

## WHAT CAN WE GIVE MAMA?

Mother's Day

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Every year it seems to be a difficult question to answer. What can we give mama?" Wanting to give mom a gift worthy of her contribution is something many find perplexing. But before we get to that, let's look at the way various people see the plight and value of mom.

Let's begin with a list someone has made which they have called "Murphy's Laws of Parenting." See if you can identify with any of these:

1. The later you stay up, the earlier your child will wake up the next morning.
2. The gooier the foods, the more likely it is to end up on the carpet.
3. The longer it takes you to make a meal; the less your child will like it.
4. A sure way to get something done is to tell a child not to do it.
5. For a child to become clean, something else must become dirty.
6. Toys multiply to fill any space available.
7. Yours is always the only child who doesn't behave.
8. If the shoe fits . . . it's expensive.
9. Backing the car out of the driveway causes your child to have to go to the bathroom. -- Do any of this strike home?

**Maybe you can also identify with the following ideas some have about moms in a survey on "Qualities Needed In All Moms."**

A panel of experts was asked to complete some sentences about their moms. What made them experts was the one thing they all had in common. *They were all kindergarteners.* Even though these are the words of 6 year olds, I think the qualities they recognized in their moms are they qualities needed in all moms. Here are the sentences and the answers:

**My mom is best at:** "feeding the dog," "making my bed," "driving," "cleaning," "running," "riding a two-wheeler," "watering the garden."

**If I had enough money, I'd buy her:** "flowers," "a car," "a necklace," "a brand-new fan," "a kitten," "a diamond ring," "a big pack of bubble gum."

**It makes me feel good inside when Mom says:** "I love you," "good job," "dinnertime!" "You look handsome," "I'll buy you something."

**My mom is as pretty as a:** -- "butterfly," "ballerina," "mouse," "princess," "my brothers," "goose," "gold ring," "a clean horse."

By the way, one of the most memorable comments from the children on Father's Day was: Daddy gets tired out from: "chasing mommy." -Brett Blair and Staff, [www.eSermons.com](http://www.eSermons.com).

I suppose some of you Moms can relate to that. But in an attempt to do a little better job understanding and appreciating mom's contribution to our lives, let us look at several ways we can honor mom on this Mother's Day.

### **I. We Can Give Her Our Heart-felt Appreciation To Her (Proverbs 31:27-29).**

In the chapter about the "Virtuous woman" in Proverbs we read this about virtuous mothers:

"She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. *Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." (Italics added) Proverbs 31:27-29 NIV.*

**A. Appreciation given without a request is most powerful.**

**B. The love and admiration of a child is a mother's greatest reward.**

### **II. We Can Give Her Our Continuing Care (John 19:26-27).**

*Even Jesus remembered the importance of taking care of his mother. From the cross, he said the following:*

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." *John 19:26-27 NIV*

**A. Honoring mom is more than sending a card on mother's day.**

**B. Honoring mom means showing respect for her and her needs.**

**Ephesians 6:1-3** “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3** “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

**III. We Can Give Mom A Legacy Of Which She Will Be Proud (2 Timothy 1:4-6 NIV).**

*The Apostle Paul, writing to the young minister Timothy, reminded him of the legacy of faith left to him by his mother. He writes in 2 Timothy 1:4-6, “Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

**A. For the mother who has followed God, passing her faith on is important.**

**B. Mothers who are devoted to following Christ earn the right to lead us.**

## **CONCLUSION**

Dr. Tony Campolo is a well known and highly respected, inspirational speaker. Over the last several years, Tony Campolo has spent much of his time traveling around the world on speaking tours.

Meanwhile, his wife, Peggy, has chosen to stay home and give herself and all that she has to the "Bringing Up" of their two children, Bart and Lisa. On those rare occasions when Peggy does travel with Tony, she finds herself engaged in conversations with some of the most accomplished, impressive, influential, sophisticated people in the world.

After one such trip, Peggy told Tony that sometimes as she visits with

these powerful people... she finds herself feeling intimidated and sometimes even questioning her own self-worth. Tony said to her: "Well, honey, why don't you come up with something you could say when you meet people that will let them know that you strongly value what you do and you feel that it is dramatically, urgent and crucial and important.

Well, not long after that, Tony and Peggy Campolo were at a party... when a woman said to Peggy in a rather condescending tone, "Well, my dear, what do you do?" Tony Campolo heard his wife say:

"I am nurturing two Homo Sapiens into the dominant values of the Judaeo-Christian tradition in order that they might become instruments for the transformation of the social order into the kind of eschatological utopia God envisioned from the beginning of time."

And the other woman said:

"O, my, I'm just a lawyer."

I like that story because it reminds us that there are a lot of important jobs in the world today but not one of them is more important than the job of being a mother. --Tony Campolo adapted by James Moore, Collected Sermons