

Introduction

A. One: Be a C_____ of God^A 3:12a

1. the preciousness of a child's life to its mother

2. eternal, spiritual life as an ultimate satisfaction

B. Two: Give God F_____ P_____ 3:16a, 17a

1. the two roles of a disciple

2. the sacredness of every occupation before God

C. Three: W_____ in the S_____ ^B 3:12b-15a

1. the parallel of the fruit of the Spirit

2. walking in the Spirit involves

3. the picture of Christian graces in these verses is that of

D. Four: Form S_____ R_____ ^C 3:18-21

1. the family as God's building block of society

2. principles of the family relationship

E. Five: Show G_____ 3:15b, 16, 17b

1. the types of gratitude included here

2. how gratitude shows honour to mother

F. Conclusion: I want to honour my mother in a special way by ...

^A Isaiah 1:18, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 1:12

^B Galatians 5:2-23, Romans 8:4, Gal 5:16

^C Galatians 6:7-8

A. Introduction

1. some snippets of information and humour on mother

- a. Mother's day, about a century old in North America, is recent institution compared to the British mothering day which at least 3½ centuries ago extended the old mid-lenten feast to Mary to include all mothers.
- b. 'The joys of motherhood are never fully experienced until the children are in bed.'—{2}.
- c. famous quotes from mother—{3}.
 - (A) 'Why? Because I said so, that's why!'
 - (B) 'I'm going to give you until the count of three!'
 - (C) 'I'm not talking just to hear my own voice.'
 - (D) 'If everyone jumped off a cliff, would you do it too?'
- d. Proverbs 1:8, '...do not forsake your mother's teaching;'
- e. Some things mother taught:—{4}.
 - (A) to appreciate a job well done: 'if you're going to kill each other, do it outside – I just finished cleaning'
 - (B) stamina: 'You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished'
 - (C) foresight: 'Wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident, and have to go to the hospital.'
 - (D) religion: 'You better pray that comes out of the rug!'
- f. Anna Jarvis, who helped create Mother's day (1914), later fought unsuccessfully to have it set aside. Just before her death she said, sadly, 'I devoted my life to Mother's day and the racketeers and grafters have taken it over.'—{5}.

2. Mother's day can be a joyous occasion

- a. Anna Jarvis' original intention was to honour her mother, along with others', as being special, inspirational people
- b. it gives a ready-made excuse to give mom a special treat
- c. to go and visit – and usually every year we have some of our number absent on this day as they travel to do so

- d. to rejoice and to show in very practical ways their love
3. but, for some of us, Mother's day is a difficult day
- a. for some moms, perhaps, it is because as a mother they do feel unworthy of the accolades as they hear another sermon preached from Proverbs 31 about a woman who seems perfect in every way and whose price is above rubies
 - b. for others, such as myself, it may be that their mother has passed away and they realize that they cannot now show the honour and respect to their mother that she was due
 - c. and some, again like me, may have been estranged from their mothers
 - (A) by the evils of separation and divorce
 - (B) or by differences fomented by human passion
 - (C) they may not even know of her spiritual state, needing to depend upon vague indications and words to have a hope of seeing her in heaven
 - d. and ladies, who would have like to have been mothers, have in God's wisdom been denied that blessing – but, I would hasten to add, such women have often been mothers to spiritual children, with eternal impact
4. yet, even in all these situations, the message we have today
- a. has a pertinence and has an application
 - b. for every one of us has a natural mother, or an adoptive mother and/or a spiritual mother worthy of our honour
 - (A) what a blessing when these are found in one person
 - (B) in my case, my grandmother was de facto my adoptive mother and certainly my spiritual mother labouring much to raise me to know the Lord Jesus Christ
 - c. today's message is this: the greatest way that we can ever honour our mother is to walk with God all of our days
 - d. let's see what Colossians 3:12–21 has to say about this

B. One: Be a Child of God

verse 12a

- 1. **Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved** (NIV)
- 2. to a mother, the life of her child is very precious

- a. she is gave birth to that life and was responsible for it
 - b. there is the intimate link formed in the months that she bore that child – for those who are natural mothers – or the yearning months spent before receiving that child – for those who are adoptive mothers
 - c. mothers literally give their lives for their child
 - (A) the sacrifice of hours of sleep for a 2 am feeding
 - (B) the giving up of personal desires and goals for the sake of her child and its good
 - (C) the many ways that she puts that child before herself
 - (D) the prayers expended on behalf of that child
3. so what an achievement of her desires
- a. if her child not only has a healthy, physical life
 - b. but, through the grace of God
 - (A) that child is born of the Spirit of God
 - (B) having accepted the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
 - (C) and has eternal, spiritual life
 - c. this is of great honour to a mother
4. How does one become one of God's chosen people, born again by the Holy Spirit of God? ... by accepting His invitation
- a. 'Come now, and let us reason together,' Says the Lord, 'Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.' – Isaiah 1:18 – God has dealt with our sin ...
 - b. ... in Jesus Christ – He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. – 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - c. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. – John 1:12 – that is how we become God's child

C. Two: Give God First Place

verse 16a, 17a

- 1. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, ... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (NIV)
 - a. a disciple has twin roles; we need to put God first in each
 - (A) as a disciple, learning from the word of Christ
 - (B) as a disciple, wisely passing on that word of Christ

- b. and, put God first in your speech and actions
 - c. but, note first, that these words are not simply addressed
 - (A) to the elder-overseer-pastor
 - (B) to teachers in Sunday School, Awana or elsewhere
 - (C) but to every believer
2. put God first as a disciple – **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom**
- a. first part of discipleship is learning the word of Christ
 - (A) the word of Christ is not only what God has said
 - (B) but it is the self-revelation of God in the man Jesus
 - (C) and this word will dwell in us richly when
 - (1) Christ the living Word is incarnated anew in us
 - (2) our lives reflect the life of our risen Saviour
 - b. the second part of discipleship is passing on that word
 - (A) in the words of Kurt Kaiser's hymn ⁻⁽⁶⁾.
**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on.**
 - (B) not all of us can speak eloquently or argue forcibly on the merit of the word of Christ, but everyone of us is gifted in some fashion that we can pass the word along
3. put God first in your speech and actions – **whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus**
- a. we have been having 'Discussions on Titus' as part of our adult Bible class, looking at the role and responsibilities of the elder-overseer-pastor in the church; an important role
 - b. yet, speaking of 'full-time service' can give the wrong idea
 - (A) just as do the terms 'lay' and 'secular'
 - (B) implying that any other field of activity is second-best
 - (C) and that is simply not the case

- c. God has placed every believer in the place where He would have them serve
 - (A) one of the truths coming out of the reformation was that of seeing every calling – farmer, labourer, mother, pastor – as being a sacred commission from God
 - (B) how you and I carry out that calling, in word, in deed, will bring either praise or shame to the name of Jesus
- d. and this will reflect upon our honouring our mother

D. Three: Walk in the Spirit

verses 12b-15a

- 1. ... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (NIV)
- 2. these words are reflective of Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - a. did you hear those last words?
 - (A) ... against such things there is no law
 - (B) these attitudes and attributes are beyond criticism
 - (C) they reflect well upon the child who has them
 - (D) they reflect well upon and honour that child's mother
 - b. these are fruit of the Spirit
 - (A) His production
 - (B) but what is our part in the production of these fruit?
 - c. God's word instructs us to 'walk in the spirit'
 - (A) so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – Romans 8: 4
 - (B) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. – Galatians 5: 16
 - (C) note that Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has chosen the figure of walking in this connection
 - (1) first, walking is active not passive
 - (a) if someone says to you, 'let's go for a walk'

- (b) and you say, 'Oh yes, I agree'
- (c) but then you simply sit there
- (d) you won't get much waling done
- (e) walking is active and it is volitional; walking needs both your agreement and your action
- (2) secondly, walking is reflexive, unselfconscious
 - (a) let's carry on with our example
 - (b) you get up and you go together on a walk
 - (c) as you walk, you do not think of every step
 - (d) but you converse with your companion
 - (e) so walking is a vehicle so that other activity and conversation can take place
- (3) walking in the Spirit requires the surrender of our will to God's will to allow communing with God

3. with that being said, let us return to the picture in Colossians

a. the picture is that of putting on clothing, dressing oneself

(A) again, this involves

(1) the volitional – dressing ourselves requires a conscious act of the will and of choice

(2) and, it is reflexive – once we are dressed, if we are normal, we wear those clothes unselfconsciously

b. so although these fruit are a work of the Holy Spirit

c. yet in putting on this Christian apparel listed here we see

(A) we have responsibility

(B) we need to participate

E. Four: Form Sound Relationships

verses 18-21

1. *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.* (NIV)

a. this passage actually this continues to talk about other relationships; those encountered in employment

(A) but we will just briefly consider these four

- (B) because these are the social relationships of the family
- b. the family is God's original and basic building block for all of society
 - (A) in the words of the old C of E wedding ceremony, 'matrimony ... is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency ...'
 - (B) especially protected by one of the ten commandments
 - (C) which is why it continues to be under Satan's attacks
- c. how, then, a mother's heart aches when she sees her child
 - (A) making foolish decisions respecting relationships
 - (B) 'hanging out' with the wrong crowd
 - (C) and forming unhealthy relationships
- 2. I am not going to expound in detail these verses
 - a. except to note that they are part of God's spiritual laws
 - b. which, as we noted last week, if such laws are ignored, then there are the inevitable consequences – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6: 7-8)
- 3. so think, then, on these principles of family relationship
 - a. that a wife recognize her husband's spiritual headship
 - b. that a husband manifests Christ-like love to his wife
 - c. that children obey their parents so as to obey God
 - d. that a father encourage his children to their benefit
 - e. Lord willing, we will examine these more closely when we come to this subject in our study in Ephesians; but for now let us take these as God-given principles for the family
 - f. author Adrian Rogers, pastor in Memphis, Tennessee, recounts a story somewhat encapsulating these truths: –{7}.
 - (A) A boy lipped off to his mother one day. In that home showing disrespect to Mama was not tolerated. His dad said to him, 'Son, I want to tell you something. When you lipped off to your mother, you sinned against God. God says you are to honour her, and you're going to have to answer to Him for that.'
 - (B) 'Not only that, but you sinned against your mother. She went down into the valley of the shadow of death to bring you life. How ungrateful you've been to speak to your mother that

way, and you're going to have to answer to your mother for that.'

- (C) And then this godly dad said, 'I want to tell you something else. Not only is she your mother – she's my wife. And you're not going to talk that way to my wife. Now not only do you have God and your mother to deal with, you've got to me to deal with because you have shown disrespect to my wife.'

4. if you develop similar sound and healthy family relationships
- a. then you will bring honour to your mother
 - b. in King Lemuel's words, 'her works will praise her'

F. Five: Show Gratitude

verse 15b, 16, 17b

1. ...And be thankful. ... and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ... giving thanks to God the Father through him. {that is, Jesus} (NIV)
- a. we find in these verses
 - (A) general thankfulness – gratitude
 - (B) focussed thankfulness – directed to God
 - (1) internally as an attitude
 - (2) externally expressed in prayer and praise
 - b. a thankful life
 - (A) a life in which you recognize your blessings
 - (B) a life expressing gratitude
 - (1) to God for His salvation and daily mercies
 - (2) to others, to friends, to parents
 - (3) to mother
 - (C) is a life that brings deep respect and honour to mother
 - c. why should that be so?
 - (A) simply put, when you are a grateful person, a person who sees the blessing of God in everything about you
 - (B) your reveal yourself as being thankful for your life
 - (C) and thus thankful for the one who through suffering and labour brought you into this life

2. so, if you cannot do anything else
 - a. take a few moment this day
 - (A) either by speaking to your mother
 - (B) or, if that is impossible, by speaking about her
 - b. in saying
 - (A) 'thanks mom for all the lessons that you taught me'
 - (B) 'thanks mom for your praying for me when I was rebellious, going my own way, hard to get along with'
 - (C) 'thanks mom for teaching me what is important in life'
 - (D) 'thanks mom.'
 - (E) 'thanks, God, for my mother.'

G. Conclusion

1. How to Honour Mother?
2. By being a person
 - a. who has the Lord Jesus Christ as one's personal Saviour
 - b. who gives God the first place: in words, in actions
 - c. who walks in the Holy Spirit
 - d. who forms sound, healthy relationships
 - e. who shows gratitude
3. this will bring lasting honour to your mother; this is the way that you as her child can best 'rise up and call her blessed.'

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ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
ERV	The Revised Version of 1885
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NLT	1996 New Living Translation © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
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2. Author unknown – Kerux illustration #17501
3. Top Ten Momisms – Kerux illustration #17502
4. What my mother taught me – Kerux illustration #19125
5. Who Hates Mother’s Day, www.sermoncentral.com – Kerux illustration #31041
6. Pass It On, by Kurt Kaise, © Lexicon Music, Inc., 1969.
7. Adrian Rogers, ‘Ten Secrets for a Successful Family’ p. 96–Kerux illustration 29610