldom thanked. Over the next month, thank her for one of those things each day. Also make a list of her good character traits, talents, and great attitudes. During the following month, give her a sincere compliment each day on each of these. Go all out and write the compliment on stationery and snail mail it to your address. Be prepared for an improvement around the house.

The truth is, the value of the work of a good mother cannot be appraised. No gift can adequately express the appreciation we have for a mother's work. Probably the best thing we could do is to give her a hug (if we can) and say with all of our heart, “We love you Mama.”

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