

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHER

TEXT: (Galatians 4:22-26, NIV)

²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.

²⁴ These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

I. MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO YOU

A. Motherhood—An Innate Desire

1. “When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, ‘Give me children, or I’ll die!’” (Genesis 30:1, NIV)!
2. “Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow: Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, If you’ll take a good, hard look at my pain, If you’ll quit neglecting me and go into action for me By giving me a son, I’ll give him completely, unreservedly to you. I’ll set him apart for a life of holy discipline” (I Samuel 1:10-11, MSG).

B. Motherhood—An Innate Desire of the Church

1. “Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it” (Mark 7:36, NIV).
2. “Then Jesus ordered him, ‘Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.’
Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses” (Luke 5:14-15, NIV).
3. “For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel” (Romans 9:3-4, NIV).
4. “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (I Corinthians 9:19-23, NIV).

C. Motherhood—An Innate Desire to See Her Children Do Right

1. “It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (III John 1:3-4, NIV).

2. “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!” (Galatians 4:19-20, NIV).

II. MOTHER PROVIDES NOURISHMENT

1. “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good” (I Peter 2:2-3, NIV).

A. Nourishment of Mother Brought You to Birth

1. “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3, KJV).
2. “It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Corinthians 1:21, KJV).

B. Nourishment from Mother Will Cause You to Grow

1. “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready” (I Corinthians 3:1-2, NIV).
2. “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18, NIV).

III. MOTHER TAKES OVERSIGHT

A. She Loves Deeply

1. “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness” (II Corinthians 6:14, NIV)?
2. “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8, KJV).
3. “When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord” (I Corinthians 5:4-5, NIV).

B. She Teaches Her Children

1. “Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching” (Proverbs 1:8, NIV).
2. “You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us” (Titus 2:1-8, NIV).

C. She Corrects as Necessary

1. "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15, NIV).
2. "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (II Timothy 4:2, NIV).
3. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40, KJV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?" (Malachi 2:10, NIV).
2. "But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26, NIV).

Questions:

1. If your mother is living, have you wished her a happy Mother's Day?
2. Just as you appreciate your mother, do you appreciate the church, your spiritual mother?
3. What are ways you can show your love and gratitude to your spiritual mother?