

God's High Thoughts And Ways For Wives And Mothers

The Family, as God Designed It, Consists of:

- The Husband, the male figure in the marriage relationship, Matthew 19:3-6; Genesis 2:18,21-24; Genesis 3:6,16.
- The Wife, the female figure in the marriage relationship, Matthew 19:3-6; Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:5.
- The Children, born of the union of husband and wife, Genesis 1:28; 4:1; I Timothy 5:14; Hebrews 13:4

An Undeniable Fact:

- When all parties in the family relationship adhere to God's "high" thoughts and ways, the entire family unit is able to enjoy greater happiness, stability, and success. cf. Galatians 6:7
- Question: "What is wrong with modern society?"
Reply: "We have too many houses and not enough homes."

Some Requirements for Being a Good wife:

- Be a genuine Christian!
 - In NT days "disciples" were "called Christians," Acts 11:26.
 - The purpose of preaching the gospel is to "make disciples," Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19, "baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
 - Note also Acts 8:12; 2:38; 8:36-38.
 - People thus entered "into Jesus Christ," Galatians 3:27; 2 Timothy 2:10.

Proper Planning and Preparation Before Marriage is Important!

- Pray for the right kind of a husband, James 5:16.
- Plan to marry a Christian, 2 Corinthians 6:14
- Develop proper character traits and work habits.
 - "The fruit of the Spirit," Galatians 5:22-23.
 - Work habits necessary to honor obligations of wifehood and motherhood, Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 31:27.

Wives Should Know and Honor the Obligations God Placed Upon them

- Respect the divine order of headship, I Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23.
- Submission to the husband, Ephesians 5:22; I Peter 3:1; I Timothy 2:11-14.
- Love the husband, Titus 2:4.
- Reverence or respect the Husband, Ephesians 5:33.

Wives Should Know and Honor the Obligations God Placed Upon them

- Don't divorce! I Corinthians 7:10,13-14; I Peter 3:1-4.
- Manage the home, Proverbs 31:27; I Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:5.
- Honor conjugal obligations, I Corinthians 7:2-4. Marriage is designed to:
 - Prevent fornication, I Corinthians 7:2.
 - Provide companionship, Genesis 2:18.
 - Bring children into world, I Timothy 5:14; Genesis 1:28.
- Be diligent in honoring obligations as a wife and a mother, Proverbs 31:11-18.

Some Requirements for Being a Good Mother:

- "Mother" – 312 times in Bible, beginning in Genesis 2:24; 3:20. "The Sun of the family."
- Possess character qualities and work ethic already discussed.
- Be a role model to the children, Ezekiel 16:44. Be like:
 - Hannah, I Samuel 1:11,28.
 - Mary, Luke 1:26-33, 38.
 - Eunice, 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15; Philippians 2:19-22.

Some Requirements for Being a Good Mother – Obey Titus 2:4-4

- "Be sober," or use sound judgment.
- "love husband."
- "Love their children." Nurturing.
- "Discreet" or "sound mind," Weust.
- "Be chaste." "Pure from carnality."
- Be "keepers at home." cf. I Timothy 5:14; Proverbs 29:15. ("Caring for the home, workers at home," Weust).

Some Requirements for Being a Good Mother:

- Teach the word to her children, 2 Timothy 1:5; Proverbs 1:8.
 - Reportedly by age 18, the average child has watched 17,000 hours of TV!
- Discipline the children as needed, Proverbs 19:18; 22:15.
 - Children should learn early in life that "no" means "no," and "yes" means "yes"!

Be the Kind of Mother Described in Proverbs 31:10-31!

- "She riseth ... while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household," verse 15.
- "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff," verse 19.
- "She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness," verse 26.
- "She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness," verse 27.

Conclusion:

- The greatest challenges of life are involved in both wifehood and motherhood. Yet, when met in keeping with God's will, they bring the greatest rewards.
- Napoleon, when asked how to resolve the problems of France, said: "God, give us better mothers!"