

## 7. Talking With Mom



This lesson focuses on another important aspect of our responsibilities as fathers, that is, how we interact with the mother of our children. As the Mom she also has an important role to play in the raising of your children, and how you interact with her will have a long-lasting effect on your children. There are several important spiritual concepts that come into play as we look at the relationship between Dads and Moms.

First, as is pointed out in the main Fathering in 15™ lesson, men and women are created differently and we need to recognize that that is God's idea! As it says in Genesis 1:27, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." If it is God's idea then it is a good idea! Both you and the mother of your children bear the image of God, and God has a job for each of you to do. And in God's infinite wisdom he decided that those jobs could best be done by making the two of you different. Don't expect her to think or act the way you do, she wasn't designed that way! Instead of seeing your differences as problems, instead see them as God's gift to you and your children. If you look at the differences in this way then you will look for ways to work together with your children's Mom, realizing that they are a benefit that will help the children and you.

Second, just as a father you have a very important role to play; so the mother also has a very important role to play in the raising of your children. Just as there are unique parenting skills that you contribute, she also has unique skills that are different from yours, and are needed to do the best job in raising your children. She is an important part of the picture and you need to show her that you respect and value that.

Third, as we talked about in the previous lesson, you should look at yourself and your children's mother as being in a partnership, working together to accomplish the best for your children. This is true regardless of whether you are still in a caring relationship with her or not. This is God's plan and it should be your plan as well. After all, you want the best for your children, don't you?

Fourth, how you handle your day-to-day interactions with the children's mother is a critical part of that partnership. The main lesson encouraged you to Prepare, Pause, Think, and then Choose a good response when you are dealing with a problem. That is another God idea. In the Bible, in James 1:19-20 we read, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." We should always be ready to listen attentively to Mom, select our words carefully before we speak, and then choose to find a way to work things out rather than to get angry.

Finally, realize that how you and the mother of your children interact has a tremendous influence on shaping the kind of adults the children will become. When your words and actions show that you value and respect your children's Mom you are showing them what a healthy father-mother relationship looks like. How the two of you interact will be the model for what they will look for, and work for, in their adult relationships. And, if at all possible, this should include showing your commitment to her, and the children, through the bond of marriage.

And here's another verse from the Bible that will help you know how to interact with the mother of your children:

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, . . . that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

*Ephesians 5:25-28*

Questions for thought and discussion:

- a. Do you respect and value the mother of your children as God word tells us to? How can you show her that you do respect and value her?
- b. Are you able and willing to view your children's Mom as a teammate and partner in raising your children, instead of as a competitor or rival?
- c. The Bible verse from Ephesians is a powerful statement on how much we are to show sacrificial love for our wives. Are you willing to give of yourself to do that?
- d. So what changes can you make to improve how you and your children's Mom talk and solve problems?