

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 8

2022

Treat Your Mother Properly

Sadly, there are many today who take for granted just how special their mother is, and because of that many often mistreat their mother, and give her very little admiration. However, the Bible teaches us that one is to treat their mother properly. So, with that thought in mind let's take a look at what the Bible has to say in regard to how we ought to be treating our mothers. Beginning with, the Bible teaches...

Do Not Despise Your Mother.

My friends, strive to be one who does not despise and bring sadness to your mother, for as the wise man informed, only a foolish man despises his mother (Proverbs 15:20). You see, only a fool will despise their mother, but one who is wise will not despise their mother, and they will acknowledge the fact that she is special. So, be one who is wise, and never despise your mother, even when she is old (Proverbs 23:22).

Respect Your Mother.

We also need to be one who shows respect toward our mother. Why? Well notice these words of Paul, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth*"

(Ephesians 6:1-3). You see, the inspired apostle Paul instructs children to honor (i.e. regard or treat one with admiration and respect) both their father and mother. Therefore, be one who takes heed to this instruction, and always show respect to your mother.

Obey Your Mother.

It is also very important that one obeys their mother. For, as we read in Proverbs 30:17, "*The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pluck it out, And the young eagles will eat it.*" Now, does that get your attention? You see, it is important that children do obey and not forsake the instruction of their parents (Proverbs 1:8-9). Therefore always remember, "*Children, obey your parents (including your mother) in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord*" (Colossians 3:20).

Bring Your Mother Joy.

You see, when one does not despise their mother, but rather respects and obeys her, they will bring her joy rather than shame and sorrow. Therefore, let's all be one who gives our mother the admiration and respect she deserves, and let's likewise keep in mind, it is a foolish child who brings grief to his mother (Proverbs 10:1). So, knowing that, be one who respects and obeys your mother, and be one who brings the one who bore you joy (Proverbs 23:25).

Once more, may we all be one who appropriately treats our mother in accordance with how the Bible tells us to treat her, not just once a year, but rather each and every day that we have to do so.

✍️ Brad Phillips

BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

Loved ones, some of the frequent questions we get are, “If there is a God, why is there so much evil in the world? Why do we have children starving in Africa? Why are women raped and murdered by marauding men? Why are innocent people mowed down by a deranged madman?” These are legitimate questions, and demand a thoughtful and reasoned answer.

My old car had more than 300,000 miles on it; however, it always obeyed me. It always turned left or stopped at my simple command. It didn't argue back or refuse to move. But it was a machine, a robot. It had no choice. It only did what it was programmed to do. It did not love me, and did not even know who I was.

I have been blessed with four children. When they were young, they usually obeyed, but not always. However, if I had to make a choice between my children and my car, it really wouldn't require any thought. I would choose my children. I had a relationship with my children. I loved them and they returned my love. The fact that they had a choice, and still responded to my directions is because they loved and respected me.

God could have created Adam and Eve as robots. He could have programmed into them whatever commands He wanted them to do, just as we may do a computer or some other machine. But God didn't want a bunch of robots running around performing His commands by the pushing of a button. He wanted a creation that He could love, and that would love and respect Him in return.

The only way God could have such a creation was for that creation to have free will—the freedom to choose. That was a risk we took when we brought children into the world. What would our children become? We had faith that they would make good choices through our guidance, but since they had freedom of choice, there was the risk they would go the other way. And thus it was with God's creation.

Sadly, through the centuries that have passed since Adam and Eve were created, and since Noah and Mrs. Noah started over, too many have made wrong choices. Please understand that the evil that is in the world is here because of Satan, not God. And we must suffer the consequences of the sin that is in the world. Yes, even the innocent suffer. One of the immutable laws in the universe is that of cause and effect, action, and consequences (Galatians 6:7-8). When we break the law, there are consequences to be borne. When a drunk gets behind the wheel of a car and runs down a little girl on her tricycle, the innocent suffers. When a deranged young man seeks revenge for his supposed mistreatment and kills 32 others, the innocent suffer.

We understand the law of action and consequences in civil law. Rob a bank and go to jail. When you break the laws of God and nature, there are consequences. Our task is to teach as many as possible to make the right decisions in life, i.e., to obey the Prince of Peace and thus overcome Satan. And we must remember that evil in the world is caused by Satan and the bad decisions he tempts men to make. But we must also remember that no matter what evil comes upon us, God will give us the strength to endure. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

✍ Samuel Matthews

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips... (765) 720-2816