**MOTHERHOOD**

***It Will Change Your Life Forever***

There was an article in the *Reader’s Digest* a few years ago entitled *What Motherhood Really Means*. It was subtitled, *It Will Change Your Life, But Not the Way You Think*. The writer is telling of a conversation with one of her friends. The article reads as follows:

"We’re thinking of starting a family, and I’m taking a survey,’ her friend said half- jokingly. `Do you think I should have a baby?’ Carefully choosing my words, I replied, `It will change your life.’ `I know,’ she said. `No more sleeping on Saturday mornings. No more spontaneous vacations.’

"I think to myself, `But that’s not what I meant at all.’ So I try to decide what to say to her. I want her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes - that the physical wounds of childbearing will heal, but that becoming a mother will leave an emotional wound so raw that she’ll forever be vulnerable.

"I look at her manicured nails and stylish suit and think that no matter how sophisticated she is, becoming a mother will reduce her to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub; that the urgent scream of `Mom!’ will cause her to drop even her finest crystal without a moment’s hesitation.

"I feel I should warn her that no matter how many years she has invested in her career she will be professionally derailed by motherhood. She might arrange for childcare, but one day she will be going into an important business meeting and will think about her baby, and she’ll have to use every ounce of discipline to keep from running home just to make sure her child is all right.

"I want my friend to know that everyday decisions will no longer be routine. That a 5-year-old boy’s desire to go to the men’s room rather than the women’s at a restaurant will become a major dilemma for her. The issues of independence and gender identity will be weighed against the prospect that a child molester may be lurking in the restroom.

"Looking at my attractive friend I want to assure her that eventually she will shed the pounds of pregnancy, but she’ll never feel the same about herself; that her life now, so important, will be of less value to her once she has a child; that she would give it up in a moment to save her offspring.

"My friend’s relationship with her husband will change. But not in the way she thinks. I wish she could understand how much more you can love a man who is always careful to powder the baby and who never hesitates to play with his son or daughter. I think she should know that she’ll fall in love with her husband again for reasons she would now find very unromantic.

"I want to describe to my friend the exhilaration of seeing your child learn to hit a baseball. I want to capture for her the belly laugh of a baby who is touching the soft fur of a dog for the first time. I want her to taste the joy that is so real it hurts.

"A glance at my friend’s face makes me realize that tears have formed in my eyes. Finally, I just say, `You will never regret it.’ Then squeezing my friend’s hand, I offer a prayer for her and me and all the mere mortal women who stumble their way into this holiest of callings.”

As I read that article it seemed to me to strike at the heart of what older women were to teach younger women in Titus 2:3-5. That texts says:

*“…the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*

The role of a wife and mother is about the most powerful position in the world, far surpassing the impact that kings, emperors, prime ministers and presidents have had throughout history. Nothing can compare with the love of a mother for her children. It is more than a proverb to say, “The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world.”

We have **62** mothers in this congregation at New Hope. Think about that. That is potentially 62 mothers and/or grandmothers that will determine the destiny of the next generation of believers. You are the Lois or Eunice of the next Timothy’s (2 Tim 1:15) and Tabitha’s (Acts 9:36) of this church. God bless you for who you are and for what you are doing with your life. It is among the highest and holiest callings in the world!

Indeed, motherhood will change your life forever.

May your tribe increase. – Rick