

Honor Women

Contributed by Don R. Patton
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It is the custom of many Americans to honor mothers on this day. This is more than just a nice custom. Honor for women is required by God. The Apostle Paul quotes from the ten commandments when he instructs, "HONOR YOUR...MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise)," Ephesians 6:2. Likewise, Peter exhorts, "... since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7 It is interesting to contrast this view with that of Mohammed. "Men are superior to women on account of the qualities with which God has gifted the one above the other, and on account of the outlay they make from their substance for them. Virtuous women are obedient, careful, during the husband's absence, because God has of them been careful. But chide those for whose refractoriness you have cause to fear; remove them into beds apart, and scourge them: but if they are obedient to you, then seek not occasion against them: verily, God is High, Great" (Koran, Quran, 4:34)

In his book, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1675) John Bunyan accurately perceives and describes the role of women depicted in the Bible. "Gaius also proceeded and said, 'I will now speak on the behalf of women, to take away their reproach. For as death and the curse came into the world by a woman, so also did life and health: "God sent forth His Son made of a woman"; I do not read that any man ever gave unto Christ so much as one [penny]; but the women followed Him and ministered to Him of their substance. 'Twas a woman that washed His feet with tears, and a woman that anointed His body to the burial. They were women that wept when He was going to the cross; and women that followed Him from the cross, and that sat by His sepulcher when He was buried. They were women that were first with Him at His resurrection-morn, and women that first brought tidings to the disciples that He was risen from the dead. Women, therefore, are highly favored; and show by these things that they are sharers with us in the grace of life.'