

Dr. Ron Armstrong • May 8, 2022
Mother's Day: On the Training Team

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

A. Mother's Day resonates with us because we recognize a tough job when we see it.

1. Moms all wonder the same thing: Is this ever going to get easier?
2. Easy and hard tend to ebb and flow. Tough seasons do end, but moms are never really done.
3. Moms regularly face a conundrum (confusing problem) trying to balance her child's short-term happiness with his/her long-term health.
 - a. Moms want their children to be happy. They yearn for it and make great sacrifices for it.

- b. But a great mom wants her child to be more than just "happy." She wants her child to be healthy. She wants him/her:
 - I. To take personal responsibility for his/her life. (Of course, unfairness exists, but victimhood is a trap.)
 - II. To be self-disciplined. (This is the antidote to self-inflicted failures.)
 - III. To grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
 - IV. To become an independent adult who effectively cares for his/her own family.
4. Great moms know that if you teach "healthy," "happy" is more likely to follow.

B. Moms (and dads) are a child's most valuable teachers. Here are a few key lessons:

1. The law of sowing and reaping. Help them connect the dots between actions and results.
2. Pull your own wagon. This is hard for moms, but they need to ask, "Is your leg broken?"
3. Law of respect. It's critical that they know other people matter too.
4. Passivity will bring disappointment and pain. You will learn to make decisions or others will make them for you.
5. Thankful people are happier than envious people. Model and help them count blessings.