## Qualities of Christian Mothers – <u>Asaolu O. S.</u>

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**Introduction**: A "mother" refers to a woman in relation to her child[ren] based on her role **in giving birth and/or bringing up such individuals**. One could be a biological, foster or adopted mother, or even a *surrogate* mom of sorts today. Eve was *the mother of all living* (Gen 3:20) but is NOT much of a role model since sin came through her! <u>A Christian mother is a mum that is a Christian indeed and the qualities expected of such is what this lesson is about</u>. Thus, the desirable attributes for a woman to be a godly parent in this era, are under consideration. *Mothers are like glue, even when you don't see them they are still holding the family together* –Susan Gale. Women should never forget their primary role as intended by God: to be a helpmeet to man and partner in reproduction to dominate the earth. This places them in vantage position as home-keepers since the man is to work, provide for and support his household (1 Tim 5:8). A man heads by providing leadership or direction in his family while the wife, as mother to the children who spends more time with the offspring, manages the daily details of keeping the house running.

It is God that gives children, He desires a woman to raise children whether biological or otherwise. **Psalms** 113:9 *He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD… Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward* (127:3). **Proverbs** 29:15 *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame… Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old* (23:22).

## **Desirable Qualities:**

- 1. Married before giving birth, be a house manager and godly person -1 Tim 5:14 Even Mary was espoused before she was chosen to give birth to Jesus. Her care for her child was evident in how she raised him and spoke to him when he at age 12, stayed back at the feast in the temple (Lk 2:40-48-51).
- 2. Has humility, godliness, modesty, fear of the Lord, reverence for husband (1 Pet 3:1-6). Such support the husband in his role to cater for the family, she is industrious and yet watch over their children –Prov 31:10-27-28; 22:6.
- 3. Loves her husband and children, is chaste, a good home-keeper, role model to young sisters -Tit 2:3-5
- 4. She nurtures her own children (1 Thess 2:7) and help raise others offspring (1 Tim 5:10) via feeding, teaching, modesty in dressing, speech, comportment, etc. Such are motherly to their children's friends and associates, such encourage collaboration not competitive attitude based on jealousy –Rm 16:13
- 5. She grooms wards and children in the faith of the Lord. Mothers impact their children. Recall the Rebecca/Jacob incident. Also, Ahaziah, king of Judah, was wicked because "*his mother* [Athaliah] *counseled him to do wickedly*" (2 Chro 22:3). On the other hand, we read of a young disciple named Timothy who was a good servant of the Lord. He was groomed by a mother and grandmother who possessed genuine faith (2 Tim 1:5, Acts 16:1-2). A Christian mother is very mindful of Eph 6:1-3.
- 6. She pursues her children's interest and welfare as demonstrated by the mother of Zebedee's children (Mt 20:20f) and the Syrophoenician woman who sought healing for her afflicted daughter (15:21-28).
- 7. She knows her child's potential and abilities. Such encourage her children to do good and help others, as Mary did at the Cana wedding in Jn 2:1-5
- 8. She supports the cause of Christ like faithful Mary & Priscilla Acts 12:12; 18:26

Conclusion: A Christian woman would be a Christian mother. [Video on Church of Christ UNILAG Facebook Page]