

The Desire of Every Mother



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Executive Summary

There is really no role in life which carries as much a burden as a mother would. This bears out in the fact that in all of the parenting seminars I've conducted so far, the significant majority of those who attend are mothers.

Is there a solution that will help ease the heaviness of motherhood in today's world?

The desire of every mother has to do with the question above. This sense of "heaviness" – although felt in the present, is really about the *future* of the child. *How will my child turn out? Will he have all the necessary skills to face the real world?*

It turns out that the answer to every mother's prayer is found not in any particular enrichment program or extra class for the child, rather it is located right there in the home itself! The answer lies in the **"wisdom role" of the father**. It is the *absence* of this role that is the major contributor to the juvenile crime statistics worldwide.

Beyond this article, the topic of exercising right leadership at home is covered extensively in a one-day workshop for parents with children 12 years old and below. Check it out at:

<http://www.goodmonday.com/parenting.html> .

Wisdom Role #1: TO UPHOLD HIGH STANDARDS

Here's one of the common complain of mothers – *"When I set a rule at home, my husband would then spoil it by applying a different (usually lower) standard."*

Why do many of the juvenile cases have issues with authority figures? It is because there is the absence of a *right* authority at home. Consider this – the father's role at home is actually a *precursor* to many of the future relationship of authority the child will be facing in the years to come – with teachers, bosses, enforcement officers and the government.

If the father does not uphold the standard of what is right at home, the child will grow up to do what is right *in his own eyes*.

Here's the desire of the mother: While it is true that mothers are the ones who spend more time with the child and is therefore more acutely aware of what the child needs, the role of the father is required to listen and validate the plans and intentions of the mother. Mothers are often full of ideas and recommendations on what can be done, their desire is that the father can step in and provide a strategic viewpoint, highlight the big picture of where the family is going and give clarity to important decisions.

>> As a CEO embodies the culture of the company, the father embodies the values of the family.

Wisdom Role #2: TO TEACH & RELATE TO THE WORLD

A child growing up needs to develop the right worldview – a right way to view the world and how she can relate to the various challenges and problems that will soon come her way. Often, it is the father who becomes the "bridge" to help the child connect her world from the home to society.

Teenagers today are often in their own "world" – locking themselves in their room with their own computer, TV and internet access – this is a dangerous set up which spells inevitable danger because the world of social media and internet is fraught with moral and spiritual dangers.

Fathers must guard against the superficial thinking of just "working hard for the family" but not taking effort to teach and protect the development of their children's worldview.

Here's the desire of the mother: The mother is already occupied with the daily routines and tasks which keep the family going and it would really be a tremendous relieve for her if the father steps in to intervene to provide real-life teaching and stories. Hence, men – your wife's desire is not for you to stay silent at the dining table but to lead in conversation and help your children see a bigger perspective of life than just the textbooks.

Consider the following suggestions (especially for the fathers):

1. Maintain the discipline of having family meals. Do not watch TV while eating!
2. Know what your child (especially the teenager) is reading and watching. Use those materials as a platform for meaningful *conversations*.
3. The simple act of telling bedtime stories and listening to the child's experience throughout the day gives you the "teaching-window" to shape their thinking.

There are many influences competing for your child's attention – be sure you are number one!

Wisdom Role #3: TO LOVE & REFRESH THE MOTHER AS A WIFE

Here's one often forgotten fact:

The woman is first a wife, then a mother.

Why are there many stressed mothers today? In as much as absent fathers cause juvenile misbehaviors, absent husbands cause burnout wives! A lot of the heaviness faced by mothers are not related to the children but it is symptomatic of a dry marriage relationship. It is a heavy burden to be doing the work of a mother without receiving the love due to a wife.

The best gift a father can give to his child is to love the mother.

Here's the desire of the mother (and the wife!): The husband ought to be on the lookout for "stress signals" from the wife (maybe, she's been screaming more at the children lately?) and come to provide relief. How can the husband provide relief for the wife so that she can be a more effective mother later on?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Set a regular dating time (child-free, please!).
2. Coming home, spend the first 15 minutes with the wife (not, playing with the children!).
3. Put the children to bed early so that there is a moment for "coffee conversation".
4. When the family is out for an outing, hold her hand.
5. Schedule in regular family holidays (plan in advance).
6. Volunteer to care for the children so that she can go to the hair salon!
7. Do what you enjoy doing during your courtship days!
8. Plan for a mini-honeymoon.
9. Be a listener. Don't give solutions!
10. Go attend a marriage enrichment seminar or parenting course together.

A wife who is loved and refreshed will become the best mother you have ever seen!

For more a marriage-centered parenting course, check out :

<http://www.goodmonday.com/parenting.html>