

Ladies Home Journey

Role Call for Mothers

Some numbers to consider¹

\$117,856

Salary a typical stay-at-home mother would earn, if compensated for her 10 most popular “mom job functions,” laundry machine operator, janitor, van driver, computer operator, housekeeper, day care center teacher, cook, CEO, psychologist and facilities manager.

99

Hours worked each week by stay-at-home moms, a total that includes 59 hours of “mom overtime” as mothers “continue to work longer hours because they outsource less and handle increasingly more of the workload themselves.” Mom overtime is up four hours from previous years as mothers spend more time preparing meals, keeping the home in good repair and shuttling the family to activities.

\$71,680

Additional salary a working mother would earn, over her usual paycheck, if a mother’s at-home duties also were compensated.

Good luck trying to collect your wages! The point is something you already know: Mom’s are special people.

The place to look for God’s role for moms is Titus 2:3-5.

Titus 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Titus 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

We’ll look at verse three when we talk about “older women.” The things the older women are supposed to teach the younger married moms will be our current focus.

¹ Gathered from www.salary.com

The chord grace strikes in your heart from these verses if you are a mother is to be domestic. Mothers are described as "homemakers" who are to "love their husbands," to "love their children," and to be "obedient to their husbands."

Since women are described in domestic terms the question naturally arises, "Can a woman work outside the home?" Many evangelical leaders say "No."

- John MacArthur, Jr., is a respected pastor and author who teaches that women should not work outside the home.
- Bill Gothard goes so far as to say that it is better for a woman to starve than to disobey God by going to work outside the home.

We have no doctrine or distinctive at Calvary Chapel of Hanford that prohibits women from working outside the home. We try hard not to communicate condemnation for women who find it necessary or prudent to work outside the home, either to support or to supplement their family.

At the same time we should recognize that some women who do or who desire to work outside the home are simply not submitting to God's design for them to be domestic. They don't really "need" to work, and in doing so they abandon homemaking, leave the raising of their children to strangers, and put themselves under the authority of men other than their husband.

You probably love your husband (;-). You certainly love your children. Why, then, must you be "admonished" to love your husband and your children?

Think of the context: The Scripture is telling women to be domestic. Stay at home wives and mothers face an incredibly lonely, often discouraging, task with very little external rewards. Add to that the personal and the financial pressures of our society and you have a situation in which women need to be encouraged to *go on* showing their love for their husbands and children by staying home and fulfilling their domestic responsibilities.

The words that follow in verse 5 give you a sort of gauge to measure whether you are loving your husband and your children. They are the characteristics of such a woman.

Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

"Discreet" - This is the word "sober." We immediately think of substance abuse but the word is more broad in its meaning. Women are to lead disciplined lives in every area.

"Chaste" - This means *pure of mind and heart*. It's a reminder to carefully guard what you allow to influence you.

"Homemakers" - The KJV translates this *keepers at home*. Caring for and guiding the house are what is intended. The woman is to be the manager of the affairs of the house.

"Good - This really means you are kind towards the members of her household. It's the attitude in which you carry-out your domestic duties.

"Obedient to their own husbands" - Marriage puts a woman into voluntary submission to her own husband. Remember, women are the spiritual equals of men. But when they say "Yes" to marriage, they agree to voluntarily submit to the leadership of their husband.

"That the word of God may not be blasphemed" - Women who refuse to follow God's design for their life give outsiders cause to blaspheme God's Word, since they see it having no effect on those who profess to be Christians. And on the other hand, even though you may think or feel otherwise, when a woman is focused on her domestic responsibilities it is a witness of God's proper order for the family and society.

How important is it to be domestic? In a study conducted in the 1950's, sociologists Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck of Harvard University tried to identify the crucial factors in delinquency.² They developed a test by which they could predict the future delinquency of children five or six-years-old. Their follow-up tests, four years later, provided to be ninety percent accurate.

They determined that the four necessary factors to prevent delinquency are:

1. THE FATHER'S DISCIPLINE: Discipline must be firm, fair, and consistent.
2. THE MOTHER'S SUPERVISION: A mother must know where her children are and what they're doing at all times, and be with them as much as possible.
3. THE FATHER AND MOTHER'S AFFECTION: Children need to see love demonstrated between the father and mother, and have it physically demonstrated to them.
4. THE FAMILY'S COHESIVENESS: The family must spend time together.

More recent research has also shown that adolescents who have the strongest "bonds" with their family have a lower rate of delinquency.³

Studies have shown that with the least amount of parental supervision during the after-school hours have the highest rates of delinquency.

² Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1950), pp. 257-271.

³ Rosenbaum, J. (1989). "Family Dysfunction and Delinquency." *Crime and Delinquency* 35: 31-44.

One study specifically found that low parental monitoring (supervision) of their children was associated with higher levels of delinquency, especially violent offenses, along with drug abuse and vulnerability to peer pressure.⁴

The stay-at-home or the at-home mom is a proven benefit to society. *God knew that all along!*

As role models you'll find none better than the mother and grandmother of Paul's disciple and missionary companion, Timothy. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said to him, "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (Second Timothy 1:5).

Eunice and Lois seem to step right from the pages of the Bible to tell us that nothing is more important than a mother's early supervision and training of her children. We can be sure such children will know well the stories of the Old Testament and be familiar with the Books of the Law and the Prophets. Undoubtedly Lois and her Eunice had steeped Timothy in a knowledge of all the great judges and the prophets as well as the wisdom in the Psalms and Proverbs.

By some accounts Timothy was only about fifteen when he left home to go with Paul and Silas to preach the Gospel. He was ready because his mom fulfilled her role in raising a godly son. His influence upon countless millions who have read about him, and the letters of Paul to him, counts towards his mom's (and his grandmom's) heavenly rewards.

Both the Scripture and secular sources tout the importance of the mom in raising good kids. It's maybe the hardest work on earth. But it is the greatest work, too, and God will bless it - now and for eternity.

⁴ Flannery, D. J., L. L. Williams and A. T. Vazsonyi. 1999. "Who Are They With and What Are They Doing? Delinquent Behavior, Substance Use, and Early Adolescents' After-School Time." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 69: 247-253.