

THE JOYS OF BEING A WOMAN, WIFE, AND MOTHER

I am grateful for the opportunity to talk to you today about a subject I feel very strongly, and with authority—the joys of being a woman, a wife, and a mother. I have often pondered the question—what if women at some time in the long distant past had the chance to choose the sex they wanted to be—either a woman, mother and homemaker, or a man, father, and breadwinner. If so, I am glad that I chose to be a woman. What great blessings are associated with this!

President Ezra Taft Benson said, “Before the world was created, in heavenly councils the pattern and role of women were prescribed. You were elected by God to be wives and mothers in Zion. Exaltation in the celestial kingdom is predicated on faithfulness to that calling.”

Women are blessed with certain innate qualities which help them in their role as wife and mother. We are sensitive and caring, compassionate, have sympathy, and a feminine intuition which is very useful. Most women are born with a natural love for others and the desire to have children. It is Satan’s desire to thwart and belittle women’s divine roles, that of being a wife and helpmeet, mother, and teacher. He has made great inroads in the thinking of people today, so that women don’t realize their most valuable contributions in life and ultimately the thing which will bring them the greatest joy—being a successful wife and mother.

Satan’s philosophy wants us to feel that men and women should be independent of each other. President Benson said concerning this: “In the beginning, God placed a woman in a companion role with the priesthood. God said, ‘It was not good that man should be alone; wherefore, I will make an help meet for him; (Moses3:18)’ ‘Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.’” (1Cor. 11:11)

I feel very strongly about this, that a man and woman are dependent upon each other—I need my husband and he needs me. We are like 2 half to a circle and without the other the circle is incomplete.

I feel very fortunate to have the husband I do—he makes my life so happy and fulfilled, and I thank the Lord for being able to be his wife. I don’t know what I did to receive such a great blessing—but as I was your age, I tried to live worthy of such a blessing. I wasn’t in a hurry to get married to the first guy who came along, but I dated a lot, I observed other marriages and families, and I went to college and graduated with a degree in Child Development and Family Relationships, with a composite degree in Elementary Education. I specifically recall when I was the age that some of you are now that I heard someone say, “You have to be worthy of the kind of man you want to marry.” I really tried to do that. I also made it a matter of fasting and much prayer that I could be blessed with a worthy mate and, indeed, I was! I need him, and he tells me that he wouldn’t be where he is today without me at his side. President David O. McKay said of his wife, “I want to acknowledge to you and to her, how greatly her loving devotion, inspiration, and loyal support have contributed to whatever success my be ours. To her we owe our happy family life and whatever success we have have achieved.” Bruce R. McConkie said, “The greatest blessing that has ever come to me is that I married my wife.”

My husband and I try to keep our love alive by open communication (much pillow talk—feelings, frustrations, daily activities, etc.) We openly express our affection and we have weekly dates. We tell each other daily that we love the other and we try to make the other happy. I can’t be happy if he is not happy, and visa versa. We have honestly never had an argument—although we don’t always agree on things, we talk them out rather than argue. The problem

with most marriages today and the reason for so many divorces is SELFISHNESS! I try to not let that ever enter into our relationship, either with my husband or our children.

In the past few years some women have become upset because women don't have the priesthood. Yes, men have the Priesthood, but they cannot be exalted without a woman at their side, and we have a blessing just as important, that of being co-creators with God—Motherhood. Neal A. Maxwell, in the General Conference in April, 1978, said, "God trusts women so much that he lets them bear and care for His spirit children."

We, as mothers, shape the destiny of the world by what we do within the walls of our own home with our own families. What greater, more important work could we ask for than this? Someone said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Napoleon once asked of Madam Campon, "What is wanting that the youth of France will be well educated?" "Good Mothers" was the reply. The emperor was forcibly struck with the answer. "Here", he said, "is a system in one word—Mother." Another time Napoleon said, "The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother." Someone has said, "Educate a man—you educate an individual. Educate a woman—you educate a whole family."

Satan's philosophy would have us believe that it doesn't take talent to be a mother—that function can be filled by another person or organization, but President Kimball has told us, "The Lord holds motherhood and mothers sacred and in the highest esteem. He has entrusted to his daughters the great responsibility of bearing and nurturing children. This is the great, irreplaceable work of women. There is divinity in each new life. There is challenge in creating the environment in which a child can grow and develop. . . Mothers have a sacred role. They are partners with God, as well as with their own husbands."

"We have often said that this divine service of motherhood can be rendered only by mothers. It may not be passed to others. Nurses cannot do it; public nurseries cannot do it. Hired help cannot do it. Kind relatives cannot do it. Only by mother, aided as much as may be by a loving father, brothers and sisters and other relatives, can the full needed measure of watchful care be given."

In contemplating the divine nature of motherhood Bishop H. Burke Peterson wondered what effect it would have on parents if our Father in heaven introduced each new baby in the following way: "Thank you for preparing this little body for the spirit I have created. Now I present her to you for a season to care for. Please teach her of me and of my Son. I so much want her back with me someday. It all depends of you. Remember this: She is loving. She will respond to teaching. She wants to learn. Please treat her with respect. The road will not be easy. Some of the time it will be most difficult. I want to help you raise her. Please call on me often for advice and counsel. Together we can help her fulfill her purpose in the earth."

It is important for you girls to prepare now to be the kind of wife and mother you want to be. Learn the homemaking skills, social skills, communication skills, and anything that will help you become the person you want to be. Establish a relationship with God, keep His commandments, read the scriptures and pray. Develop a capacity for unconditional love and the ability to express that love. Work on learning to be unselfish—start with your brothers and sisters and friends. Gain all the intelligence you can. Learn serenity, patience, a positive attitude, and cheerfulness. Also develop a respect for priesthood authority. Get the best education you can now in school and in your own home—and go on to get more education if you can. Almost any kind of training will help a girl to be a better mother in some way, and education will teach self discipline and develop excitement for learning throughout life.