

CALL to PRAYER -

Thank God for your mother

Intro – Lord’s Day / Mother’s Day. Our Lord has commanded that we honor our mothers. Now, not everyone gets a good mother, much less a godly mother...but we all have a mother. And we are to honor our mothers (Matt. 15:4). We are all blessed to have a mother. Some are doubly blessed to have a good mother, and others are triply blessed with a godly mother. But all are blessed to be born. Mothers & motherhood should be honored by us personally as well as collectively within society. But alas that is not the case. Motherhood is rarely recommended as a vocation much less elevated /exalted as an honorable profession. Motherhood is usually framed as something to be avoided because of its “low position” that holds women back from “*real success*.” But I think we need more *professional mothers*, and they need their props. Maybe motherhood is dishonored because it is a very difficult job. But hard jobs are honorable jobs. Today we will look at a something like a job description...a list of qualities in a quality mother. These are motherly traits used in her honorable trade. The feminine virtues are not exclusively to be found in women, but they are virtues in which the fairer sex should excel. Mothers are called to excel in these traits...but all of us should emulate these traits. These are godly traits.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:7-10 - 12 Motherly Traits to Emulate

### THE PREMISE

- The apostle describes the way he worked among these believers in Thessalonica.
  - He conducted himself honorably and with utmost character.
  - His demeanor was like the love of a parent.      Mother - 1 Thess. 2:7      Father - 1 Thess. 2:11
- My premise is that:
  - Motherly qualities are alluded to in 1 Thess. 2:7-10
  - Fatherly qualities are alluded to in 1 Thess. 2:11-12
- Note that Paul, as a man, emulates these motherly traits. (Paul is often slandered as being sexist)
  - Masculine & feminine virtues are not exclusive to their sex.
  - Each sex should excel in certain qualities.      We should be masculine or feminine
  - Each sex should apply and implement godly virtues from the opposite sex

### THE LIST

1. Gentle      1 Thess. 2:7a
  - a. “*Placid, mild, compliant, a disposition of calmness. Not harsh or sharp.*”
  - b. 1 Peter 3:4      2 Tim. 2:24-25 – a trait for a minister      Matt. 11:28-29 – character of the Master
2. Tender care      1 Thess. 2:7b      “*cherishes her own children*” NKJV
  - a. Greek word means, “*to make warm, heat, to nourish.*”      (Eph. 5:28-29)
  - b. Think of a mother who holds her infant close to feed him...warm him...comfort...
  - c. Cherish your children.      Hold them close.      Don’t push them away

- d. How many here would love to have one more hug from your mother?  
 e. *Tender care* is tremendous work...it is wonderful work...it is needed work.
3. **Fond affection** 1 Thess. 2:8a "*affectionately longing*" - NKJV  
 a. Yearning, longing, a desire to see a person and express love  
 b. A good mom can't wait to see and embrace her child.
4. **Selfless devotion to others** 1 Thess. 2:8b  
 a. Giving not only service but oneself. Mothers work is soul work – giving & investing  
 b. Mothering is more than discharging a duty, it is devoting your life to someone else  
 c. Good & godly mothers pour their lives into others as an expression of love.
5. **Labor** 1 Thess. 2:9a (three different words are used to describe a mother's work...which is never done)  
 a. "*Exhausting work with grief and sorrow, beating of the breasts*"  
 b. 1 Thess. 1:3 "*labor of love*" LABOR defines a mother from beginning to end
6. **Hardship** 1 Thess. 2:9b "*toil*" NKJV  
 a. "*Wearisome labor with unusual effort, travail*"
7. **Work** 1 Thess. 2:9c  
 a. Greek - *ergazomai* That word just sounds like "work" (repeated 3 x's for emphasis)
8. **Night & Day** 1 Thess. 2:9d  
 a. Here are her hours. Not an easy 9-5 job  
 b. Prov. 31:15 Psalm 121:3-4
9. **Burden bearer** 1 Thess. 2:9e  
 a. Moms must be strong for their tasks.  
 b. A mom bears a child and she continues to carry the weight of that loving responsibility.  
 c. 2 Thess. 3:7-9 Moms carry a burden to lighten the load on her children – what an example!
10. **Devout** 1 Thess. 2:10 "*holily*" KJV  
 a. A sacred piety A mother's sacred duty is done with religious affection.  
 b. Eph. 4:24 a new person has new priorities
11. **Upright** 1 Thess. 2:10 "*justly*" - NKJV  
 a. Fair, honest, without inflicting undue injury
12. **Blameless** 1 Thess. 2:10c  
 a. 1 Thess. 5:23  
 b. Don't talk about my mother

### **LOVE, LABOR & CHARACTER**

- LOVE - (4) Gentle...Tender Care...Fond Affection...Selfless Devotion
- LABOR - (5) Labor...Toil...Work...Night & Day...Burden Bearer
- CHARACTER - (3) Devout...Upright...Blameless
- Moms reflect God's image when these traits are on display.
  - Moms glorify God the Father by being a good & godly mother. (honor them)
- Mothers are called to excel in these traits but all of us should implement these traits.
  - These are godly traits to emulate