

## **The Principle of First**

If somehow you missed it today is Mother's Day. So call if your mom is still living make sure you call her today!

Where would we be without our moms? I know that sounds stupid but I am not simply talking about the fact that she gave you birth. She nurtured you, taught you and frankly loved you when few others did. We are what we are today because of our moms. So it is fitting that we honor them.

Proverbs 31 ends with a tribute to a wife and mother of noble character. It contains 22 verses talking about her attributes. I love verse 28 that says, "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Can we do that right now? Can we give some praise to all the mothers here with a round of applause?

If you take the time to read Proverbs 31 you will see that the wife and mother of noble character always puts her family first ahead of herself. Mothers put themselves last to advance their families over themselves. They do that out of an intense love for the child they struggled for nine months to carry and then gave many hours of hard labor to bring them into the world. That bonds them forever with their offspring. Forever a mother of noble character puts others first.

Throughout Scripture you will find this principle or rule of firsts. What we value and love the most gets our best. We put it first. What gets first place in your life? Someone once said that you could tell what was first in your life by looking at your bank account and your calendar. We spend our money on what we value and we spend our time on who and what we love. What does your bank account and calendar show that you love first? What you focus on first will determine your direction in life.

Our moms put us first before themselves. Today you benefit from that love. This morning as we take up our offering it is a time that we can show God that He is first in our lives. The Bible calls it a First Fruit offering. Giving God the best and first of the harvest was the way God's people showed that God was first. Will you give your best and first of your "harvest" to support God's work?

Mother's put others first before themselves. Let's show that we understand the principle of first with our offering today!