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Theme: Single-working Mothers

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-28 (NIV)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...(28)In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

A Thought:

Since I retired my weekly stomping grounds to study, write and think is to frequent the local eateries around town. I know it has not been by accident. I believe God has had His hand in my daily walk by way of focusing His spiritual beam on the wonderful men and women that work tirelessly and under dire circumstances....all to feed our faces. Long hours on their feet, low wages and sometimes “in your face” comments from angry patrons. Daily occurrences they endure to make ends meet. Often I see working the tables are the single working-mothers. They are “bringing home the bacon” a fact that staggers the mind (see next page - single mother statistics). I have met and talked to a few of these courageous women. One particular mother of two is working 60 hours a week. Another single mother with children has two jobs to make ends meet. Both are divorced and do not receive one dollar from their ex-husbands. The following narrative is common for many of the women...they get up very early to feed and dress their children. Grandma, a relative, babysitter and or childcare are next on the morning agenda. The cell phone is the daily contact between mother and child. Mothers forgo school activities, chores, self-time and sleep. What they miss the most is the quality relational moments with their respective children. How sad that so many men cannot even meet the minimum responsibilities. Shame, shame on our gender. A wakeup call to all men contemplating marriage. Are you ready to face marital obligations?

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Seek guidance in your marriage....talk to a pastor or family therapist.

Scriptures to read:

- Romans 7:2-3; Ephesians 5:25-31,33; Genesis 3:3:17-19;
- 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Peter 3:17; Col.3:19; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5

Quote: (Sources) About.com; Economic Roundtable 2002

- 79.5% of custodial mothers are gainfully employed.
- Approximately 84% of custodial parents are mothers
- 45% are currently divorced or separated - 32% never been married
- 54% are raising one child - 46% have two or more children
- 75% of teen pregnancies are adolescents from single parent homes
- More than one half of all youths incarcerated for criminal acts lived in one parent families when they were children.
- 39 billion dollars is owed in back child support to 29 million children
- Fewer than 17% of all single moms receive government assistance even in the minor form of food stamps

Bottom Line: “I do.” Men, these words were uttered before God. When they left your lips you made a commitment to one of the most coveted relationships in your lifetime. The love we have for our wives and children is not based strictly on spine-tingling emotions and or moods but on a commitment that requires sacrifice on our part. We must sustain this commitment not just during the good times but also when we are experiencing the ever tedious bad times. I know that every marriage has its problems and there is always two versions to each issue. However, we cannot walk away and wash our hands and leave as though the “I do” words were meaningless. A commitment is a commitment! 1Timothy 5:8 (NIV) “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” A clarion admonition!

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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