

PAUL AS A MOTHER

CHARACTERISTICS OF GODLY MOTHERS

"we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children"

~ 1 Thessalonians 2:7

1. Motherhood

- a. God created male and female in his image to "be fruitful" - Gen 1:27
- b. Woman ~def. Adult female human. (All wives and mothers are women.)
- c. Woman created of man; but man now by the woman (mothers) - 1 Cor 11:12
- d. Mother ~def. A female parent; a woman who has borne a child.
 - i. Matter from which we come, our place of origin, that which produced fruit
- e. God made motherhood with godly qualities for us to learn.
- f. Paul was a father in the faith, but also patterned traits of a good mother - 1 Th 2:7

2. Mother's Labor

- a. Good mothers labor to bear fruit in children acc. to God's will
- b. A new baby literally lives off the flesh and blood of mother for months/years.
- c. Like a mother, Paul labored in thankless work for his children - 1 Thess 2:9
- d. Like a mother, he travails until Christ be formed in them - Gal 4:19
- e. This kind of work is what defines grace - (Sarah our mother = grace) Gal 4:26
- f. Like a mother, Paul labored as an ensample of hard work, love, grace - 2 Thess 3:8-9

3. Mother's Gentleness

- a. Good mothers deserve honor and praise, but do not seek it - 1 Th 2:6-7
- b. Like a mother, Paul was given authority, but did not use his power - 1 Cor 9:12
- c. Like a mother, Paul put on the mind of Christ (servant) - Phi 2:5-7
- d. Paul took wrong, dishonor, and scorn from his spiritual children - 2 Cor 11:23-30
- e. Paul exhorted Timothy to be gentle, apt to teach, patient, meek - 2 Tim 2:24-26
- f. All children born in sin needing the kindness and grace of God - Titus 2:11, 3:3-5

4. Mother's Affection

- a. Good mothers have abundant affection toward their children.
- b. Like a mother, Paul loved his children so much as to give his soul - 1 Th 2:8
- c. Affection is not flattery, false praise, to spoil the children - 1 Th 2:5
- d. Like mothers, Paul spoke truth in love to stablish them Eph 4:15, Gal 4:16, 2 Cor 12:16

5. We Need Good Mothers

- a. Without the traits of good mothers, we lack persistent labor, gentleness, true love.
 - i. Labor of love is replaced by comfortable services.
 - ii. Gentleness replaced with pride, manipulation, pulpit power grabbing.
 - iii. Affection is replaced with flattery and hollow niceties to get people to church.
- b. We are instructed to follow the traits of godly mothers - 2 Tim 3:10-11
- c. Mark those that possess the traits of good mothers - Phi 3:17