

Biblical *Encouragement* for M_{oms}

November 18, 2012

Topic Eleven: Trading frustration for dedication

Mothers commonly become frustrated over small things sometimes, and other times the frustration is bigger, and seemingly impossible to correct. *But even then, there is God.....* Incredibly, He opens our eyes to solutions we had never dreamed of.

Let's read Philippians 2:13-16 Investing your life for your children's sake is not in vain. Not when it is done for their souls, and to the glory of God. The goal of peace and godliness is worth every last minute of pain, large portions of your day spent working through problems, and less sleep. Accept this calling in life & take it very seriously.

The end result will be appreciated for years to come. A God loving adult will raise their children to love Christ – and that's your grandchildren! You and I must be willing to prayerfully work to accomplish God's will for our families.

Let's look at these verses through the eyes of a teachable mother. God would like to work **in and through** you, if you are teachable. Verse 14 says to do all things without complaining. We need to become more accepting of God's plan for our life. We need to learn to serve Him *through* the trials of life, rather than making everyone around us unhappy, by complaining.

Example **One** : If your car breaks down, pray with your children daily about your need of car repair, and where to get it fixed for the best cost. Then, make the phone calls & do the research calmly. Accept the fact that you are home bound for awhile. Use that time wisely, prayerfully.

Example Two: When one of your children becomes sick and requires your time and money, they need to see you lovingly caring for them (even if they do not appreciate it.) No anger. You must be willing to sacrifice these things for your children. When a child sees a parent resentful toward them in their sickness, they start putting a wall up against that parent. They are tired. They are sick. They need to see the love of Jesus in us. Love them. Hug them. Pray for them. Be gentle with your words.

Remember that the behavior you exhibit is an expression of the condition of your heart. You reveal who you really are by words and actions.

Let's read Philippians 2:13 again.

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

Don't fool yourself. Your walk with God, or lack of it, flows out to your children and husband. We are to shine as lights in the world, according to this verse. Clean up your life, so that you can be a bright light for Christ. (Headlight illustration)

Example Three: When you become frustrated with meal planning, stop and pray. God's ideas are much better than yours. Ask God to balance health with your budget and their taste buds. Children's taste buds do change somewhat as they get older. Patiently share this with them. Tell them how interested you will be as they get older and like more foods. Tell them these changes are part of growing up. Isn't this better than rubbing in the fact that they don't like a particular food? Be hopeful with your children. Anticipate, rather than getting stuck in a rut with food. God has creative ideas for you. Try some new ideas to keep your kitchen fun & interesting. Do not get discouraged.

Your children are watching your reactions. Allow your children to see you accept life's challenges with food and meals. Never give up. Keep trying to find great recipes for your own family. Negativity with food will backfire on you.

Let's look at Philippians 2:16 again.

Holding forth the Word of Life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”

Do you see the connection between being a woman of the Bible (the Word of Life), rejoicing in Christ, and living a life that is not vain and empty? You do not need to be frustrated. You need only to work through your problems prayerfully.

What do you want out of life?

Perhaps your frustration revolves around having selfish desires. Below is a list of areas where you must be cautious.

Email

Face book

Other computer entertainment

Movies

TV

Shopping for clothing

Getting together with friends

Land line or cell phone

Do you realize that these things can become your focus, way before your children?

Almost like an addiction? Let's stop and pray for each of you to get control of all these areas. For some, these are very real temptations that steal away homes that used to be good. Kids are forgotten, pushed away, resented. God help us.

Let's look at Philippians 2:3-4 through the eyes of a Mother-child relationship.

“ Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

It is time for a revival of simple things,

Like sitting down and playing with your children., joyfully.

Like sitting around the table, praying, then eating a meal together.

Like folding socks & towels together.

When was the last time you climbed in bed with a child & talked to them about how much you love Jesus?

Explain how Jesus died on the cross for their sins...the greatest love to all mankind.

This will be a memory they will keep. Now, try telling them something about Jesus every single night. This is pleasing to God.

It is time we fall on our knees before God and repent of our selfishness. We do not need to be like the majority of homes out there. We need to be *completely set apart for God*, serious about the future of our children.

The verses above say “let nothing be done through strife or vain glory.” This is the story of many homes - strife and selfishness, bossing around their children without patiently teaching them how to live life. Push, push, push.

I have chosen differently. Why don't we all break away from this ugly pattern? Let's dedicate our lives to God. It will bring new energy and vitality into the way we parent our children.

Now, a final thought. Let's look again at Philippians 2:16.

“Holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”

The last part of this passage speaks of the possibility of living a life that is vain, or empty. Let's look at the verse slowly. It is rich with meaning for Mothers like us.

Holding forth the Word of Life - This is the Bible. The Bible is an important part of success in raising our children. We need to remember these words that will inspire us to read the Bible and teach the Bible to our children. Get creative with it.

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 3:15

The just man walketh in his integrity (an excellent life, genuine, not hypocritical), his children are blessed after him.” Proverbs 20:7 Your children are blessed by your genuine walk with God.... something they can see.

“I will make Thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise Thee forever and ever.” Psalm 45:17 (How are you applying this to your children?) I so want my children to remember God and praise Him forever and ever!

That I may rejoice in the day of Christ- You will rejoice in the time of Christ's second coming if you are loving Him and living for Him before your children.

“Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Matthew 24:42

“Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44

See Mark 13:31- 37 Jesus warns us not to be sleeping, but alert and serving Him when He comes. May we be raising our children for Christ when He comes.

That I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”

What a tragedy to live your life totally in vain, and for your children to be entertained to death, but never know Christ, the giver of life and peace! This happened in generations of the past, and Christ took them away in a flood—millions of people. What will we do with Jesus? Will we allow Him to change our lives, our homes? Serving Him is never in vain.

Trade your frustration for a non stop dedication to Christ – never, never in vain, all for the love of Jesus Christ. Your children need your loving example of working through problems with prayer to the God of solutions.

Calvary Baptist Church
Sauk City, WI
saukprairiecalvary.com