

A Holy Motherhood
By: F.B. Meyer, *Christ in Isaiah*, pp. 109-110

"The Lord hath called me from the womb" (v. 1). The greatest and best of men have confessed their indebtedness to their mothers; and not a few have, without doubt, enshrined in their character and developed in their life inspirations which had thrilled their mothers' natures from early girlhood. It is from their mothers that men get their souls. Many an obscure woman has ruled the world through the child in which her noblest self has been reproduced in masculine deeds and words. Rachel in Joseph; Jochebed in Moses; Hannah in Samuel; Elizabeth in John the Baptist; Monica in Augustine; the mother of the Wesleys in her illustrious sons. With all reverence we say it, Mary of Nazareth has attained an influence which the Church of Rome could never give her, through her Son who rules the ages. We know that in him the male and female blend in perfect symmetry; and yet sometimes we think, in the human side of this wondrous nature, we trace the Virgin Mother – her delicate and quick sympathy; her keen appreciation of beauty; her reverent and accurate knowledge of the Old Testament scriptures.

To make a man, God begins with his mother. How necessary it is, then, that young girls should be carefully trained to lofty thoughts and pure imaginings, that shall afterwards reappear in the strongest, fairest characters. And how important it is that young women should carefully watch their hearts, restraining what is vain and evil, and reaching out after whatsoever things are true, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, not only in outward appearance but in the inner chambers of the heart – for there the formative influences are ever brooding and maturing.

Few of us realize the immense importance attaching to the education of girls. Those who bear the children make our times. She that rocks the cradle rules the world. The zenanas of India must be taken for Christ before that great continent will yield to the gospel. Anyone, therefore, who can influence women by speech or pen, by education or example, has an almost unrivaled power over the destinies of our race. It is only a shallow and superficial critic who will sneer at a congregation of servant girls. The tendency of the present day notwithstanding, the highest function of woman is to give noble children to the world; in this she gives herself, and for this all education and environment should prepare her.