

“Radical Love”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, May 12, 2019

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 AMP: ⁷ But we behaved gently when we were among you, like a devoted *mother* tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ Having such a deep affection for you, we were delighted to share with you not only God’s good news but also our own lives, because you had become so very dear to us.

⁹ For you remember, believers, our labor and hardship. We worked night and day [practicing our trade] in order not to be a [financial] burden to any of you while we proclaimed the gospel of God to you.

The Apostle Paul is using words that describe a mother’s devotion, love, affection, sacrifice, labor, and toil to describe his love for the people he is ministering to in Thessalonica.

* Let’s look at some words to describe moms:

Loving, caring, sacrificial giving, nurturing, supportive, comforting, compassionate, accepting, patient, selfless, understanding, wonderful, amazing, survivor, a rock, an anchor in the storms of life, fearless, tough as a Sergeant Major, brave, determined, prayer warrior, one of a kind, irreplaceable, steady, loyal, chef, funny, beautiful, wise, best friend, taxi driver, creative, hardworking provider, referee, umpire, and peacemaker.

* Let’s look at some statements that can describe so many moms:

1. If it weren’t for your mom, you wouldn’t be breathing right now.
2. Moms are usually the emotional backbones of the family. They provide a holding place for everyone’s feelings and do their best to keep us from being hurt.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT: ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

3. Who would kiss your boo-boos to make them all better if she weren't around? Moms have that special touch to help us heal our wounds, physical and emotional with their words of love, wisdom, and encouragement.

Proverbs 4:20-23 NLT:

²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words.

²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

4. Truly our moms, especially single moms, worked very hard and made many sacrifices so our lives would be better. In our world right now, where there is so much selfishness and entitlement, they are not a lot of people willing to do that for you.

Mark 10:43-45 NLT: ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

5. The majority of mothers are very forgiving, which teaches us to forgive her in return and to forgive others. Perhaps the most valuable gift that she could teach and give us is forgiveness.

Matthew 18:21-22 NLT: ²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

6. When you want to climb the tallest mountain, your mother will make your lunch for you and tell you that there is nothing that you can't do. She is the one who will support your dreams when no one else believes in you. She will also tell you to make sure that you have clean underwear on in case something happens to you.

Luke 1:37 NLT: For nothing is impossible with God.

Philippians 4:13 NKJV: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

7. She set boundaries for you, not to keep you bound up but to keep you safe from all the dangers that she knows exist in this world today. She didn't let you go to some places with your friends because she knew that you would end up hurt or in big trouble or hurt.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 Passion Translation: ³³ So stop fooling yourselves! Evil companions will corrupt good morals and character. ³⁴ Come back to your right senses and awaken to what is right. Repent from your sinful ways. For some have no knowledge of God's wonderful love. You should be ashamed that you make me write this way to you!

8. A mother's ears and eyes hear and see everything. When her children get really quiet in the house, she magically appears because she knows something is not right.

9. A mom teaches us to walk and to talk. She smiles and encourages us with every attempt that we make to walk and then to run. She helps us with homework even though she has worked all day and is so very tired. She's the one that leaves her food at the restaurant table to take us outside or to the bathroom when we are screaming and stays there until there is a calmness. She teaches us responsibility and releases us to go into the world even though she knows the dangers, deception, and violence, but she believes that we will make a difference in this world for the good and for the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

10. She hurts when we hurt. And when we make bad decisions, she hurts deeply because she knows that the consequences can be astronomical and long lasting. When a child dies, only Jesus can bring healing, comfort, peace, and strength to move forward. Some of us are only alive today because of the intercession of our moms. They stood face to face with devil and demonic spirits battling for our lives, our deliverance and salvation, and some are still battling. Some moms went to heaven and with their last breath, they prayed for their children.

No mom is or has been perfect, but they really try to give and show what love they have been given through Jesus.

Moms don't live on this earth forever. So while they are alive, let's celebrate them, love them, call or FaceTime, even forgive them if you need to.

1 John 4:7-12 NLT: ⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

1 Peter 3:8-12 NLT: ⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,

“If you want to enjoy life
and see many happy days,
keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies.

¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good.
Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

¹² The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,
and his ears are open to their prayers.
But the Lord turns his face
against those who do evil.”