

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **2Peter 3:17,18.**

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, [18] but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- B. An organization called Mothers of Preschoolers International (MOPS) took a survey of 1,000 mothers. They asked what these women needed most in their lives.
- C. To honor all of the moms we have in our congregation today we will look at some of the things that mothers need in their life, and specific things we can be do to encourage them to be a good mom.

II. THE TOP THIRTEEN.

A. The MOPS survey said that most moms need:

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| 1. A sanity check. | 8. Time with God. |
| 2. To know that I am normal. | 9. A dishwasher that loads itself. |
| 3. To know that I am a good mother. | 10. Adult conversation. |
| 4. Encouragement. | 11. A best friend. |
| 5. Time off. | 12. Someone who understands how I feel. |
| 6. Support. | 13. To know that being a mother is important. |
| 7. Time with my husband. | |

B. Even though we rarely say it, "Moms, we do love and appreciate you!"

III. MOM'S WISH LIST.

A. Just because a woman becomes a mom doesn't mean she stops having needs. She must continue to grow. To learn. To sleep. To find hope. Recognizing and meeting those needs will help her become a better mom.

B. Nine needs of young (all) mothers:

1. **Significance.** *"Sometimes I wonder if mothering matters."*
 - a. Moms rarely are thanked for the endless job they do. Kids realize the sacrifice and hard work a mother does only after they become a parent themselves. And then they rarely come back and say thanks (1Tim. 2:15).
But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.
 - b. Mothering is a significant role that God wants women to execute. It is an important part of living that when done correctly pays big rewards in the later years.
2. **Identity.** *"Sometimes I'm not sure who I am."*
 - a. Because a mother's life is so' wrapped up in her children she will wonder if she even has a life of her own. Everything she does is for someone else and there seems to be very little time for her to grow (Ti. 2:4,5).
that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, [5] to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.
 - b. This is where her hubby needs to step in and reassure her that her efforts are appreciated and that she is a useful person, accomplishing great things.
3. **Growth.** *"Sometimes I long to develop who I am."*
 - a. When you live on a pre-school or grade school level all day long there is no real mental challenge. When the spirit and mind are not being exercised they do not function well (2Pet. 3:18).

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- b. Good moms will try to make time to read a good book, or spend time in the Bible for mental and intellectual growth. Ladies, try to budget some time everyday in doing this.
4. **Intimacy.** *"Sometimes I long to be understood."*
 - a. Once the intellectual part of our being is fed, then the spiritual side will need some help too. What I am referring to is that every women will need to confide in her husband or close friend about her deep, special, spiritual needs. Children cannot do this, it takes another adult (Ti. 2:2,4a).
(Ti 2:2) Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.
(Ti 2:4) that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,...
 - b. If you have a special relationship with a mom let her talk to you about everything she wants to discuss. Be a listener and let her use you in all confidence to help with her intimacy.
5. **Instruction.** *"Sometimes I don't know what to do."*
 - a. Parenting (mothering) is the toughest job a person can ever have with very little prior instruction. The majority of parents never read any literature on how to parent. They basically raise their kids the way they were raised; whether it is good/bad! (Col. 1:28).
And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.
 - b. Seminars, books, sermon series, or a older Xian sister who will mentor are valuable helps to the woman who wants to do right by her children. You may not agree with everything taught in a book or seminar, but you will gain valuable insight on what to do to do your job better.
6. **Help.** *"Sometimes I need to share the load."*
 - a. It is absolutely unfair, cruel, and inhuman punishment to expect a woman to work outside the home and then take care of all the cooking, cleaning, laundry, and everything else. Even mothers who do not work outside the home get tired of the same, old routine every day (1Pet. 3:7-9).
You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. [8] To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; [9] not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.
 - b. Husbands, it's time to get with the program! Get in there and do some of the cooking, the running of the vacuum, and clean those bathrooms.
7. **Recreation.** *"Sometimes I need a break."*
 - a. Everyone needs a catharsis. A catharsis is a releasing of tension or emotion that helps to soothe the soul (mind or psyche). There are three common ways that people have a catharsis to relax; exercise, sex, and religion. Mothers need all three (Mk. 6:31).
And He said^ to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while." (For there were many *people* coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)
 - b. Moms, be sure that you make time to get the exercise you need. Walking or even working out at the gym can be therapeutic, as well as good for you physically. Part of your needs are sexual too. Even though you may be tired at night, scheduled rendezvous with your husband need to be part of your life. And third, make church worship and fellowship activities part of your family life.
8. **Perspective.** *"Sometimes I lose my focus."*
 - a. Too many times the urgent outweighs the important. We lose focus on who we are and why we are trying to be a good mom. Set realistic goals for you and your children and review them on a regular basis. Refresh your thinking and outlook on diapers, laundry, cleaning, cooking, and instructing by seeing how they all fit into your long-term goals (Col. 3:2).
Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

- b. Sit down and make a chart of a few things (5 or less) that you want to be part of your children's lives. Then think through how your everyday routine will reflect these goals.
- 9. **Hope.** *"Sometimes I wonder if there is more to life."*
 - a. One of Satan's biggest lies is that there is a better life out there. Real enjoyment is not in the home, raising kids, or going the church. Life in the fast-lane, social calendars and commitments, being part of the gang, or being so independent you are "bucking the system" is where life is at. All of this may sound good on the surface, but rest assured it is vain (Eccl. 12:13).
The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.
 - b. Sin promises everything, and delivers nothing. Solomon learned in the hard way because he tried everything. And yet, after it was all said and done he said it was empty, a striving after the wind! The most fulfilling life is the one you have; being a good mother and wife, doing things according the word of God (Eccl. 12:13).
The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

IV. SOME SPECIFIC THINGS YOU CAN DO.

- A. Nine things that mothers need:

1. Significance.	6. Help.
2. Identity.	7. Recreation.
3. Growth.	8. Perspective.
4. Intimacy.	9. Hope.
5. Instruction.	
- B. Remember, that all of life has its various seasons. Jesus is your help and mentor in all things. He will bless you even when it seems nobody else is (Eccl. 3:1-8).
There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven-- [2] A time to give birth, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted. [3] A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build up. [4] A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance. [5] A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing. [6] A time to search, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to throw away. [7] A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be silent, and a time to speak. [8] A time to love, and a time to hate; A time for war, and a time for peace.

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Motherhood is to be cherished and honored. Those who do well deserve God's richest blessings.
- B. We proudly salute all of the mothers in our congregation!
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.