

Saving the Mothers!

(An Exposition of 1 Timothy 2:15)

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The perfect man met the perfect woman and they got married. One Christmas Eve they were driving down the highway and noticed a man stranded by the side of the road. This was no ordinary man. It was Santa Claus! Being the perfect people they were, they offered Santa a ride because he was in a hurry to get his toys delivered. Alas, the roads were slippery, and there was a terrible car crash. Two of the three people were killed. Do you know who survived? The perfect woman! Everyone knows Santa Claus and the perfect man don't really exist.

I think a woman wrote this! How can a mother or women survive from a spiritual perspective in the midst of all the marital confusion and cultural contamination of this world? How can she take the reins of her life and live for the glory of God? Amid the women's liberation movement and the cultural rejection of male leadership in the home and church life, how can a woman do what is right in God's eyes?

The answer is given in 1 Timothy 2:15. Here is God's answer to living above the cultural corruption, Women's Lib and all the rest of the ideological nonsense of our day. Ladies, if you want true fulfillment, enrichment, and satisfaction in life, if you want to live a Spirit-directed and Word-filled life, then follow what 1 Timothy 2:15 says. If you obey what this text says your life, marriage, home, and husband will be greatly blessed!

The entire text of 1 Timothy 2:12-15 gives the context and background for understanding our main verse. Let me begin by giving you an overall understanding of what is being said in these verses. **"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence** (*in preaching and teaching the Bible before the assembly of the local church*). **For** (*indicating the reasons for this command*) **Adam was first formed** (*the first reason why women should not become preachers is because of the creative design of male leadership which means men lead the church*), **then Eve** (*the creative design of submission means women don't lead in church assembly life in the teaching of God's Word*). **And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the**

transgression (a second reason why women should not lead and teach men in the local church is because of the entrance of sin into the human race - Adam was not deceived but Eve was deceived by the Devil which reconfirms women in their position as followers and not leaders). **Notwithstanding** (but) **she shall be saved in** (during or throughout) **childbearing** (saved, delivered, preserved from repeating the same sins and deception of Eve as she raises her children), **if they** (speaking corporately to the Christian mothers who are bearing or raising children) **continue in faith** (trust in God and His promise) **charity** (love God, your husband, and children)) **and holiness** (purity) **with sobriety** (soundness of mind)."



A mother can save herself from repeating Eve's deception and shameful sins and raise godly children.

This truth is demonstrated in two ways.

I. Through the salvation that is promised.

"Notwithstanding she shall be saved in (*throughout the process of*) childbearing" (*raising children*).

Many commentators call verse 15 one of the most difficult verses in the New Testament to interpret. Therefore, it's no surprise that this verse has been interpreted in various ways. Let me give you the unlikely interpretations. First, a godly women will be kept physically safe (saved physically) through childbirth in spite of the curse of the Genesis Fall. The problem with this view is that it isn't true: many godly women have died in childbirth.

Second, a common view is that the woman will experience salvation though "the" childbearing. The use of the definite article in the Greek language ("the childbearing") is said to specifically point to the incarnation and birth of Christ and being saved through Jesus Christ. Eve was saved by faith in the promised seed of the woman who was Christ (Gen. 3:15). Therefore, this view teaches that women

will be saved (spiritually) through the Childbirth, the birth of Christ, the seed of the woman, who brought salvation to the human race. The problem with this view is, if this were Paul's meaning, "he could hardly have chosen a more obscure or ambiguous way of saying it" (Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles* Eerdmans, p. 78).

Here the definite article ("the childbearing") is referring to the specific and primary role that women were to have in raising children. The childbearing echoes the truth of motherhood – not Christ's physical birth. This verse is actually talking about the mother raising children and not the physical birth process. The term "childbearing" does not only mean giving physical birth but raising children and teaching them how to live a fruitful, godly, and productive life in society. This is what the word means in this passage as we will see. Strong says this about the word: "The bearing of children, and thus by implication including all the duties of the maternal relation."

Goerge Zeller correctly observes:

"The noun 'childbearing' is found only here in 1 Timothy 2:15, but the verb also occurs in the New Testament in only one place, namely 1 Timothy 5:14. Thus, 1 Timothy 5:14-15 gives us a hint as to the meaning of the noun in our problem passage. Paul exhorted the young women to marry, bear children and to assume their proper place in the home, lest they should give occasion to the adversary. Paul was grieved because many had already been deceived by Satan (1 Tim. 5:15). Young women who do not assume their God-given place in the home could easily turn aside unto Satan."

As in 1 Timothy 2:15 to "bear children" (1 Tim. 5:14) does not merely speak of giving birth but includes all the duties of motherhood (raising children or maternal duties), to be a parent or mother. Here is the point. Those who espouse the view that women would experience salvation through the birth of the Messiah are not finding this within the context. It is foreign to what Paul is actually teaching regarding the women's role in the Genesis Fall and the ramifications that came about as a result of the Fall.

1 Timothy 2:14 says:

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

There is no question that the “serpent beguiled Eve” (2 Cor. 11:3). She was hoodwinked by the Devil. This is a secondary argument for male leadership in the home and church. Eve acted out of place. Adam sinned with his eyes wide open, but Eve was deceived. CREATION was the primary reason for male leadership, but CATASTROPHE was another reason in Eve’s rebellion in the original Fall. God in the order of creation made man to be the leader and the woman to follow him. But Eve broke this design, and the Genesis Fall became a reconfirmation and reaffirmation of God’s original purpose.

Tom Constable correctly asserts:

“I do not believe that God confirmed Eve and all women as followers because they are congenitally more susceptible to deception than males. Adequate evidence to support such a sweeping generalization is lacking (cf. 2 Tim. 1:5; Titus 2:4). Rather it was evidently because Eve on that one occasion was deceived that God confirmed her and her daughters in their position as followers.”

In Genesis chapter three we find “The Edenic Women’s Liberation Movement.” The woman was said to be in the “transgression” (overstepping God’s boundaries, violating God’s will for her life when taking the lead over Adam). Paul is not saying that Adam was blameless (Rom. 5:12–21) but that Eve was blinded. She transgressed God’s revelation while being deceived. Eve’s desire to lead Adam into sin becomes a secondary reason for God’s pattern of male authority and leadership in the home and Church. It is a confirmation that Eve was disobedient to the original command of male headship or leadership (Gen. 2:18-22; Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3).

The Fall resulted not only because of disobedience to God’s command, but from violating God’s appointed creative roles for the sexes. Although Adam was not deceived by Satan, as was Eve, he still chose to disobey God. As the head of their relationship Adam bore the ultimate responsibility for plunging the human race into sin. This is why the New Testament relates the Fall to Adam’s sin, not Eve’s (Rom. 5:12–21; 1 Cor. 15:21–22). Adam rejected the God-given order, he listened to his wife, disobeyed God, and brought sin and death into the world.

Romans 5:12 says, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” In other words, through Adam (not Eve) sin came into the world and since we were all

seminally related to Adam, we are born as sinners. Sin is passed on to us through Adam. However, in this context we find that Eve in some sense has passed on to women (through Adam) her legacy of deception and sinful rebellion. This is because the original transgression continues to show up in the hearts and lives of women today as they seek to take the lead in the home and church.

Although Adam as the head and leader of the human race took the hit or blame for sin coming into the world, Eve was not guiltless. She was deceived and directed Adam to sin against God's will. Therefore, the woman was said to be "in the transgression" (1 Tim. 5:14). She blindly shared in the transgression by leading Adam in open rebellion against the clear revelation of God. This observation helps us to put 1 Timothy 2:15 in its historic context and make a correct interpretation.

Eve was seen to have transgressed God's law by following the serpent's suggestions and she committed a shameful transgression in leading Adam into open rebellion against God and independence from God. This act resulted in shaming her role as a woman and Biblical womanhood in general for she was created as Adam's helper – not leader (Gen. 2:20). This shame and sinful tendency was in some sense passed down to every woman and this is what a Christian woman and mother needs to be delivered from today. A woman needs to be delivered from living independently from God's will but also from her husband authority.

In the framework of this context Paul is not talking about the spiritual salvation of the soul (1 Timothy 2:15) but a mother's present-day sanctification (salvation or deliverance in her daily life over sin) when "she" (as a woman) becomes a godly mother and raises children for the glory of God. The "salvation" is referring to a present-day deliverance from the shameful record of the past (Eve's acts of sin) provided she walks with the Lord. And the added bonus is that she will raise godly children that also love and walk with the Lord.

Philippians 2:12 -13

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation (*the progressive sanctification aspect of salvation*) with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."

Lilley writes:

“She shall be saved from the results of sin and be enabled to maintain a position of influence in the Church by accepting her natural destination as a wife and mother, provided this surrender is further ratified by bringing forth the fruit of sanctified Christian character.”

Here is the point. If a mother saves herself, she will save her children. If a mother practices sanctified deliverance from deception and living outside of God’s will for her life and marriage, she can effectively raise children according to Biblical principles and patterns.

Sadly, Eve passed down a shameful record upon all women that in one sense needs to be overturned by godly living and mothers who raise children for God’s glory. In other words, instead of passing on a mother’s sins to her children, a godly mother lives a life of purity and godly character which will have a profound effect on her children. Again, the salvation of a mother’s soul is NOT in question but her salvation or deliverance over sin through sanctified and godly living (holiness). This will result in a mother erasing the effects of Eve’s sinful record upon her life and raising children that will bring honor and glory to the name of Jesus Christ. This seems to be the best understanding of this text.

Abraham Lincoln said:

“No man is poor who has had a godly mother.”

When Robert Ingersoll, the notorious skeptic, was in his heyday, two college students went to hear him lecture. As they walked down the street after the lecture, one said to the other, “Well, I guess he knocked the props out from under Christianity, didn’t he?” The other said, “No, I don’t think he did. Ingersoll did not explain my mother’s life, and until he can explain my mother’s life I will stand by my mother’s God.”

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan had 4 sons and they were all preachers. Someone once came into the drawing room (where guests were welcomed) and all the family was there. They thought they would see what Howard, one of the sons, was made of so they asked him this question: "Howard, who is the greatest preacher in your family?" Howard had a great admiration for his father and he looked straight across at him and then without a moment’s hesitation he answered, "Mother."

Let's put the main teaching and thought of this verse together. "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing" (1 Tim. 2:15) means that a woman can be delivered from the effects of Eve's deception and sins and raise godly children. The "childbearing" refers NOT to BIRTHING children but in this case RAISING children for God's glory. The Greek word for "childbearing" (teknogonia) can refer to the performance of maternal duties (motherhood). The "salvation" refers to present-day sanctification (holiness) in the mother's life which allows her to raise her family in a godly manner. Essentially, Paul was teaching that a woman can be saved from Eve's shameful record of deception, rebellion, and defeat. Instead of spiritual defeat she can "in childbearing" (through the process of raising children) live victoriously over sin and raise her children for the glory of God.

1 Timothy 2:15 is a unique verse that speaks about "Saving the Mothers!" In other words, mothers can be saved or delivered from the power of deception and sinful rebellion against God's design for them, which is to live a sanctified life, one that is not lived in rebellion against God and His purpose for her life which is to follow husband's leadership and raise godly children.

This unique text reveals to every mother and woman how she can save herself or deliver, rescue, and preserve her life from the historic stigma and shame that came upon all women through Eve's sin in the Garden. A mother can save herself from following the same path and pattern of life as Eve. A Christian mother can be saved from repeating effects of the Genesis Fall and in particular from Eve's deception and sinful departure from Biblical womanhood if she commits her life to following God's design for the home and marriage.

A woman can live an effective Christian life for the glory of God when she understands what happened in Eden (Gen. 3:1-7) and seeks to counteract and correct the effects of sin and the stigma (shame) that women have received through Eve's Edenic sin. In other words, any woman that seeks to live a spiritual or godly life and raise her children in a God-honoring fashion can in some sense turn the tables on what happened in Genesis (a deceived woman leading her husband in sin) and restore Biblical womanhood to her life, marriage, and home. As a mother or woman, you can be saved from Eve's stigma of disobedience to God's design for marriage and live an effective and fulfilling life for the glory of God as you raise your children. But this will only happen if you do not repeat the

deception and sins of Eve which consisted of independence from God, personal gratification, and liberation from male leadership.

Mothers, save yourselves! And in saving yourselves, you will also save your children! This is the message of 1 Timothy 2:15.

A Christian woman can be saved from an unsanctified life of shame, regret, and defeat if she counteracts the Edenic pattern set by Eve. She will be saved from the stigma that is passed upon women through Eve's actions and raise her children to be servants of



the Lord. A woman is saved from the ongoing ill-effects of the Genesis record when she refuses to listen to Satan's deceptions, submits to her husband's spiritual role of leadership, when she refuses to live independent of her God-given role, and raises her children in the home for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ! This is what Paul is teaching when he says, "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing." She can experience sanctification in her life, be delivered from sin, while she raises her children for God.

Ladies, do you want to save your marriage? Do you want to save your children? Then save yourself from deception and defeat by living a sanctified life, by refusing to live in rebellion against God's will and role for your life. Don't follow Eve's pattern of rebellion but God's blueprint for your life!

Mothers know that raising children is a fun and challenging time of life. One mother said there are four things that my children have learned.

- ✓ No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- ✓ When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- ✓ You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- ✓ You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

Once again, this text is talking about “childbearing” or the maternal duties of a mother that raises her children in a godly manner. A mother can experience sanctification in her life and raise her children for God’s glory because. She can choose to live a holy life, experience deliverance from Eve’s shameful record of the past, and counteract Eve’s deception and rebellion.

Again, the Bible states that “in Adam all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12). Sin is passed on to the human race through Adam, but Eve’s sin keeps showing up in the lives of women today. Ladies, it’s clear that Eve’s sin was to live independent of God and in doing so she chose to live independent of Adam’s leadership. History often repeats itself. We can’t deny this and the same is true with women seeking to dominate the home and live outside the sphere of their role as a submissive and godly woman raising her children.

Someone said:

“History repeats itself because nobody listens or history repeats itself because the world doesn't learn.”

Ladies, if necessary, you must learn from Eve’s sinful record and seek to restore godliness to your personal life and home. History is repeating itself in the lives of many women today. Genesis 3:16 (the original Women’s Lib Movement) reveals that what happened in Eden continues to have historic and unchanging ramifications on the world of women and men! We can’t wiggle out of it. We have inherited the sin and stigma (shame) that goes along with the sins that were committed in Eden. This is true of not only women but men. The only way we can overturn these shameful acts is by grace. We must be transformed by God’s grace so that the stigma (shameful record) of the past does not keep us from following God’s will today.

Paul is saying that the only way a woman can reverse the shameful record of Eve’s disobedience is to experience sanctification in her life while raising godly seed (children). Paul impresses upon a woman’s heart how she can “save herself” (experience daily sanctification in her life) while raising children (“childbearing”) despite Eve’s record of disobedience and failure. The woman saves herself through sanctified living which can be manifested by changing her sinful patterns and raising her children according to Biblical principles and instilling right and wrong in them.

As a mother you must be delivered from the deception of the Devil, a deception that results in living a life that is independent of God's will for your life and independent of male leadership in the home and church. You need to be delivered from this if you want to raise children that will follow God and not rebel against Him. As a mother, how you live and what you teach will have profound and lasting effects upon our children. This salvation or deliverance can only come through the ongoing process of sanctification (holy living). This "salvation" or sanctification and victory over sin will result in raising children that will count for God and live for Him.

Mother, save yourself! You can live victoriously instead of rebelliously, while you raise your children, and bring up children that will love God and live for Him. This is God's promise to you in 1 Timothy 2:15. You can save yourself, sanctify your life through applying God's truth and victory to your life, and also save your children from going down a rebellious path of indifference to God and independence from God.

1 Timothy 4:16 teaches a similar truth about saving ourselves:

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

Again, saving yourself does not refer to salvation from hell but saving yourself from sinful patterns of life and acts of rebellion against God's design for your own personal life and marriage. It is speaking of sanctification in the Christian life. You can save yourself from a lot of sin and family pain and heartaches when you follow the truth and do what is right. However, you must take the initiative to follow the right path. You must take time to be holy!

If you accidentally cut yourself and are bleeding profusely you need to make a makeshift tourniquet to save yourself. If you are bitten by a rattle snake you must make your way to the hospital as fast as you can to save yourself by getting anti-venom. You must take action to save yourself. The same is true in relation to deception and sin. You need to save yourself from the deception of the devil and the power of sin and rebellion against God and you do this by applying truth to your heart and life. The result is you can live according to God's will and pass the same pattern down to your children.

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

As a mother, you can save yourself through practical sanctification (holiness). You can be delivered from the historic shame placed upon all women because of the Genesis Fall and erase this stigma in your life. And in doing so, you will save your children from a path of rebellion. You will be saved and delivered from the initial rebellion of Eve and live as a godly mother when raising your children.

Again, this interpretation of 1 Timothy 2:15 seems to fit best with what Paul just previously talked about and puts everything into perspective concerning a woman's place in the home and church.

1 Timothy 2:12-13 confirms:

“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.”

The feminist teachers of today claim Paul's teaching was prompted by some cultural situation at Ephesus and is not applicable in today's 21st century culture. Of course, there is no cultural condition on which this command is based. It's God's creative condition! Adam was first formed and this in doing this male leadership was established by God. Paul appeals to the creation account in Genesis 2 to establish the headship of male leadership, and he taught this same truth to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 11:1–9).

Women try to get around the Biblical teaching of headship in marriage by defining the term “head” as a source of blessing but not necessarily as a leader. This is an attack and assault on the historic Scriptures! Based upon God's creative headship, which was established at the time of creation, man was to be the leader. This carries over into the leading roles and positions in the church. Only men were to be leaders, pastors, and deacons.

A woman was never to “usurp authority” (exercise dominion over the man) or male leadership in the church. The reason for this command is because of creation - “For Adam was first formed, then Eve.” Male headship did NOT result from the Genesis Fall. The Fall was only a secondary confirmation of what God had initially or already built into creation). Male headship stems from the Genesis

creation! This is the way God designed the family unit! It's the way He designed the Church. Christ is Head of the universal Church and men are to be head of the local churches since this is the way God designed it.

The expression "to be in silence" means that women are to keep quiet in the sense of not teaching the Word of God and taking on this lead role within the local churches. They are to demonstrate subjection by not usurping the authority of the elder or preacher. Of course, this command does not entirely rule out women teaching. Priscilla and Aquila both instructed Apollos (Acts 18:26), but in private and not in the worship of the church. And women can and must teach other women (Titus 2:3-4). What this means is that women cannot teach during the public worship of the church. The issue is where a woman's spiritual gifts are exercised.

Sometimes there is a shortage of men on the mission field. One missionary woman personally found herself in a situation where no men were present, and she was more biblically trained to handle the Word. Rather than violating the Scripture, she would prepare the message or lesson and teach it to a native man, who would then be the preacher when the church gathered.

Someone said:

"Women must stop believing the devil's lie that the only role of significance is that of leadership."

Serving is the key; we need a servant's heart.

"Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant make me a servant
Make me a servant today."

Even Jesus was submissive to the Father while He was here on earth. Submission does NOT mean inferiority but service. Ladies, your significance and satisfaction is found first in submission to your husband and secondarily to male church leadership. This is what the Bible teaches. If you live outside this realm, you will be missing out on God's design and plan for your life.

I always like to ask women preachers one question. How can a woman be a pastor when the Bible gives this requirement for an elder - "the husband of one wife" (1 Tim. 3:2)? Women preachers are recreating the Edenic rebellion to some degree by attempting to reverse the roles that God designed. No, not every woman preacher is trying to lead the church into sin, but they are mocking God's creative roles when they stand up in front of men in the local congregations and speak with authority. Women are out of place when they do this, and God will have the final say on women preachers when they stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ someday (2 Cor. 5:10). God does not look upon "role reversal" lightly. This is true in the church and home. Disobedience is disobedience no matter which you cut the pie!!

God has provided a way for every woman to reverse the effects and shame of the Genesis Fall which involved a woman overtaking the man's role of leadership. Ladies, the way you save yourself from this shameful or blemished record passed upon women is to become a submissive woman and a mother who raises godly children that will count for God. While being a godly mother as you raise children, you can be saved from the rebellion and sinful effects passed on from Eden.

Many times we ask a non-believing person without Christ, "Are you saved?" But I want to ask all believing mothers - "Are you saved?" I don't mean, are you saved from hell and judgment. Are you being saved or delivered from the stigma (shameful record of the past), from an unsanctified pattern of living which was witnessed in the actions of Eve? You don't need to repeat Eve's sins of living in fleshly independence from God and her husband and experiencing spiritual defeat. You can be saved from this type of lifestyle when you experience God's sanctifying grace in your life, become a godly woman, and raise godly children for the glory of God - "she shall be saved in (during or throughout) childbearing" (saved from repeating the same sins and deception of Eve and raise godly children in the home).

Mom, you can be saved from losing your family and children, if you follow God's will for your marriage and life. You don't have to repeat Eden; you can follow God's plan and purpose for your life!

Let's apply this verse to mothers specifically.

(1) Check your attitude toward Scripture. Are you defiant or compliant? Because of our rebellion against God, we all have a tendency to shrug off the parts of His Word that we don't like. If you only submit to the parts of the Bible you like, then you're just using the Bible to reinforce your sinful desires.

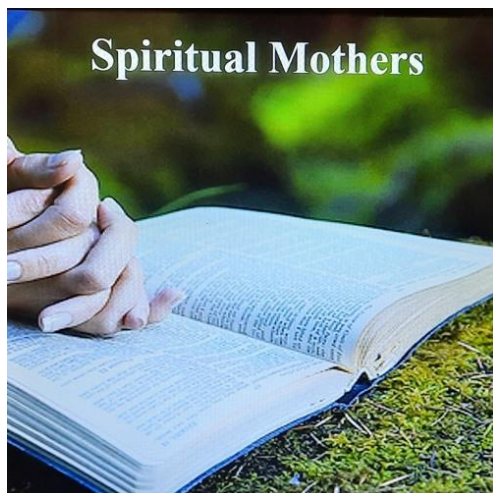
If you as a woman seek self-fulfillment outside of God's will, you will come up empty. If you deny yourself and serve in the roles God's Word ordains, He will bless you beyond measure. Ladies, this is the forecast that God gave. If you don't like it, remember, I don't make up the weather; I just report it!

(2) Check your attitude toward the opposite sex. Are you competitive or cooperative? There should be no war between the sexes in the church and in the home. We should follow God's roles for our marriage and serve one another.

(3) Check your attitude toward the home. Are you a burden or a blessing? Children should never be viewed by Christian women as a hindrance to their fulfillment through a career. Children are one of God's greatest blessings. The responsibility of shaping their character through godly example in the home is more important than any career.

Yes, a mother can save herself from repeating Eve's deception and shameful sins and as a result raise godly children. This is first demonstrated through the salvation that is promised to every mother – the promise of a sanctified and victorious life. But we must go on in our study.

II. Through the spirituality that is practiced.



A mother is also saved or sanctified as she seeks to live a spiritual life. The home needs spiritual moms who are walking in the Spirit's power (Gal. 5:25) and not being dominated by the sin nature.

1 Timothy 2:15 goes on to say:

“Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and hoiness with sobriety.”

Ladies, how can you do it? How can you live a life that will counteract “The Edenic Women’s Liberation Movement.” How can you follow God’s will for your life, which involves raising children for God’s glory? You can only do it when you determine to change your life by God’s transforming grace and manifest the kind of character and virtues that will impact your own personal life, your husband, and children. You can have a lasting spiritual impact upon your family through your life and lips.

a. The determination to live a spiritual life.

The Bible says, “If they continue” (1 Tim. 2:15). This is the “if” of desire, determination, and personal free will. It suggests that this salvation (sanctification) is conditioned upon a woman’s continued walk as she practices faith, love, holiness, and in self-control.

Ladies, the ball is in your court! What do you want to do with your life? What will your children grow up to be like? What will your answer be? There is no magic in having personal victory, changing your home life, and living for God’s glory. You must want to do it with all of your heart! You must have a deep longing and desire to live out a spiritually profitable life through submission and godly living instead of living independent of God’s purpose for your life. You only do what you want to do! Nobody is force-feeding you, but the Holy Spirit is prodding you on to live for Jesus Christ. What will your answer be? Take self out of the picture. Each mother must take the initiative to do what is right for her own life and family. She must take action to live victoriously and make an active decision to live for God every day.

2 Corinthians 7:1

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Cleansing yourself from sin means that you desire to live a life that is committed to holiness and in obedience to God’s will and purpose for your life. It means that you will take every opportunity and effort to do what is necessary to change your manner of living. You must be determined to live for God or else you won’t stay committed to His purpose for your life.

b. The distinct qualities of a spiritual life.

1 Timothy 2:15 declares, “if they (mothers) continue (persevere) in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” This suggests that the salvation or deliverance through sanctification is conditioned upon a woman’s spirituality, her continued walk in the faith, in love, in holiness, and in self-control. If you want to live a spiritual life while raising your children, then apply these Christians virtues to your life and practice them.

There are four qualities of spirituality.

➤ **Surety (“faith”)**

Faith means that you are sure about something. You can bank on it. There are various areas where we can express our faith. We are to have faith in God’s person (His character), God’s providence (His ways), God’s promises (His Word), and God’s power (His strength) for victory. In this context, mothers can be sure that Christ has won the victory for you over sin, and each mother can walk by faith in this victory and provision.

As a mother and woman, you can live confidently, you can be sure, you can possess a strong faith that through Christ you can live victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. You can be victorious over your emotions, your feelings, and in your thinking. We are talking now about faith in God (strong faith!). Faith is still the victory!

1 John 5:4

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Ladies, you can’t be “saved” from the world, the flesh, and the devil “in childbearing” (in the maternal duties of raising children) unless you live and walk by faith in God’s victorious promises and provision. Faith is what gets you through the day when the children are naughty. Faith is what gets you through the tough times. Faith in God, His Word and promises is what keeps you from going down in defeat (anger, unforgiveness, lust, etc.).

Even more specifically, you need to possess a dynamic faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who won the victory over the Devil. As a mother you must remember that Jesus not only *paid* it all on the cross, He *won* it all! He defeated the Devil on the cross and won the victory over the realm of darkness.

Colossians 2:15

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

This means that by faith you can claim the victory over the Devil and what he is trying to do in your life. Satan is out on bond, but He is a defeated foe. I know for I have read the end of the book! He will be cast into the Lake of Fire someday. Ladies, you don't have to live in defeat; you choose to live in defeat. When you harbor bitterness in your heart, you are living in defeat. When you can't forgive and are allowing various sins to capture and control your heart, then you must apply faith to your life and situation. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

You can through aggressive prayer and faith turn your heart over to the Lord and find the victory you need over unforgiveness, anger, and bondage to sin. 2 Corinthians 1:24 declares: "for by faith ye stand." Ladies, you don't have to live in defeat; you can walk by faith! What saves a mother from Eve's decision to walk independently of her husband and live her own life of selfishness and rebellion? It takes faith – a strong, growing, living, and vibrant faith. Mother, save yourself! Possess and unwavering faith in God and His Word to get you through your childrearing years.

➤ **Sympathy ("love")**

This refers to a heart of compassion for God and your family. God has called every mother to love her husband and children unconditionally.

Titus 2:4 asks this of older women:

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children."

There are many mothers today who are simply not loving their children as they should. They put their careers and everything else before and above their children.

One mother felt she had all she could take. During a long winter, sickness and accident had struck just about everyone in her home. Mumps, measles, a broken nose, a broken leg, and four new teeth for the young child made pressures and demands accumulate until she fell on her knees in protest and desperation, "Oh Lord! I have so much to do." To her amazement what came out was quite different. The words she heard herself cry out were these: "Oh Lord! I have so much to love!"

Instead of training and teaching the children as they should, and possessing a godly influence around them, many moms opt for others to essentially raise their children. Their aims, ambitions, and desires are self centered. They are not willing to lovingly sacrifice their lives as they should for their children.

Love is a sacrifice that can be seen in almost every phase of life – including motherhood.

Someone wrote:

"Mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."

Sometimes without realizing it, a mother or woman can be caught up with feminism instead of true femininity! You are not a Ms. which stems from the Feminist Movement but a Miss or Mrs. Ladies, only a Holy Spirit, wrought love in your heart for your husband and children will cause you to sacrifice your life for their good and benefit instead of your own!

Then too, you must possess an undying love for God!

Mark 12:30

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

Do you love Him today? Where is your heart's devotion and desire? Do you take time to be holy and have devotions with the Lord? Do you talk with Him, walk with Him, and enjoy His presence? How you spend your time will demonstrate how much you love your God! What saves a mother from Eve's decision to walk independently of her husband and live her own life of selfishness and rebellion? It takes love! Love for your husband, children, and God! Love will lead you on and get you through anything! As a mother and wife, you need to possess an undying selfless love for your family.

In the December 31, 1989 Chicago Tribune, the editors printed their photos of the decade. One of them, by Michael Fryer, captured a grim fireman and paramedic carrying a fire victim away from the scene. The blaze, which happened in Chicago in December 1984, at first seemed routine. But then firefighters discovered the bodies of a mother and five children huddled in the kitchen of an apartment.

Fryer said the firefighters surmised, "She could have escaped with two or three of the children but couldn't decide who to pick. She chose to wait with all of them for the firefighters to arrive. All of them died of smoke inhalation." The point is this, there are times when you just don't leave those you love. You are there for them always and forever! That is love! Mother, save yourself! Practice undying love.

➤ **Separation (holiness)**

1 Timothy 2:15 also talks about holiness. 1 Peter 1:16 reminds us of what God is saying to every mother: "Be ye holy; for I am holy." Purity is of utmost importance if you are going to counteract Satan's goal to despiritualize your life.

God has called every mother and woman to a life of consecration and purity. Holiness means that you live your life in such a way that your attitude, actions, and aspirations in life reflect purity or that which is wholesome. The word "holiness" is lost today behind all the sleazy dressing and carnal actions of women. Ladies, dressing to show-off your body to other men is not holiness – it's harlotry. Yes, it's a form of harlotry that seeks to lure men and capture their hearts in lust. Stop playing the harlot! Stop playing the game! Be holy!

My wife read something important, and she shared it with me. I think it is worth sharing with the ladies at this point. "Modest apparel simply means cover up what needs to be covered. Do not wear skintight clothing, skirts that show a lot of leg, shirts that are so low cut one cannot bend over, clothing that can be seen thru. It simply means dress appropriately (1 Timothy 2:9, "women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.").

"For married and elderly Christian women this is extremely important. Young girls should be able to look up older Christian women with respect (Titus 2: 3-5). It is hard for anyone to respect a Christian woman who chooses to dress and act like everyone else in the world (Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect, will of God")."

Women naturally want to look good and be desired, but there is a line between looking pretty and looking for attention. Be modest in appearance; do not attract the wrong attention. When worshipping the Lord, cover up and go to church to worship God, not to show off.

Dressing immodestly, flirting, and running around will destroy your marriage. Don't do it! You need to live free from immorality and carnality. Chastity has gone out of style these days! We live in a day of pornographic movies, marching sodomites (and today communists and terrorists) in Washington D.C. and also demanding feminists who demand their reproductive rights (in other words, they want to kill their babies!). It is an age of "the new morality" and moral relativism and humanism.

Someone wrote:

"The new morality is nothing more than the old immorality that is now openly accepted and endorsed. Most of the familiar landmarks of common decency and morality are gone. We have banished the Bible from the classrooms and the Ten Commandments from the courts. The senseless pursuit of the demonized and haunted cultic practices of our day, with the indulgence in drugs and liquor and pornography, all are against moral chastity. But God's Word commands every Christian woman to be "chaste" (Titus 2:4) or pure in her actions and thinking."

More than ever the younger women in church life must remember to live different, be decent, and become disciplined in life in her manner of dress and living (Titus 2:14). When Boaz first met and talked with Ruth, he said in Ruth 3:11: "And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman." Ladies, God wants you to remain pure in your heart, in your living, and in your marriage.

Of course, purity extends to other areas than just modesty and faithfulness in marriage. Purity should be reflected not only in the way you present yourself in society but in the kind of books you read, the things you watch on TV, the music you listen to. Ladies, give your children the gift of godly music! Play only holy music in the home setting. Learn the patterns of worldly music and steer away from the type of music that is carnally based (fleshly) and which can lead your children astray into secular rock music and into worldly patterns of living. Yes, holiness extends to the very thoughts and intents of your heart and to your attitudes and actions before others (your husband and children) should demonstrate purity and holiness.

Ladies, holy living is not manifested when you are angry, unforgiving, quarrelsome, divisive, and trying to override the leadership of your husband in the home.

Someone said:

"When mama ain't happy, then no one is happy!"

Holy living is not witnessed when you direct abusive and hurtful language before your children and husband. Ladies, if you are going to "save" your marriage, husband, and children from a lot of heartache and misery and raise your children for God's glory, then you will have to live a holy and sanctified life. There are no shortcuts to spiritual living. But one thing is certain, holiness is the only way to do it! What saves a mother from Eve's decision to walk independently of her husband and live her own life of selfishness and rebellion? It takes separation! It takes a commitment to holy living!

In his commentary on Isaiah, H. A. Ironside tells of some boys who caught two chirping baby finches. They decided to teach these birds to sing by placing them in a small cage and *hanging it next to the cage of a pet canary*. The canary, of

course, sang beautifully, so the boys thought if the finches were close to it they too would become good songbirds. Several weeks went by with no apparent results. Then one day the youngsters were startled by a strange sound coming from the canary's cage. "Listen," said one of them, "the canary is chirping like a finch." Ladies, this is what happens when you fail to separate from the world, the flesh, and flee the temptations of the Devil. You start sounding and living like worldly mothers and wives.

God has not called you to look, sound, and live like according to the dictates of the world system. Furthermore, if you are hanging around the wrong people, going to the wrong places, and watching, reading, or listening to the wrong things, it will have an adverse impact upon your life and family. Mother, save yourself! Live a life that is geared around holy living and not self-centered living.

➤ **Self-control (sobriety)**

The word "sobriety" (soberness) in 1 Timothy 2:15 was used for those who refused to imbibe straight wine or strong drink during Bible times. In doing so they remained sober from a physical perspective. This means that as a mother you should steer clear and stay clean from alcoholic consumption. Although there is a metaphorical meaning being given here sobriety would naturally mean to stay away from alcohol which dulls the spiritual senses and influences you negatively. If you play with alcohol, the kind of strong drink that the world is pushing today, you are playing with fire! You are playing Russian Roulette with your personal life and your family. Ladies, you won't win the battle over booze if you are drinking it! Stay away from it! Get off the sauce!

The word "sobriety" means physical soberness but it's metaphorical meaning has the idea of self control and soundness of mind which stems from not drinking alcohol but being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Self control is to be the theme of your lives as ladies. You are to have self control over your actions, mind, what you say, how you think, what you eat, how you express yourselves, your emotions, and on and on! Take control of your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a woman, you must take control over your life, over sins, phobias, disorders, and discipline your mind and life by God's strengthening, enabling, and victorious grace (2 Cor. 12:9).

Many women are defeated because they are trapped by the dictates of the culture. Some ladies think that if they are not a size 6 then they are somehow no longer feminine. Listen, stop following the world's standards! Many ladies are absorbed and defeated over their appearance (I'm too big, too slim, too tall, too small). Get over it! Live for Jesus! Discipline your mind, your heart and life, and go on with Jesus and for Jesus! Self control includes sober or right thinking regarding the philosophies of this world and sin's power and pleasures. Self control and right thinking will keep you as a woman from falling into cultural traps and the mindset of what others think. What does God think? This is what counts!

What saves a mother from Eve's decision to walk independently of her husband and live her own life of selfishness and rebellion? It takes self-control! Mothers, save yourself. Stay sober not only from a physical but spiritual perspective and you will keep thinking and living right.

This text gives us a very wonderful promise; "she shall be saved in childbearing" or live a sanctified life during those important years of raising her children. You can claim this promise and get back on the road of sanctification and godly living.

The old saying is true:

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world!"

The impact that godly mothers have on their children will come back to them. As their children grow up, they will become influential Christians and possess leading positions and glorify God with their lives.

Someone wrote:

"A child without a mother is like a door without a knob."

Children need direction that comes from a godly mother. An ounce of mother is often worth more than a ton of clergy! Children need motherly and spiritual direction. As a mother, have you been giving this to your children?

Here is the promise that is found in 1 Timothy 2:15:

"Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

God can save both you and your family! Are you a saved mother? In other words, have you been experiencing the deliverance or the present-day sanctification and victory that you can have over Eve's rebellion and independence from God's ways? What are your priorities for your marriage? What are your goals for your marriage and children? Have you been submissive to your husband's leadership? Are you ready to live a holy and consecrated life for God so your husband, children, and those who surround you will receive the benefits?

What do you need to be saved (delivered) from today? What specific sin? Are there some past sins and failures that you need to get victory over? How about right now? What has been keeping you bound? Mother, save yourself! You can be saved by God's transforming victory and grace when you choose to walk a different path than Eve did.

Saving the mothers through sanctified living is very important. This is because many mothers are being defeated by cultural contamination and worldly philosophies, immodesty, liquor, polluted music, infidelity, drugs, and everything else that comes down the cultural pike. Ladies, you must continue to take the necessary stand against the world, the flesh, and the Devil so you can be saved or delivered from sinful and selfish living during your days of motherhood and as a spiritual mom raise godly children.



A cartoon in the Saturday Evening Post showed a young boy about five or six years old talking on the telephone, saying, "Mom is in the hospital, the twins and Roxie and Billie and Sally and the dog and me and Dad are all home alone."

Yes, the home is not really a home without a mother! However, it's a godly mother that is needed in the home, so her life and ministry to her family will impact them in a spiritual way. Therefore, a mother needs to save herself from Eve's shameful acts of sin and rebellion and not repeat the Genesis debacle in her own life and home. The woman who wants to live a godly life will stop sinning and save (sanctify) herself, marriage, and children! Don't follow Eve's rebellion, follow God's eternal truth, and find satisfaction and fulfillment in your marriage and home. Mother, save yourself!