

Colossians 2:1-7 NIV (1978 edition)¹

“The Lord’s advice for 21st Century mothers.”

“I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

“For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Today people in our nation honor mothers.

It’s appropriate to do this, but most moms would appreciate a “thank you” any day.

Moms, who are orderly and firm in their faith should receive special thanks.

Would you like for your family and friends to

say about you as a mother—“She’s the best She’s got it all together”?

Yet we’re not sure whether our loved ones value us for who we are or for what we do for them.

E.G. – A woman human cannonball at the circus informed management that she wanted to retire.

The circus owners tried to dissuade her by saying,

“We’ll never find another lady of your caliber.”

Paul commended the Colossian moms and dads.

I “delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.”

We need some clarification:

Paul did not commend ordinary orderliness here:

- **Pots and pans in all the right places.**
 - Shoes arranged in the closet.
- **Everything filed correctly in the computer.**
- **Nice, well behaved children sitting reverently in church in perfect order.**

In Greek, orderly and firm are military terms.

Military strategy requires that troops be deployed and positioned in an orderly fashion, and also, fully committed to their mission.

Mom’s need good strategy, too.

Because the devil attacks our weaknesses,



¹ The NIV undergoes continual revision with each new edition. Some recent ones have even been changed, unfortunately, to accord with political correctness.

our faith must be orderly and resolute.
Mothers need well-organized, strong faith.

How are mothers vulnerable?

They face all sorts of challenges.

Some years ago, a cartoon in the Chicago Tribune showed a wife weeping and sobbing to her husband: **“For weeks I’ve been telling you not to buy me anything for Mother’s Day—and still you forgot to get me something.”**

Or the mother who believed in the be-a-little-gentleman-and-don’t-fight-school of upbringing.

She hoped to instill this noble outlook in her pugnacious little son.

“Jimmy, when that naughty boy threw stones at you, why didn’t you come in and tell me instead of throwing them back at him.”

Little Jimmy replied, **“What good would that do? You can’t hit the side of a barn!”**



Mother’s Day also has its ironies:

The woman responsible for Mother’s Day was never a mother and never married.

Another strange fact: Anna Jarvis who conceived the idea in May 1908 was once known world-wide, but then was forgotten about 50 years.

Anna Jarvis spent almost all of her income caring for a blind sister until she herself became blind.

Except for the fact that a Philadelphia lawyer happened to enquire about her, she would have died penniless in a charity hospital.

Perhaps you’ve reflected on another Mother’s Day paradox:

How wondrous that God designed mothers to have such profound, abiding love for that helpless little thing that took nine months to get and was such a pain to deliver.

No baby comes by Amazon Same Day in an easy-open container.

There’s not a mother present who hasn’t been anxious a lot for her children—who hasn’t spent sleepless nights and distraught days concerned about one or more of her children.

When I was in high school I spent many nights out all night—lots of nights.

I rarely did anything immoral or illegal—
 I was just out messing around.

I didn’t comprehend the torture that I put my mother through until more than twenty years later when one of our sons was out all night once.

Mothers encounter countless concerns:

Long nights tending a child with a high fever;
 Anguish of seeing her kids being treated unfairly;
 Apprehension when her kid failed at something;
Anxiety about inadequacies as a mother;

Finding the strength and endurance to deal with a high-energy youngster.

A young mother of three extremely active little boys was playing "cops and robbers" one afternoon when a neighbor stopped by to borrow a cup of sugar.

One boy aimed his toy pistol at his mother and yelled "**Bang! You are dead**" She slumped to the ground in a heap. When she did not get up right away, the neighbor hurried to see if she had been hurt in the fall.



As the neighbor bent over, the over-worked mother opened one eye and whispered, "Shhh. Do not give me away. It is the only chance I get to rest."²

All mothers want their children to be the best.

A few years ago the New Orleans Times told about a mother whose son was attending summer camp. She received an ecstatic letter from the director.

"Jack is one of the most promising youngsters we have ever had here," he rhapsodized. "He is a fine athlete, has a world of vitality and enthusiasm, and his sportsmanship and leadership leave nothing to be desired. If every boy we had were such a splendid example of American youth as Jack, we would feel

that we had succeeded far beyond our fondest expectations.

The mother wrote back: "I am happy to hear that Jack is doing so well. He seems to be an excellent camper. I have a son there, too. His name is George. How is he doing?"

Nelda Kyger noted her conflicts as a mother, "When they (children) leave the nest, she (mother) is faced with learning how to let her child go while transitioning the relationship from parent-child to that of friendship. It's not always easy to do . . . Someone has aptly said that when your children are young, they step on your feet, but when they are grown, they step on your heart. A mother never gets to the place where she' doesn't anguish over her children - the pains and sorrow they inevitably face. But perhaps the hardest job for a mother is to learn to trust God with her children."³

In Redbook, a grandmother once told about her grandson. The boy's aunt held seven-year-old Jeremy on her lap. The aunt gave nephew Jeremy a warm hug and said, "**Jeremy, how did you get to be such a big boy?**"

After a moment, Jeremy looked up at his aunt and politely asked, "**Well, do you know about cell division and stuff?**"

² *The Sermon Builder*, Dec. 1985

³ Nelda Kyger, *The Weekly Vista*, May 10, 2000

Mothers understandably have great hopes for their kids.

Because so much is expected of them, moms need orderly, resolute faith.

Floyd T. Wood expressed appreciation this way:

Blowers of noses and washers of ears,
 Smoothers of bumped spots and wipers of tears,
 Scrubbers of dishes and wielders of mops,
 Bathers of babies and umpires of spats,
 Finders of rubbers, mittens and hats,
 Helpers with lessons and makers of beds,
 Shakers of dust cloths and combers of heads,
 Button-sew-owners and winders of clocks,
 Menders of dresses and darners of socks,
 Tellers of stories and readers of books,
 Judges and juries of conduct and looks,
 Doctors of heartaches and hearers of prayers,
 Generals directing all family affairs,
 Tenders of home fires and builders of men,
 (Oh, for the gift of an adequate pen!)

Your family often expects so much, but you feel guilty if all isn't right.

Imagine that you could read the hearts and minds of today's mothers.

Get them to answer this question,



“What kind of people should other parents produce today?”

Would many say that we need more professional ballplayers?

Or another tech guy in Silicon Valley?

Or another politician?

And Hallelujah! Maybe not even more preachers. It doesn't need more entertainers, whether singers, actors, comedians, or musicians.

It doesn't need more writers or artists.

It certainly needs more caring, dedicated teachers and probably more physicians and nurses.

I'll let you decide about attorneys.

It definitely needs folks who honor God, lovingly respect others and work for God's true justice.

The world desperately needs “orderly,” parents and grandparents, who have firmly “received Christ Jesus as Lord” who “continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith . . . and overflowing with thankfulness.”

That's why the Apostle John wrote:

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18 NIV).

It needs kids, who've been trained God's way, not according to “woke” or political correctness or how much money they will make.

The world needs peacemakers.

But how many mothers and dads prepare their kids to be peacemakers according to scripture?

They don't learn peacemaking when mom has to have the last word.

No son or daughter ever learned to be a peacemaker whose parents indulged his/her every whim.

Kids don't learn to be peacemakers when mom or dad tries to settle all their arguments for them.

That's why John wrote: **“Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.**

The world needs people who try to love as God loves us, who work at peacemaking.

Enough preaching.

We just want to say “Thank You!” to moms.

SuzAnne C. Cole, of Houston, Texas, wrote:

A Mother's Day Toast:

“Please lift your glasses high to Honor mothers,
Everyone's first love, Who risk
their lives giving birth,

Who respect the heart-thoughts of
their children,

Who know 'mother' is not the
same as "smother."

To mothers, Who always believe
we can and will improve.

Who love us deeply enough to let
us go,

Who end every phone call with
'I love you . . .'

Who never give up hoping for our
Happiness. We thank them for their strength; We
honor them for their suffering; We forgive them their
mistakes; For in becoming aware of their limitations;
We learn to acknowledge our own. To our mothers -
and their love.”

**“I . . . delight to see how orderly you are and how
firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you
received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in
him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in
the faith as you were taught, and overflowing
with thankfulness.”**

God bless you all!

Bob Blair

PO Box176

Cleghorn, IA 51014

www.robertblairbooks.com

