



Bulletin

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Remember Your Mom!

MORE THAN A “BIRTHING PERSON”

BY JIM DALY

IN A WORLD OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS RUN AMOK, NOTHING IS sacred—not even motherhood. A case in point is the attempt to replace the title “mother” with the term “birthing person.” The push to redefine motherhood in such generic terms shows how little some in our culture understand what motherhood is really about.

Being a mother involves much more than giving birth to a child. A mother makes a house a home. A babysitter or a nanny can set food in front of a child or tuck them into bed, but a mother nurtures her children and cares for the deepest places of their hearts. Mothers see the deepest, truest parts of their children, yet love them unconditionally right where they are. Mothers inspire their children to pursue their hopes and dreams and to become all they can be.

Moms often minimize their influence. And politically correct jargon makes that problem even worse. But research has proven it true again and again: Motherhood is foundational to a healthy society.

Mom, you are much more than a “birthing person.” You are shaping the character of your children, raising them into adults who will positively impact the world. Motherhood is a sacred mystery that’s rooted in your nurturing and loving influence. That’s why being a mom is not only a priceless gift . . . it’s a profound calling.

Want to know more? Visit www.focusonthefamily.com.





THE VALUE OF YOUR WIFE

I have been to many weddings and heard couples declare their love for each other in ways that brought tears to my eyes. But one of the most powerful phrases that couples use in the ceremony goes something like this: “I will love and cherish you all the days of my life.”

Maybe you had this very line in your wedding vows. If so, you unleashed a powerful word that can help you build a strong marriage and honor your wife on Mother’s Day.

What is the word? It’s not what most people guess—it’s not the word *love*. Although love is important, I want to show you the amazing power of the word *cherish*.

Cherishing Your Wife

In Ephesians 5:29, the apostle Paul gives a powerful instruction to husbands: “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.” In this verse, Paul is explaining that as husbands *cherish* their own bodies, they should cherish their wife, as well.

To cherish your wife is to have a certain mindset or attitude toward her. Cherish means that you recognize your wife’s

incredible value. And even in those moments when you forget how valuable she is, her value never changes. Look at how God sees your wife:

- “fearfully and wonderfully made”
(Psalm 139:14)
- “treasured possession”
(Exodus 19:5)
- “glorious inheritance”
(Ephesians 1:18, NIV)
- “precious”
(Isaiah 43:4)
- “masterpiece”
(Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

These verses are packed with worth and value—they show the essence of the word *cherish*.

God desires for you to deeply grasp your wife’s value as well. The Greek word for cherish is *thalpó*, which means “to warm.” When you cherish your wife, she feels “warm.” This is the power of cherishing—your wife is warmed when you recognize her value.

—Greg Smalley

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE



Every day as a mother, I set an example with my words, whether they're loving or harsh; by my actions, whether they're kind or selfish; even by my decisions, whether they're right or wrong.

Think about the impact our choices have on our children. What do they notice when we talk on the phone with a friend—are we an encourager or a gossip? When we watch television—does it take time away from family time? Or when we interact with people in public—are we polite or rude?

Proverbs 31:26 tells us that a great wife and mom “opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” How can we be intentional and sensitive when it comes to our influence as mothers?

Be Available

Influence starts with availability. Intentional availability—being fully present. We can be in the same room as our children but not really paying attention to them. Consider sitting next to your kids when they're watching a movie or inviting them

to help cook dinner. A mother's presence in her children's lives means more to them than we know and lays the foundation for relationships in years to come.

Be a Godly Example

Our children watch us, and they don't just notice when we do things right; they notice when we mess up, too. We need to apologize when we lose our temper. We need to teach and practice grace. Our kids need to see our relationship with Christ as authentic and real.

Be an Encouragement

It's often easier to spot the flaws in our kids than to be sensitive to what they're doing well. Make a point to encourage your child in what she does right and not just correct her when she does wrong. It's best for us to be direct in our actions but cautious in our reactions, helping our kids believe that we will be their lifelong cheerleader.

—*Sarah Horn*



SERVING AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS

Have you noticed that our world seems to be full of things that drain the life out of us? There is a distinct lack of hope, joy, peace, and love. How can you be life-giving and pour those qualities back into the world? One of the best ways to do that is by serving and encouraging others.

Be a Life Giver

Jesus calls us to serve and encourage one another as a way to be life-giving. He says in Mark 10:43-44, “Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.” Jesus Himself modeled a servant’s heart. “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

The Bible tells us that by serving one another and encouraging others, we are a witness to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Share the Love of Christ

There are many ways you can serve and encourage those around you. Serving others provides an incredible opportunity to share the love of Christ.

Scan the QR code below to see 30 ideas to get you started. Remember, these lists are just scratching the surface of endless possibilities for service. What other ways can you think of to serve others around you? What gifts and talents has God given you that will help you to serve and encourage others?

Sign up for the May Live It Challenge today and learn more about how you can serve others. Be sure to encourage your friends and church youth or children’s ministries to join you! To sign up or for more information, just use this QR code.



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