

DIRTY LAUNDRY IN THE HAMPER

Mothers' Day

Open:

- * When I think of my mom: patient, peacemaker, self-less, caring, a cheerleader for her children, quiet spirit ... are character traits that come to mind.

1 Peter 3:4 NLT You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

— Moms are to model God's love and grace ...

- √ When a kid feels unloved and criticized ... mom is there ... her presence and sometimes her words say: I believe in you; I love you no matter what ...

- Moms are also wives .. some may be single due to the death of a spouse or divorce ... they do double duty.

— My wife has found her greatest fulfillment in giving herself to our family.

- √ She has stood by me, and she made my dreams her dreams.
- √ She is the happiest when I feel successful and our children live a life that pleases and honors God as they chase their dreams. What a great partner!

3 John 1:4 NLT I could have no greater joy than to hear my children are following the truth.

(1) What are the greatest challenges a mom faces?

#1 Balancing all the responsibilities she has: working, housework, errands, spending time with husband, kids, making time for God ...

— She wears many hats, busy schedule; she will need to manage her time well.

Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

— Prioritize ... do what is most important and if some things don't get done, it's okay.

* **Penalty Flag: Never saying no, bailing everyone out, allowing the kids to get involved in too many extra-curricular things at the same time. Consider limiting this to one event at a time.**

— **Establish some boundaries.**

➤ Jesus knew what it was to have people pulling on him all the time .. yet He made time to get alone with the Father.

Luke 4:42-43 NLT ⁴² Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. ⁴³ But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent."

— There will always be more to do than can get done.

— Set aside some "alone time" with God each day.

— Work at staying close as a couple ... too many couples focus all their attention on the children only to find the love they have for one another died.

➤ Because mom is busy and wears many hats:

- She is not your personal maid ... pick up after yourself, do your chores and help out around the house.
- When family members pitch in, it lightens her load – the older you are, the more that is expected of you.
- Do what is expected of her without her having to stay on your back ... that is emotionally exhausting.
- Mom: though often it is easier just to do it yourself, refuse to take the easy way out ... you are teaching responsibility ... expect it and demand it ... and dads ... back her up.

(2) What Biblical advice would you give to moms?

- Recognize that neither your husband nor the children can meet your deepest needs ... only God can do that.

Psalms 62:6 NLT He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.

√ You belong to God. He is with you.

*** Penalty Flag: While it's true your identity is in Christ, it's nice to feel appreciated.**

— Too often mom is not appreciated for all she does ...

— Thank you, a note, a small gift, text that says you are grateful goes a long way.

— Pray and never stop ... for your husband and your kids.

- Don't wait till your marriage is in trouble or your children are older. Pray from the start.
- God can do what your "nagging" will never do.

Luke 11:9 NLT And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.

- Persist on in prayer ... pray with your children and for them.
Husbands pray with your wife.
- Model what you want. Be an example to your family of what it looks like to walk with God.
 - Even when you are not sure they are hearing you, they are watching you.
 - Paul’s words to Timothy apply: **1 Timothy 4:12 NLT ... Be an example to all the believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.**

(3) How can a husband take some pressure off the “mom” of the house?

* **Penalty Flag: She needs your affection. She needs to feel loved.**

— **It’s not enough that you told her at the wedding ceremony.**

1 Peter 3:7b MSG Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them ...

— **Make her feel special.**

* **Penalty Flag: Protection**

— **She needs to feel secure ... financially.**

1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

✓ **Those who are physically able should work.**

— She needs to know you will share the parenting responsibilities ... and she desires that you take the spiritual lead.

Proverbs 1:8 NLT My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction.

√ Both parents are involved; they've got each other's back. Stick together on discipline.

*** Penalty Flag: Communication**

— Marriage is the sharing of two lives together.

— She can't read your mind ...

— Set aside a little time each day to catch up; talk through your calendar; share what is on your heart.

— Be a good listener.

James 1:19 NLT Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

— Men: Often she is not looking for you to fix her; she wants you to know how she feels.

- (1) Moms' greatest challenge: time constraints.
- (2) Advice: Center your life on God, keep on praying, model what you want.
- (3) A word to husbands: She needs your affection, protection and communication.

Closing Thoughts:

(4) What does she want her children to remember?

- Walk with God. Stay in the Word. You will discover His plans for your life there. Put God first.
- Choose godly friends ... the crowd you run with will have a great influence on you.
- I love you with all my heart, and as God gives me breath I'll be praying for you, and I will be there for you.

* Perhaps the greatest thing you can do for your mother is to come to Christ today.

- Trust Him as your Savior.
- Or get back to walking with Him every day.

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