

No Higher Calling

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (II Timothy 1:5)

All my life I've watched it happen again and again. The routine goes something like this. Katy and I meet someone new. The banter of casual conversation begins and eventually I'm asked what I do. "So you're the *Senior* Pastor of a church in Albany, New York? Hmm... And Katy, what do *you* do?" It's not just the words that are important here, but the tone. Discovering that Katy is not gainfully employed outside the home in some professional capacity, what comes next strikes deep, like an arrow with a poisoned tip. "So you're... just a homemaker... a mom..."

I happen to be married to a woman who is bright, educated, talented, beautiful and capable of doing anything she sets her mind to do.¹ But she has freely chosen to lay aside her personal ambitions for the sake of family and ministry. Frankly, I want to give her a standing ovation!

Mother's Day is a time to remember that being a mom is the highest, noblest, most demanding calling a human being can receive. Says who? Says God, that's who! Just think about the assignment he gave to Eve, to Sarah, to Hannah, to Mary (!), to Lois and Eunice and to thousands upon thousands of others throughout history. It may sound trite, but it's true: the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. While our culture may smile condescendingly at such old-fashioned notions, God sees things differently. The future of the world rests squarely in the hands of those who change diapers, wipe noses, prepare lunches, do laundry, correct homework, read stories, run a taxi service and say bedtime prayers.

Mom, if you are tired of all those cultural put-downs, the next time some ignoramus pities you for being "just a housewife," try this. Do what Tony Campolo's wife did. In his book, *The Power Delusion*, he describes how his wife, a stay-at-home mom, learned to answer the question. Because of his role as a college professor, the Campolos often found themselves socializing with "important people" in "high places." Inevitably, some high-spirited female with a degree and a title would come up and ask, "And Mrs. Campolo, what do *you* do?" Her answer is a classic.

I am socializing two homo sapiens in the dominant value of the Judeo Christian tradition in order that they might be instruments in the transformation of the social order into the teleologically prescribed utopia inherent in the eschaton. And what do you do?

Let's give a cheer today for moms, the most influential people in the world!

Pastor Stan

¹ You may, of course, be wondering: *If Katy is so smart, then why did she marry Stan?* I have to admit that this question continues to baffle me as well!