One cannot overstate or place a value on the powerful influence of a godly wife and mother on her husband and children:

I say, a good and virtuous wife and godly mother, because regrettably, there are ungodly women, who become mothers in the world; the scriptures record the true accounts of ungodly women who became mothers, who provoked and influenced their children to wickedness, and to sin against God to the ruining of their lives and damning of their souls!

I'll give you one example from the Word of the terrible influence of Athaliah on her son, who was a king in Judah, and then we'll look, for the rest of our time, at what the Bible says about virtuous women, who make good and godly mothers. 2 Kings 8:25-27, 16-19, 2 Chronicles 22:1-4
Thus, we see the power of a wicked mother's influence! Proverbs 14:1

There has never been a perfect mother in this fallen and sinful world, there has only been one Perfect Human, the Lord Jesus.

But even the mother the Lord was not perfect and without sin, nonetheless, she was INDEED HIS MOTHER; she carried him in her womb and after He was born, she nursed Him, cared for Him, watched over Him, and raised Him.

And then, she believed Him to be the Messiah and her Lord and Saviour, when her other children doubted Him.... And then, when He was a Man, she watched Him die the cruelest of deaths...for her sins and the sins of the fallen world.

(V10): A virtuous woman literally means, an able and wise woman, a woman of godly character and strength! Exodus 18:21

But why is the woman called the "weaker vessel" by Peter? $\underline{1}$ Peter 3:1-7.

Peter wrote, honor her, protect her, care for her.... she is weaker by her physical constitution, but she is not a lesser and weaker human than you, men.... Peter goes on to write that the husband and wife are "heirs together of the grace of life".

Don't ever misconstrue what Peter has written to think (MEN) that you are superior to your woman, your wife... she has strengths and abilities that you do not possess, and likewise, you have strengths and abilities that she does not possess. <u>Together, when joined, you are ONE FLESH!</u>

Yes, the woman is to be in subjection to her husband, but that does not mean that she is a lesser human than he....

A virtuous wife will make a wonderful mother:

She is industrious and wise for her husband and her children, she gladly, and might I say (she tirelessly)

provides for the needs of her family. She will stay up all night to care for her sick child. <u>Proverbs 31:15-18</u> She conducts herself with wisdom, both in the home and in public so that her husband "safely trusts in her". Her character and strength (which she trusts her God for), for whatever confronts her for her husband and family will be obvious to both her husband and her children. In this, she possesses a strength that her man does not... <u>Proverbs 31:25-31</u>

When her husband is out working, she is the gospel light of the home, to her children, (when she grows old, to her children and grandchildren).

She lovingly disciplines her children and then warns them about the dangers of sin and how it will ruin their lives if they continue in it, and then she tells them about her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and that it is urgent for them to trust Him!

<u>A mother communicates Christ to her children with a</u> heart that a man and even a father cannot know.

Wives, mothers, grandmothers, the influence that you have with your husbands and families is powerful; it cannot be overstated:

Momma's you SHOULD desire to be a godly influence to your children, and to you children's children!

I have seen my dear wife's good influence more so now than ever on our sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters. I have seen FIRSTHAND that "mothering instincts" and a "mother's love" do not depart when adult children grow up and leave the home in which they were raised, BUT I have ALSO seen that a "mother's love" is not restricted ONLY to those who are her own biological children and grandchildren.

Good and godly mothers CANNOT BUT MOTHER and care for any that come into their homes, and they will do it with a gentle and loving command, which comes forth from their spirits, which God has put in them!

I have used the term "powerful influence" in describing the effect of a virtuous woman and godly wife and mother on her husband, children, and grandchildren; allow me to show you a few Biblical examples from the Word of God to encourage you girls, ladies, wives, mothers:

The powerful influence of a mother-in-law: <u>Ruth 1:8-18</u>
The powerful influence and gospel witness of grandmothers and mothers for their children: <u>2 Timothy 1:5</u>
The powerful influence of a mother's' prayers: <u>1 Samuel</u> 1:26-28

The powerful influence of a mother's teaching: <u>Proverbs 31:1</u> There is the heart cry of a mother for her children, I have seen your heart cries... mothers! THAT is beautiful! <u>1 Kings</u> <u>3:26, Luke 2:44-52</u>

Finally: There are the terrible wounds of a mother, who is called "blessed among women", who beheld her son and child in agony, suffering for the sins of the world, dying on a Roman cross as an innocent man, and all she could do was watch, weep, believe God. <u>Luke 2:29-35</u>, <u>John 19:25-27</u>

Children, honor your mothers (not only today, on Mother's Day).

Honor and love your mother, because God commanded you to do so; or as Paul wrote in Ephesians 6, do it because "THIS IS RIGHT".

Ephesians 6:1-2