

HONORING MOTHERS

Here is one thing we all have in common -- each one of us has had a MOTHER -- there's no way of getting around this fact -- we were ALL born of a woman -- there is no other way we could have arrived on this earth.

Eve was the first Mother -- Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was possibly the most famous -- and there were many others noted throughout the Bible.

As we honor our mothers this weekend let's tell her she is loved and appreciated -- her 9 months of carrying us -- her early years of nurturing and helping us grow -- her tender-loving care -- and her joy of becoming a mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Many of us only have memories of our Mothers -- others have them near-by to visit and take them flowers -- still others can only be reached by phone or e-mail -- but we should do all in our power to make contact, and Thank them.

And then there are ladies in our lives who have never given birth but have played an important part in the lives of children of others -- these too must also be remembered.

There are only five mothers listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in the opening chapter of Matthew's Gospel -- Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary -- and then there are other mothers also, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Jochebed, Hanna, Elizabeth, to name a few.

We must note here that some of us have sad remembrances of our Mothers -- neglect, harshness, partiality, even cruelty -- but still we must remember that they were still our Mothers.

King Solomon in his Proverbs notes several attributes to a good Mother -- "Her worth is above rubies" -- "She does good all the days of her life" -- "She is industrious" -- "She provides food for her household" -- "She girds herself with strength" -- "She works long into the night" -- "She opens her mouth with wisdom" -- "She watches over her household" -- "She is not idle" -- "Her children rise up and call her blessed" -- "Her husband praises her" -- "A woman who loves the Lord shall be praised." (Proverbs 31).

What a testimony of a good woman, wife, and mother -- an example for all girls and young ladies to follow -- but did you catch the most important phrase in that paragraph -- the last praise note -- the words stand out -- "She loves the Lord" -- probably the most important of them all.

What does it mean that "She Loves the Lord?" -- simply that she honors the Lord God in all things -- she is not a run-around -- she wants to please her parents, and eventually her husband and children -- she is modest in how she dresses -- she keeps herself pure for the man that she will eventually marry -- she conducts herself in an honorable manner at all times -- she realizes that her body is the temple of God and does not readily show or give it to others.

Men and boys -- think before you touch a woman who is not your wife -- she is someone's daughter, sister, wife or mother -- hands off -- don't soil the personal property -- respect her as you would want others to respect the females in your family.

On this very Special Weekend -- HONOR MOTHERS -- yours and others -- treat them all with the respect they deserve.

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