

**Twelve Lessons**

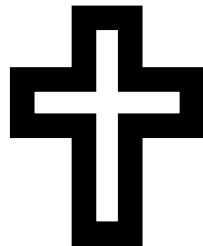
*on*

***Brides of the Bible***

*Compiled and Written*

*by*

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## THE MOTHER MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH – LESSON 1

### **Galatians 4:22-31**

**Introduction:** The Bible is full of types about the Church.

1. Family – “Household of God” – Eph. 2:19
2. Ship – “She is like unto a merchants’ ships” – Prov. 31:14
3. Garden – Garden enclosed – Song of Solomon 5:1
4. Bush on fire – “Bush burned” – Ex. 3:2
5. Flock – “Fear not, little flock” – Luke 12:32
6. Lily – “Lily among thorns” – Song of Sol. 2:2
7. City, Moon, Temple, Inn, Dove, Vineyard, Wife

But I believe the greatest type is the Church as a Mother – We will look at the Mother Ministry of the Church in three areas: the birthing (womb), bringing up (work) and breaking (whip) of its members.

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To compare the ministry of the Church to that of a mother.
2. To compare a mother’s responsibility to her children to the Church’s responsibility to her members.

### **Definition of Terms or Phrases:**

1. Travail – To suffer the pangs of childbirth; to be in labor (Gen.35). Labor in childbirth; as a severe travail; an easy travail (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary).
2. Train – “Train up a child,” etc. (Prov 22:6), has the sense in Heb. *hanak* of “to imbue one with anything,” to initiate; and so to train up a child according to his way, according to his disposition and habits (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary).

### **I. IN THE BIRTHING OF THE CHRISTIAN** – The Church has a womb.

**A. A mother is the wife of a husband** – Morally in order for a woman to bear children, she has to be married.

1. Isaiah 54:5 – Israel is the wife of God – “*For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name.*”
2. Rom. 7:3 – The Church is “married to Jesus.”
3. Eph. 5 – The Church is the “bride of Christ.”

**B. A mother bears the children.**

1. The Church as a Mother provides the womb – Ps. 87:5 – “*Of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her.*” As the Jews were birthed out of the wife of God, Israel; so every child of God in this dispensation is birthed out of the ministry of the Church.
2. The Church as a Mother provides the place where the seed and the sinner meet.
  - a. The Church provides the sinner. (Physically – the bride provides the egg)
  - b. The Bible provides the seed. (Physically – the bridegroom provides the sperm). The seed (the preached Word of God) meets the sinner in the womb of the Church.
  - c. If there is no conception, either the seed or the sinner is not present.

**C. A mother labors in birthing** – Isa. 66:8 – “*As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*”

1. This is Israel – Every time Israel cried out in desperation, God delivered his people. Example; Israel in Egypt; During the Time of the Judges – 13 Deliverances.
2. Israel in travail is a type of the Church in travail over the lost.
  - a. A woman who never goes into labor loses her children.
  - b. The Church that doesn't go into agony over the lost condition of the world loses many that could have been born.
  - c. Point: Many attend our services and do not get saved because of the lack of burden in the Church.

### **II. IN THE BRINGING UP OF THE CHRISTIAN** – The Church has a work.

**A. Old time mothers would breast feed their children** – This was before Similac, Pablum, and other brands of milk and food substitutes. The Church has been given two precious breasts – The Old and New Testament.

1. I Pet. 2:2 – “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*”
2. If we are to raise Christians, we must preach, teach, read, believe and defend the Word of God!
3. Today the Church is birthing children but not bringing them up. Salvation and sanctification are necessary for strong Christians.

**B. Old time mothers would Bible-train their children.**

1. What kind of mother would ignore the training of her children? They would become indecent, immoral, and lacking in character.
2. The Church's duty is to train her members and teach them what the Book says.
3. A child is a reflection of the mother as a member is a reflection of the church they attend.
  - a. Matt. 21:13 – *“My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”*
  - b. When we see a church becoming worldly, someone has let down the gate, compromised, and failed to preach the Bible.

### **III. IN THE BREAKING OF THE CHRISTIAN** – The Church has a whip.

**A. A mother ought to be obeyed.** Many times a father has to be gone. He leaves instructions on how the children are to act in his absence and leaves mother in charge. To disobey the mother is to disobey the father.

1. Jesus is gone back to Heaven and left the Christian with instructions, *“Occupy till I come,”* and has left the Church in charge. To disobey the Church is to disobey the Lord.
2. Children need discipline – Deut. 27:16 – *“Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother.”*
3. What about church members? Are they to be disciplined? Most certainly! The curse of this age is the lack of discipline by the Church.

### **B. A mother should not show favor to any child.**

1. James 2:9 – *“If ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”*
2. No partiality is to be shown. Nobody gets away with sin; none are excused.

### **C. A mother should have compassion towards her children.**

1. This is especially true in the weak, sick, and helpless children.
2. Many times Christians backslide, fall into temptations, and sin. Do your children always stay healthy?
3. What does a mother do when her children get sick? She spends more time and effort with the sick child than with the well!
4. I said a real mother, not just a woman who has borne children.
  - a. You can have children and not be a real mother, just a childbearing machine.
  - b. You can belong to the church, and not be spiritual!
5. Gal. 6:1 – *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*
6. Examples of a mother's Love:
  - a. Gen. 21:10 – Hagar had been sent away by Abraham. She was in a desert, the water was gone, and her child was dying of thirst. She put him under a bush and began to weep – vs.16 – *“Let me not see the death of the child.”*
    - 1) Vs. 19 – God or the power of the Holy Spirit.
    - 2) What can we do to save those (lost and saved) who are dying spiritually? If we get desperate with God, He will show us the well. Don't expect God to give you power unless you get desperate.
  - b. Ex. 2:3 – The mother of Moses heard the decree of Pharaoh that every son was to be cast into the river and drowned. It looked like Pharaoh was going to kill him, but Moses' mother made an ark and put him in it.
    - 1) What can the Church do to save those Satan is trying to destroy? The ark is a type of the Lord Jesus. The hand of Moses' mother made this ark, which is a type of consecration.
    - 2) Consecration means “hands full.” The answer is to get our children, our families, and our members wrapped up in the Lord Jesus and His work.
  - c. II Sam. 21 – Here we see a mother named Rizpah.
    - 1) Her sons had died under King David. He had them hanged in a tree. Rizpah stayed with them while they hung there. She fought off the birds by day and the wild beasts by night. She loved them though they were rebels, stinking with the stench of death.
    - 2) What can the church do to save those who are dead and look beyond hope? Like Rizpah, the church is to intercede for the dead who are in trespasses and sins. The only difference between Rizpah and the church is we have Jesus, the God that resurrects. All Rizpah could do was to get David to give them a decent burial, the church can get the attention of the King who can resurrect.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Like Hagar – The church can reclaim the vision.
2. Like Jochebed – The church can renounce the villain.
3. Like Rizpah – The church can rejoice the victory.