

FIVE WAYS TO KEEP MOTHER FROM RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME

Text: *Titus 2:4-5:*

⁴ That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

⁵ To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.

Introduction:

Many Mothers are running away from home, some to the factories, the business offices, and every facet of the labor market. Others are running away from home, children, and after some shifty-eyed, forked-stick with a pair of breeches on it.



Others, in their hearts, would like to, or have already given up their responsibilities. The home is neglected and the bridge party has become a new time waster.

Here are five ways in which a husband and the children can keep Mom at home.

1. Love Mom as though she were going to be dead tomorrow.

I was conducting a funeral of a Mother who recently died, leaving a husband and five children behind. The son was expressing the greatest grief and sorrow. He was the one who had mistreated his Mother the most. Somehow, children believe that Mothers will live forever and that they can take any and every kind of mistreatment.

It isn't true. If children realize that some day Mother will be gone, they will begin to treat her much differently today.

The way we treat our Mothers is the same way our children will treat us.

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:2: For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete [measure out], it shall be measured to you again.



If we treat our Mothers with love and respect, then we can expect our children to treat us the same way. For, we will reap just what we sow. It's a law that cannot be broken.

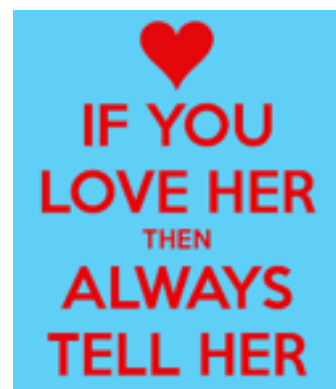
Galatians 6:7-8:

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap Life Everlasting.

2. Tell Mother that you love her.

Mother's job is one of the hardest in the world. She is constantly criticized. The house isn't clean. The supper is cold. The clothes aren't ironed right or need to be washed. Mom can't help it if the next door neighbor came over with her burden. She couldn't help it if the stove didn't work, the washing machine was on the blink, or the dog got into the flower bed, and the clothesline broke. Before you criticize her again, let's find out what really happened. When was the last time you thanked her for what she had done well?



Oh yes, when was it that you told her that you really loved her? That expression might have been the best lubricating of her joints, that she needed that very day.

Sure, Mother already knows we love her, and many will work their hearts out for the family. But, sometimes even her chores get old and burdensome. Then to hear some gripping and fussing just takes all the wind out of her sails. She will either go on a sit-down strike, or take off. The Lord was mindful of this need of showing love — even by the husbands — and admonishes you with these words:

Ephesians 5:25: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;

That's a big order!!! Who is sufficient for it? I hope this verse doesn't put you under a strain!!!

3. Show your love by giving her a Gift now and then. In fact, “now” would be better than “then”.

I want to plead the case for flowers. Sure, it's an old-fashioned custom, but it is a good one. A bouquet of flowers or a plant or a planter can't be much of a strain on your pocketbook. Never forget her birthday, anniversary, or some other special days which are meaningful to her.



Why a gift? A gift tells Mother that someone really cares. Surprise her sometimes by even sending her a gift in the mail, or even a nice warm greeting card. It helps take some of the pains away from the heavy heart, and makes the load just a little lighter. It might even lift up her blood pressure to normal again, or bring down the high pressure under her hair-do.

4. Give her a day off.

Why not? Most men have two days off a week, and now we are trying to get it to three. Children have two days off a week, plus summer vacation. Mom gets nothing but a greater case load.

The only time husbands really appreciate their wives services is when Mom was sick, and dad has to stay home a couple of days. He is strangely glad when his wife gets better and he gets some relief by going back to work.

Even the Bible goes on record as saying:

Exodus 20:9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

I think that includes Mothers too, don't you? God gave this Commandment, and He knows more than anyone else that our bodies need that extra bit of rest apart from the night hours.

Mothers do get weary and tired.

A day off will make her twice as good on the other six days.



The discovery of the TV dinners and tin cans can aid the children and husbands with the meals on Mom's day off. My, I'm glad I've got some good shock absorbers, for I felt that suggestion backfiring already. Well, get her a cookbook, or let her go to those Monday and Tuesday night classes and get a few pointers. That is, if you are fed up on too many tin cans and cold snacks already.

Guess it is time to move to the last point before I say something to defeat my point.

5. Pray for her.

Prayer will make her a much better Mother. Amen!!! Mothers do have faults, too, just like the rest of us.

She has weaknesses and these prevent her from fulfilling all her responsibilities like she should. Prayer will help her more than preaching at her all the time. If we believe that prayer changes things, it might even work if we tried it on people. To say the least, we do need the practice. And she might benefit from our intercessions if they are in the right



spirit and with the right motive.

Prayer does change things, and we are generally the thing that it changes. She will, for a little while, have us off her neck while we're on our knees. It would be quite a commentary to learn exactly how long of a time was that? I know prayer is not always a question of time, but of sincerity and faith. So, pray at least "FERVENTLY" while you are there.

James 5:16: Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

You will be amazed at the results. By earnest prayer, we will appreciate her more and love her more. When we begin to pour out our hearts before God for one another, especially Mother, we will just begin to rally around her cause. We will become more aware of her needs and her burdens if we are praying in the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jude 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

We develop more care and compassion for those for whom we pray. I wish we had a home for runaway Mothers. Maybe we won't even need one if we all take earnest heed to these five exhortations!!!

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