

Mothers Need The Gospel

Intro: We live in an astonishing age. On the one hand motherhood is held in contempt. Women have been liberated, so they think, from the old yoke of patriarchy, and have finally gotten their piece of the pie. No more stinky diapers, and filthy houses to clean up. This mindset has even penetrated the Christian church. So you mothers are not appreciated as you ought to be. On the other hand we live in a day in which great demands are being put upon Christian mothers. With homeschooling, child-rearing, household duties, church work, children's events like sports or music, and all kinds of other mommy duties, all of which they never get to clock out of, motherhood is quite demanding. Not to mention the rise of the mommy-blog, and Pinterest, and Facebook and all of the associated pressure to live up to the online mega-couponing, cupcake baking supermoms. From all which arises what has been termed "mommy guilt." To which are applied various gospels to ease that mommy guilt. But mothers need the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of Christ alone is sufficient for you in your calling as a mother.

T: Who are the mothers who need the gospel?

1. The **M**eaning of Mother – a mother is a feminine producer and nurturer of eternal beings made in God's image
 - All kinds of mothers at all kinds of stages
 - God designs that women in general should be mothers **Gen 1:26-28; 9:1-2; 1Tim 5:14**
 - God's image: **Gen 1:26-27, Is 49:15, 66:13**
 - Source, sustenance, and nurture of children – Hugely sacrificial calling – Thank you! **Prov 31:28-31**

T: That's what a mother is, what does a mother do?

2. The **O**bligations of a Mother – mothers are obliged to produce & nurture eternal beings in God's image into their destiny
 - Older mothers – a mother and a mother of mothers **Titus 2:3-4**
 - Younger mothers – the heart is where the home is **Titus 2:4-5**
 - Worldly view of children → worldly view of motherhood (biological units?)
 - Spiritual view of children → spiritual view of motherhood (full time ministry)

T: What a high calling! Do any of you live up to what God has called you to?

3. The **T**respases of a Mother – motherhood brings great guilt: doesn't it? If I did not address that I would not serve you!
 - You have failed and sinned in your duties as a mother – mommy guilt
 - By being dishonorable you have made it hard for them to honor you **Ex 20:12**
 - By sinning you have lead them into sin **Matt 18:6**

T: Not only do you not live up to your calling, there is sin and sorrow that cling to you, and will till the end

4. The **H**ardships of a Mother – motherhood is under the curse of God – you wonder why it's so hard
 - Laboring under the **curse** of pain and sorrow **Gen 3:16**
 - Laboring under the **curse** of a rebellious bent (the shape of original sin for women) **Gen 3:16, Gen 4:7**

T: But notwithstanding all of that sin and misery, your call as a mother can produce great eternal good

5. The **E**ffect of a Mother – motherhood is under the blessing of God
 - Potential for great good through your prayer, example, and training – setting them up for success
 - The Word of God in your children **2 Tim 3:15** • There is great joy in your success! **3John 1:4**

T: High calling, great failure; High expectation, great disappointment; and great GUILT and great WORRY : what is the answer?

6. The **R**edemption of a Mother – motherhood is **redeemed** and **restored** by the Lord Jesus Christ
 - You labor under a great deal of pressure and responsibility with a high rate of failure and frustration
 - Your sins are forgiven in Christ – all of them **Mat 11:28-30**
 - By the Spirit of Christ you are mortifying your rebellious bent
 - Jesus died for your family so you don't have to kill them!
 - **<husbands>**Your failures can be restored and turned for good – ask **Joel 1:4, 2:25 / Gen 50:20 <Ps 20B>**

T: For all the curse on motherhood, there is redemption by Jesus Christ who became a curse for you!

Conclusion: Motherhood is one of the most significant callings on earth. It was the first thing God ever told the woman to do; "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth". It is a very god-like calling- to make people, to shape people, and to send people into life. There is no other career out there like it. It is exceedingly demanding, exceedingly rewarding, and exceedingly frustrating, both because of its difficulties and your own failure and sin. But the damage of the failures and the guilt of the sin are provided for by Jesus Christ – where sin abounded, grace much more abounded. God can restore, forgive, bless, and turn everything for the good of those who love him. The Gospel of Christ, received by faith alone, is for mothers. Look to Jesus for the redemption and blessing of your motherhood.