

Every Day Is Mother's Day – Every Woman a Mother

You probably remember as a child preparing for Mother's Day with the enthusiasm and determination that comes with making the most sincere, beautiful card and getting someone to take you shopping to find some item that would make Mom's life complete.

No matter what we kids made or purchased for her, she always exclaimed that it was *exactly* what she wanted and how much she loved getting it. She would always smile and proudly wear it (without so much as a blink) or put it in a place of distinction in your home.



After Sunday lunch, usually put together with Dad's help, there was a cake and time to lavish gifts on mom. I can still remember my mom putting one finger in the air to get our attention. "EVERY day," she exclaimed, "should be Mother's Day." I always felt a tinge of sadness for the grief I caused her. With renewed resolve I promised in my heart to be a better child and show more appreciation in both word and deed for such a loving mother. That usually lasted about two days, if I remember. And she was always gracious enough to not bring up the subject once Mother's Day had passed.

Mother's are never perfect – something we discover as we age and experience life a little more. But the closest to perfection is the mother who regards her position as one that God has called her to do...day after day, year after year. The day arrives when moms pass the baton on to their children, who now have taken up the task of raising families and celebrating things like Mother's Day. Finally, we "get it."

Mothering – and parenting in general – is an enormous, complex task. You are never "off the clock." Even as your children mature and step out into life they hopefully continue to look for your wisdom and advice – and especially welcome your love and attention to the grandchildren. And so it should be! Many a child has been led to the Lord by a grandmother. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul points Timothy toward the influence his mother and grandmother had on his young life:

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

2 Timothy 1:5

There remain thousands of women who are grieved and hurt at this time of year because God has not given them children. Yet, the truth is, every woman shares an incredible responsibility to follow God's calling, whether we have given a child life and have raised them or not. This world is full of children already born who need our love and care. This world is also covered with opportunities to serve God where busy moms could never venture.

By design God has built into women specific, unique characteristics to which children respond, and need. With these gifts comes responsibility. We cannot take it for granted that because we are their mother, a child will automatically respond to our heeding and teachings. How grateful we should be for the many Christian women who have played a significant role in our children's spiritual development!

A Mother's Responsibility

Popular speaker, author and pastor's wife, Carolyn Mahaney¹ often addresses women's conferences. One of her topics is "A Mother's Responsibility." Using Biblical references Mahaney outlines the role and responsibilities of a mother and exhorts women to not lose sight of the gravity of their purpose. She says, *"As a mother, I am called by God to provide for my children an authentic example and biblical training with a tender love so that they might receive and reflect the Gospel."*

Sounds easy on paper, doesn't it? It won't take much on a day-to-day basis for busy moms to lose their place in all this. It helps if we think upon these things with each new day. Post these thoughts from Carolyn Mahaney on your refrigerator, along with the calendars, doctor appointments, school plays, class trips, visits to the vet, and all the other "important" reminders you see every morning. Place them in your Bible, and even on the screen saver of your computer. They are the touchstone of motherhood.

1. Parenting is a God-given calling.

2. I must be an authentic example.

3. I need to be grounded in and continue in Biblical training.

4. My innate capacity for tenderness and love must be demonstrated and practiced daily.

5. My eternal objective is to lead my children to Christ, a faith in God and Christian walk.

Mahaney's three grown daughters have written "A Daughters' Response" to their mother's points. The full text can be found on www.sovereigngraceministries.org

To mothers everywhere, may this year bring you the joy and recognition you so deserve.

To all women, whether you are moms or not, thank you for your influence, prayers and concern for all children as you touch their lives as well.

¹From the *Mothers & Daughters* audio message

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