

# Mothers, Wives and Sisters in the Church

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## I. The Bible teaches respect, honor and care for our mothers

**A. The words, 'mother', 'mothers' and 'grandmother', appear 319 times in our Bible**

**B. God placed respect for mothers as one of His top Ten Commandments**

Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother...

**C. Jesus reinforced the commandment and established that it endured for life**

Mar 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Mar 7:10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

Mar 7:11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is* Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free.*

Mar 7:12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

Mar 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...

**D. Perhaps Jesus's last example shows the importance of caring for our mothers**

Joh 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Joh 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home.*

## II. It is not a disgrace to be a sister in the church, but not a mother or a wife

**A. The Bible does declare the good in both having a good wife and being a good wife**

Pro 18:22 *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD

Pro 12:4 A virtuous woman *is* a crown to her husband...

Pro 19:14 ...a prudent wife *is* from the LORD.

**B. The Bible does declare that children are a gift and blessing from the Lord**

Psa 127:3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is* his reward...

Psa 127:5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them..

**C. Yet it is very honorable just to be married to the Lord and bear fruits to His glory**

1Co 7:1 ...*It is* good for a man not to touch a woman.

1Co 7:2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1Co 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

1Co 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

1Co 7:9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

1Co 7:32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

1Co 7:33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.

1Co 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

1Co 7:40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

## III. The 'martyr-hood' in motherhood

**A. All are brought into this world through the travail and suffering of a mother**

1Co 11:11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

1Co 11:12 For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

### 1. Let us appreciate that the Bible uses childbirth to describe intense pain

Isa 13:8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth...

Jer 49:24 ...fear hath seized on *her*: anguish and sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail.

Jer 4:31 For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, *and* the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, *that* bewaileth herself, *that* spreadeth her hands, *saying*, Woe *is* me now!

### 2. Jesus' suffering in His crucifixion is compared to childbirth

Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied...

### 3. Graciousness goes out the window

Jer 22:23 O inhabitant of Lebanon, that makest thy nest in the cedars, how gracious shalt thou be when pangs come upon thee, the pain as of a woman in travail!

### 4. Oh! But look how your mother felt when she first saw you

Joh 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

## B. Some mothers have literally given their lives to be a mother

Gen 35:16 ...and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

Gen 35:17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

Gen 35:18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni (*son of my sorrow*): but his father called him Benjamin.

1Sa 4:19 And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, *near* to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

1Sa 4:20 And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*.

## C. The horror of mothers giving up their martyred babies

Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under...

Mat 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Mat 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

## D. Mothers bring children into the world in anticipation of giving them away

### 1. Hannah gave her much prayed-for son to God and to His will

1Sa 1:11 ...O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt...give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life...

1Sa 1:28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

### 2. Jochebed gave her doomed son to Pharaoh's daughter and to God's will

Exo 1:22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

Exo 2:2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was a goodly child*, she hid him three months.

Exo 2:7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

Exo 2:8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

Exo 2:9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

Exo 2:10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

### 3. Mary gave her Son to all God's children and to God's will

Luk 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Luk 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,)...

#### **E. Mothers still bring their babies into this world to give them to another**

##### **1. God gave the adult man a wife instead of a mother**

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him...

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

##### **2. God tells adult men to cleave to wives, as opposed to mothers**

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Mat 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

#### **IV. Though God made mothers to be as martyrs—He made their comfort to be as His**

Isa 66:13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you...