

Motherhood is a Calling

C.S Lewis once alluded that “the homemaker has the ultimate career. All other careers exist for one purpose only - and that is to support the ultimate career.” Career, defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary is a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. Thus, if a homemaker is one who manages a household especially as a spouse or parent (Merriam-Webster,) then motherhood is a calling. A calling that requires the full engagement of a women’s heart, body, and soul.

The world may challenge the notion that a career requires a degree or higher level of education. However, others may assert that the countless hours a mother puts into the home make her an expert in her field. Regardless, there is a tremendous amount of regard when a woman, who is a mother, raises up healthy well-rounded children to become active members of society. When a mother takes her calling seriously, the outcome of it will reflect in the life of her home and children.

Research shows that stay-at-home mothers have a positive impact in the growth and development of their children. It is found that these children have a higher academic performance level because the parent has time to homeschool or be extremely involved in their education. (<https://www.verywellfamily.com/research-stay-at-home-moms-4047911>). However, the benefits go far beyond academics and merge into social, mental, and emotional well-being. Children who have a stay-at-home parent also benefit from more sleep, family time, lower stress levels, fewer behavior problems, social support, and parents have decreased child expenses. (<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/benefits-of-stay-at-home-parent-statistics>)

According to the California Department of Education, brain research indicates that birth to age three are the most important years in a child’s life. The Children’s Bureau states that the most critical stages of development are from birth to five years. Pamela Li, the founder of Parenting for Brain describes the formative years, a time period between 0-8 years of age is when the brain and neurobiological development are the fastest after birth. In essence, whatever happens to children during this time will affect their “physical development, mental development, and success in life.” (<https://www.parentingforbrain.com/formative-years/>) Hence, why many mothers see it necessary to be at home and be the strongest influence in their child’s life.

Mothers are not only known to have eyes behind their head, but as a Jewish proverb goes on to say, “A mother understands what a child does not say.” This could possibly be because a mother and her baby, while in the womb, share not only DNA but cells from one another. A process known as microchimerism which the medical community defines as the presence of cells from one individual in another genetically distinct individual. Pregnancy is the main cause of natural microchimerism through transplacental bi-directional cell trafficking between mother and fetus. Furthermore, it is now known that microchimerism persists decades later both in mother and in her progeny. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6714269/>) This process may be the reason why a mother can be so in tune with their child. Thus, allowing a mother to nurture, direct, perceive, understand, and help when needed.

The bond that is held between a mother and child goes far beyond the surface. It is embedded in the inner most being of both. The role of a mother and homemaker is one that holds value and honor; often undermined and misunderstood. Yet has existed since the beginning of creation. Jobs and occupations will always cycle out and have the ability to replace people. But,

motherhood, that is a gift given by our Creator. A calling that has passed on from generation to generation. A calling that should be met with reverence, respect, honor, unconditional love and support. Till next time....

Your Mommy-Friend