

Moms are special people

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By Pam Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As I have recently been looking back over my life, I asked my husband, "How do you think I want to be remembered?"

Without hesitation he said, "You want to be remembered as a good mom."

He knows me so well.

There are two special people I hope will remember me as a good mom, and they are my two sons, David and Jonathan.

Healthy sacrifices

Fortunately for me, I have two wonderful examples that I hope I am emulating: my mother (Opal Page of Lamesa, Texas) and my mother-in-law (Camilla Gill of Kunkletown, Pa.).

Both of these women have dedicated their lives to the welfare of their children. My mother has two daughters: a younger sister and me. My mother-in-law has two daughters and two sons. My husband has an older sister, younger sister and younger brother.

My mother and mother-in-law have made sacrifices for their children, but they have made those sacrifices from a foundation of strength.

What I mean is that some people give to other people in large part to validate some inner emotional needs of their own. Many of the experts describe that condition as codependency.

The apostle Paul mentioned that a person can actually give to other people without really having genuine love toward those people (1 Corinthians 13:3).

Jesus taught that a person is expected to love his neighbor as himself (Matthew 22:39). To properly love another person, we should have the proper self-respect. People who don't respect themselves will pass along that disrespect toward other people.

My mother and mother-in-law have set and are continuing to set an example of making healthy sacrifices toward their children.

Belated appreciation

At this time I would like to say a few words about some friends of mine who have been good mothers but are not receiving the appreciation they are due.

There are times when I have seen mothers hurting so deeply because their children do not show appreciation back to them.

I know these words may not provide much relief, but someday your good works will be appreciated. It may be the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:12), but your good works will ultimately be appreciated.

Thankfully, we have a parent (God is both like a father and a mother) who knows how to love us through any bad experience.

Expressing gratitude

Mother's Day is an opportunity to show our gratitude to our special moms for loving us, listening to us and understanding us.

We can appreciate all the times they demonstrated patience toward us. We can be thankful for all the times they reflected forgiveness toward us. And we can fondly remember all the laughter they brought into our lives.

The gift of love is largely taught to us by our moms. They show us the heart and core of a loving relationship and what family is all about.

Through our moms we learn to be strong in character and how to have faith in God. Hopefully, these lessons of self-sacrifice, patience and caring will continue to be passed down to our children.