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Motherhood

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For 6000 years prior to our American society, motherhood had a completely different look, attitude, and meaning. I would dare say that many women living today either would not or could not live as their grandmothers or great-grandmothers. That is, specifically, making their “careers” as a mothers, homemakers, and home-keepers.

Seventy years ago Peter Marshall, a Chaplain for the United States Senate, said the following:

The modern challenge to motherhood is the eternal challenge—that of being godly women. The very phrase sounds strange in our ears. We never hear it now. We hear about every other kind of women—beautiful women, smart women, sophisticated women, career women, talented women, divorced women. But seldom do we hear of godly women—or of a godly man either, for that matter.

I believe women come nearer fulfilling their God-given function in the home than anywhere else. It is a much nobler thing to be a good wife than to be Miss America. It is a greater achievement to establish a Christian home than it is to produce a second-rate novel, filled with filth. It is a far, far better thing in the realms of morals to be old-fashioned than to be ultra-modern. The world has enough women who know how to hold their cocktails, who have lost all their illusions and their faith. The world has enough women who know how to be smart. It needs women who are willing to be simple. The world has enough women who know how to be brilliant. It needs some who will be brave. The world has enough women who are popular. It needs some who are pure. We need women, and men, too, who would rather be morally right than socially correct.

Let us not fool ourselves—without Christianity, without Christian education, without the principles of Christ inculcated into young life, we are simply rearing pagans. Physically they will be perfect. Intellectually, they will be brilliant. But

spiritually, they will be pagan. Let us not fool ourselves....

The twentieth century challenge to motherhood—when it is all boiled down—is that mothers will have an experience of God...a reality which they can pass on to their children.

More than ever, we need Christian homes to help combat Satan in the world. It is the home where children learn good from evil, right from wrong. It is the home that is to be a sanctuary, a safe haven for the family where they will always feel loved, cherished, needed, and wanted. It is the home that influences and sometimes dictates the direction, resolve, and faithfulness of the church. After all, the home and the family make up the individuals in the Lord's church. It is in this Christian home where we must have godly leadership in all areas. Faltering at any level in the home affects society, the church, and our salvation.

So who is the one given this responsibility of managing and keeping the home? Who is the one given the task of turning a house into a happy and fulfilling living environment? This great task has been given to women—to the mothers and wives in those homes. When this role is rejected the Bible uses terms such as “blasphemous” (NKJV/ASV). It emphatically says that it “dishonors” (NASB), and “reviles” (ESV) the Word of God (Titus 2:5).

The title of homemaker is in **no** way, shape, or form a second-rate job. Instead it is the highest calling a young lady could ever aspire to and pray for. Culture may look down upon women who choose to make their sole career a wife and mother. On the contrary, for the woman of Proverbs 31, neither she, her husband, nor her children were looked down upon because of her managing affairs at home.

Charles Spurgeon wrote,

Two of the most significant events of the twentieth century were women leaving the home *en masse* for corporate America, and the subsequent transformation of the home from a bastion of Christian family life, domesticity, and culture to a mere flop-house of individuals co-existing under one roof....In the Scriptural model, we see the home as an incubator for leadership and dominion, as a grand

instrument for education and discipleship, as the first expression of godly culture, as a place of industry and economic self-sufficiency, as the primary outlet for hospitality and even evangelism—not to mention its significance as the first law-enforcing institution to which man is exposed on his journey from childhood to maturity. It is to the mother—as the vice-regent of the home—that the responsibility is delegated by the husband for cultivating its aesthetic beauties and virtues. In the hands of noble womanhood, we can yet see—rising from the ashes of a broken culture—the glories of hearth and home, so that future generations will arise and declare its virtues once again.