



# The Mission of Motherhood

by Vincent M. Newfield

“It is better to build children than to repair men.” Those were the words on a plaque in the waiting room of my father’s counseling office. I never fully understood the meaning or the weight of those words until I became a parent myself . . . until I saw my wife give birth to our four daughters and accept the role of MOM.

The mission of motherhood is an occupation often underrated in society today. Yet, it is one of the most challenging and I believe the *most important* jobs ever. It is a profession that has been around since the beginning of time. Unlike other occupations that have started and been phased out due to downsizing and computer automation, motherhood remains in a class all its own and continues to offer great job security.

**Job Requirements** Being a mother is a career that no college can prepare you for and no book can fully educate you on. Multiple skills are required and learned through “on the job training.”

**Skills Needed** Consider the many hats Mom wears. She functions as a *cook*, providing meal after meal for her famished family. She’s a *nurse*, caring for cuts, bruises and abrasions. She’s a *psychologist*, helping to heal emotional hurts. She’s a *teacher*, educating her kids in the truth of God’s Word as well as the practical areas of sharing, personal hygiene and picking up after themselves. She’s a *cheerleader*, offering encouragement and motivation to “stay in the game” when her kids feel like quitting. And the list goes on.

**Salary & Hours** As the old saying goes, “Man works from sun to sun, but a mother’s work is never done.” Oh how true. Unlike someone who goes to work *outside* of the house, Mom works in the house and hardly ever leaves her place of employment. The wages she earns are not dollars and cents. Her salary is the sweet satisfaction of her children serving the Savior and modeling His behavior. Although the payback is often not fully realized for many years, the end product of a child raised up *in the way he should go* packs great promise.

**The Perfect Mom?** Because there are no perfect people, there are no perfect mothers. So what characteristics does a good mom have? I think we would all vote for one that is loving, kind and caring—yet firm, consistent and unwavering in giving instruction and discipline. I’m sure there are other qualities we could list, but I believe one of the greatest qualities exhibited by a good mother is the willingness to admit when she is wrong—to God *and* to her children.

**True Story** A man I know had the opportunity to go home for the holidays and was privileged to have one special, late-night conversation with his mom. As he shared some of the victories and struggles of his own parenting, she lovingly looked straight into his eyes and sincerely apologized for the times her parenting was poor and caused more hurt than help. She then asked God to forgive her and to heal her son in every area he had experienced hurt. The man and his mom hugged, kissed on the cheek and said good night. He felt closer and had more appreciation for her than before. How do I know? Because I am that man.

So, to the moms who raised us and to our wives who are raising our kids: We love you, Mom. We wholeheartedly salute YOU! You’re not laboring in a low-end job. You are performing one of the greatest tasks ever to be tackled—you are building people...nurturing dreams...fostering future leaders in every field. You are God’s chosen child in whom He is well pleased!

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## Celebrate Mom!

Her children respect and bless her; her husband joins in with words of praise: “Many women have done wonderful things, but you’ve outclassed them all!” Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God. Give her everything she deserves! Festoon her life with praises!

—PROVERBS 31:28-31 (THE MESSAGE)

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