

A Reflection Of God's Love

- *Isaiah 66:13*

➤ Mom's Dictionary:

DUMBWAITER: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

FAMILY PLANNING: The art of spacing the birth of your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

FULL NAME: What you call your child when you're mad at him.

GRANDPARENTS: The people who think your children are wonderful and toss out the very rules they raised you by.

STERILIZE: what you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

TOP BUNK: where you should never put a child wearing Superman pajamas.

WHODUNIT: none of the kids that live in your house...

- Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children. **Billy Graham**
- I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. **Abraham Lincoln**
- My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her. **George Washington**
- From my Mother I learned the value of prayer, how to have dreams and believe they could come true. **Ronald Reagan**

➤ READ SCRIPTURE

➤ In these few words, we have one of the sweetest & tenderest pictures of the character of God.

- In the N.T., Jesus taught us to think of God as our Heavenly Father. But here in this O.T. passage, God is likened unto a comforting mother.
- The Jews made a sweet saying to the effect that, "God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers."
 - M – Many things she gave to you.
 - O – Others always seem to be put first.
 - T – Tears that were shed for you.
 - H – Heart of purest gold.
 - E – Eyes, always filled with love for you.
 - R – Right path & direction she paved for you.
- As pure and as a deep as a mother's love is though, it pales in comparison to the love that God has for you as He comforts the weary, cares for the wounded heart, and holds us tightly in the midst of life's storms.

1. A Mother's Presence

- Just by her presence in the home there is comfort, joy, help, and love. A mother's presence can fill up a room, bring joy to a heart & bring peace to our busy lives.
- A mother is the queen of her home. When mom is not there, there is a considerable void left in that household.
- There is one thing a mother cannot do though. There is a void that a Mother cannot fill and that void can only be filled by Jesus Christ.
 - II Corinthians 1:3-4 – "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we

may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

- There are times when a Mother’s arms cannot reach her children, but there is NEVER a time where the presence of a Heavenly Father cannot be felt.
 - o There is never a burden too heavy, trouble too big, or a tragedy so great that our Heavenly Father cannot meet us right where we are.
 - Psalm 46:1 – “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - o In the midst of our trouble or sorrow, it is our Heavenly Father that will lift us up into His everlasting arms and comfort our weary souls.

2. A Mother’s Counsel

- Who is the very first teacher of every child? It’s Mom, who spends countless hours instructing & training us for the life that is ahead of us.
 - o A Godly mother begins to teach the truths of God’s Word even from the earliest of years and to teach about the lessons of life & duty.
- When discouraged, it is Mother’s words that bring encouragement & inspiration.
- When disobedient, it is her reproach against wrong & her continued patience with us that clearly shows her love & dedication to us.
- Even in the midst of doubt, it is her counsel that leads us to make the right choice.
- No matter how old her child may become, she only sees the young boy or young girl who clung to her side; and regardless of whether we accomplish much or find ourselves in disgrace, it is a mother who will always be there to soothe & to bring comfort in our time of need.
- If a mother can do this, how much more does our Heavenly Father care for us?
 - o Philippians 4:19 – “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
 - o He sees us as His children though we may be weak, inexperienced & even foolish at times; yet our Father is always there to offer encouragement & mercy in our time of need.
 - o When we fail & we sin against God, the consequences of our foolishness are often times harsh. Yet even in our mistakes, God is there pleading for our soon return back to Him.
 - Prodigal Son
 - o Even in our greatest defeats, God is there.

3. A Mother’s Silence

- We have all experienced those moments of failure when a mother’s silence was almost deafening. She didn’t have to say anything ... we knew we had done wrong. But instead of judgment & ridicule, she offered mercy to us instead.
- When in trouble, one of the trademarks of a mother is how she accepts her children ... even in the midst of their wrong.
 - o She doesn’t condone their wrong, nor does she look over it; but comfort is her first consideration, explanations can wait.
- How like the love of God. When our conscience is tormented with the sin in our life & we feel so ashamed to even come into the presence of God & dare ask for His forgiveness, God is always there with open arms willing & waiting to forgive.
 - o Micah 7:18-19 – “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”
- We kneel before Him & though we may not see Him or hear his voice, we leave His presence calmed & consoled as a child that has been redeemed & forgiven.

4. A Mother’s Discipline

- One of the greatest examples of a mother's love is when it comes to the discipline of her children when they have done wrong.
 - o We have all heard our parents say, "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you", when it comes to our punishment.
- And perhaps its not to you have children of your own that you clearly understand those words nor do you understand fully how much love it takes to discipline your children in a godly fashion.
- She does not glory in punishing her own, but she does it b/c of her great love for them.
 - o Hebrews 12:5-6 – "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
- Our Heavenly Father certainly takes no glory when it comes to disciplining His children, but what a joy to know that He loves us enough to do it.

5. A Mother's Sympathy

- There are few things more rewarding than a mother's smile of approval at a job well done or a hug at the end of a hard day. She has a way of reenergizing us when we are exhausted & a way of soothing our hearts when things don't go as planned.
- Though she may not have walked the path you walked, there is never anything that you cant go to her about.
- In comparison, our Heavenly Father not only has walked where you have walked, but He knows your pain better than any.
 - o No one has suffered more than our Father in heaven. No one has paid more dearly for the allowance of sin into the world. No one has suffered like the One who paid for our sin in the crucified body of His own Son. No one has suffered more than the One who, when He stretched out His arms and died, showed us how much He loved us. It is this God who, in drawing us to Himself, asks us to trust Him when we are suffering and when our own loved ones cry out in our presence.
 - I Peter 3:18 – "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"
 - o Unfortunately though, many seek comfort in everything else in this world rather than submitting to the love of God.
 - Luke 13:34 – "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"
- Men try to escape their sorrow by turning to alcohol, or seeking a change of surroundings, or putting more hours in at the office, or seeking the pleasure even in sin.
- All the while, God stands there waiting, "not willing that any should perish."
- God seeks to not only soothe our weary souls, but more importantly to set us free from the sins that bind us if we will but turn to Him.
- The greatest example of God's love for us was when He sent His Only Son to be punished on an old rugged cross so that we could be set free.
 - o Though your mother's love is great, there is no greater love than the love God gave to you.
 - John 15:13 – "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
 - I John 4:9 – "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."