

A mother's work is never done

Dan Nelson - pastor

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Think of all of the things you learned from your mother! As I ponder this it seems an impossibly daunting task to form anything close to a comprehensive list of lessons learned from my mom. From our first steps and words to learning how to share our toys, to problem solving, relationship building, how to survive and how to love, our moms taught us essential life skills that you and I are "too often too busy to appreciate."

Heavy pressure weights the hearts and minds of mothers these days. From finance, career and scheduling pressures to societal woes, dangers and homework checks, moms find a lot of things to worry about. Soccer games and tennis, grades and scholarships, baby-sitting, diapers, clothes that fit, dinner at six, bedtime, bills; the list is endless of the things that moms have to think about. Is it any wonder that they say, "A mother's work is never done"? And a mother is always a mother, no matter how old her children get.

Motherhood is a wonderful gift to all of us created in the mind of God. The original idea and intent of what it means to be a mother was given by God and, I believe, is a primary answer to the problems of this world. When we fail to acknowledge the vital role of motherhood we dishonor our own mothers and do a disservice to humanity.

But how can a mom live up to all of the expectations that are placed upon her today? Can she cook like Rachael Ray, keep house like Martha Stewart, handle finances like Suze Orman, look like Angelina Jolie, and still never lose her patience with the kids? I believe the root problem is that many of us today are getting our model of the ideal mom from the wrong sources.

Since God is the one who created us, and the role of motherhood, shouldn't we go to the Bible to learn of what a mother is to be?

The Scriptures teach that not one of us can do all things; that there is no such thing as the "perfect mom." Further, to attempt to live up to the expectations of others is an impossible and ever-changing demand. Therefore, the only one that mothers need to "impress" is an audience of one; God. The beautiful thing is that God is already deeply in love with every mom and desires to give all that is needed in fulfilling this role in motherhood. It isn't easy. In fact, every involved mother I know would say that it is quite difficult. However, the Bible teaches that it is worth it to fully engage in training up your children, because you will receive the

benefits all of their lives. But it takes wisdom and patience and that doesn't come from comparing oneself to television models and cooking show hosts. That wisdom and patience that is needed so desperately can only come from God. What is needed is personal quiet time with him in prayer, reading, meditation, and support and friendship from others. By oneself, it is impossible. But remember Jesus said that "with God all things are possible."

Let's all take time to appreciate the mothers in our lives, to acknowledge the difficulty, encourage them, love them, pray for them, and attempt to make life just a bit easier.

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:45am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave, Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
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