



# *Embracing Motherhood*

By Christelle Baldovinos

Two Part Series  
Discipling Your Kids - Part 2

# ***EMBRACING MOTHERHOOD Part 2- Discipling Your Kids***

***BY CHRISTELLE BALDOVINOS***

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***“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...(Phil.2:1-8 & 12)***

## **I. POSITION JESUS TOOK - SERVANT**

- A. This verse describes the highest position being that of giving of yourself. Jesus gave of himself even to the point of death on a cross. When we give to our children not only are we investing into eternity, and moving the heart of God, but we are taking on the highest position-the position Jesus took.

***“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him...do everything without grumbling or complaining...” (Phil. 2:13-14)***

- B. For it is God who is giving us the desire to serve, love and give well as a wife and mom. This pleases him and the great thing is if our desires do not match His, we can ask for His desires and He will give them to us.
- C. I used to walk around not verbally complaining, but had a complaining attitude. A complaining spirit is not pleasing to God and kids pick up on it. If you make a mistake do not stay there, pick up and keep going. Kids are very forgiving and they learn from our mistakes and apologies as well.

I remember one time in particular our third son Elijah was about 4 years old. For many months he had developed a bad habit, when he needed to use the toilet he would hold it so long and then when he needed to go it was “right now”. As a result of this I usually found myself holding our baby Isabella on my hip, as I was cleaning up accidents at what seemed to be everywhere; grocery stores, gas stations, all over the house etc. and at all the wrong times. My patience was running short to say the least. One particular day we were in the car as a family and Elijah did his usual, “I gotta go right now!! Hurry, hurry! So we stepped on the gas and exited to the nearest gas station. Knowing the speed at which this usually went down I grabbed Elijah and ran in to find a bathroom. Standing in the stall helping him, feeling good we had “made it”, I suddenly realized I was wrong. I stood there in disbelief as I watched a flood of yellow urine run down his legs into a huge puddle on the floor, and as I watched as the urine ran out the stall I lashed out in frustration at Elijah; “how could you Elijah, what are thinking we were right here at the toilet”! As I watched tears well up in his eyes, I felt the Lord gently say to me, “*be patient with him, I am patient with you*”. Ouch - I suddenly saw from a new perspective. The Lord is so good, kind and gentle with us even our weakness. Now I was beginning to get it, I bent hugged Elijah and told him it is okay, everyone makes mistakes and that I was sorry for yelling at him. As I grabbed paper towels and we cleaned up the mess together, I thanked God that He gave revelation to my heart that day. This is a small glance into how God handles us and He wants us to treat others around us. This does not mean we let things slide and take a passive approach, but it does mean even in dealing with weakness’ and correction God is motivated by love that displays the fruit of the Spirit. We need to constantly pray and ask the Lord to help and strengthen us to walk this out to.

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*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galations 5:22-23)*

## **II. WORK AS UNTO THE LORD**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)*

- A. Let everything you do have God in the center. Even in the small, mundane tasks, be purposeful in having a heart attitude that pleases God. The awareness that His eyes are on you keeps you seeing the value in everything, whether you ever get recognition here or not will not even matter. Instead of just “getting through” the hard stuff start to intentionally do things that will build your character; motherhood is a great opportunity to put yourself in training! This attitude will rub off on your kids and will create an environment in your home filled with the joy and peace of God.
- B. Let your kids know through your actions that they have priority over housework and the endless tasks that need to get done. As you are doing tasks your kids are learning, they are learning how to carry their hearts by everything we model for them. Let them see you place value in them, by investing in their spiritual growth daily.
- C. It is easy to give in and serve our tiredness, crankiness and anxieties. Just like working at anything you do, you do not always feel like being faithful in it, but you do it because you must. God tells us to do something and we must set our hearts to obey Him.
- D. We cannot be governed by our negative feelings and emotions. As a mom this is one of the areas that my character was challenged in immediately. It is easy to be happy and pleasant to those outside of our home, but **real character** appears most in the home with those closest to us.
- E. Emotions are fickle, emotions are a result of our thoughts, we must take control of our thoughts at the gate (the mind). Our emotions are a result of what we think on. So we think something, we feel something and then we walk it out, so think thoughts that line up with the word and your heart attitudes will reflect it. Much of the success of motherhood hangs on this very issue; if we never learn how to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor.10: 5) our flesh will run our thoughts and that is what will govern our actions and our kids will pay the price.
- F. It is crucial that we meditate on what the bible says about children, “they are a blessing”, “a gift from God”, “our inheritance” etc. When we do this it transforms our thinking and we begin to feel what God feels and thinks about mothering, our kids, and it changes our heart attitudes from the inside out.

*...and find out what pleases the Lord. (Eph. 5:10)*

## **III. HOUSE ON FIRE**

- A. It does not cut it anymore to just have “good kids” we have to get our kids “on fire”. The moral

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depravity that they are being exposed to far surpasses anything my generation has experienced and it will only heighten. The average age a child sees pornography for the first time is 11 and usually by accident while doing homework. We need to prepare our kids to be spiritually vigilant, warriors for Christ that are aware of the devils schemes. They need to be and can be equipped for battle and know their God.

- B. We are all born with innate desires and longings. We want to be known, beautiful and behold beauty, we want to be fascinated, we want to be great, just to name a few. Kids are no different; they desire all these things because God placed these longings within all of us so they will lead us to Him. In an age when everything around our kids are vying for their affections and attention we need provide a haven to experience that in GOD and Him alone. As a parent showing our kids how beautiful our God is will give them the foundation of knowing, that all true pleasure comes from the Lord and everything else is a counterfeit. The more their little hearts are touched by God the more they will want Him and anything the world offers will pale in comparison. Channel these longings toward God and watch them come alive!
- C. We can never assume we will raise kids who burn for the Lord, if we ourselves do not get before the Lord. We as mothers have to not only keep our hearts alive for ourselves, but we have a responsibility to demonstrate and teach what it means to be a true follower of Christ and we can only do that by feeding ourselves spiritually. We cannot afford to neglect our own heart. We have to have an alive spirit, a flowing heart before God. We can do far more with a spark in our spirit than “pushing through”, and it is contagious to our home. As well as feeding ourselves through the word and prayer for our inner life, we must be intercessors for our family, If we are not praying for our husband and kids than who is?

## **IV. LEARNING TO DISCIPLE**

***“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)***

- A. We all are strong in some areas and weak in others. Become a student of how to disciple your kids. I love talking to moms who have kids who love God. I love asking questions. I love studying godly women of the past and present and find out what they did right and wrong. It is amazing to me that in any career we would get training to be qualified to do the job we set out to do. We need to take seriously our job as mothers in the same manner. Get training, find out what the Lord says, read biographies; equip yourself first by spending time in the Word and dialogue with God and second by embracing the task at hand.
- B. We have so little time with our kids, I pray daily that the Lord would cover the holes in my covering and then I go out every day doing my best to train up a child in the way he should go.
- C. Susanna Wesley is a woman I admire deeply. She was the mother of the British open- air revivalists John and Charles Wesley who founded the Methodist movement. They were famous for the thousands that gave their lives to the Lord in a time when preaching hard things was not received well. Many of us would not be Christians today if it was not for these two men.
- D. Susanna their mother had a very hard life, yet her unshakable value in raising up children as true disciples was a mission she gave her all to and it paid off. She had 19 children, 10 of which died.

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She raised 9 children and developed spiritual root systems in them in an aggressive manner. The first thing she did that caused me to admire her so deeply was she spent 2 hours in prayer a day! **If she could not find a room to retreat to her kids watched her flip her apron up over her head and sit on the kitchen floor for 2 hours.** She home-schooled her children and spent many hours investing in them character, discipline and deep love for the Lord and His word. She viewed it as her highest call. Hundreds of thousands came to know the Lord through just her two sons alone. Talk about affecting eternity!

- E. We must also remember we are really entrusted with Gods kids. They are only ours for a season and God placed them in our care. There is no one better for the job than us.
- F. We cannot take casually this CALL to raise up Godly children. We must have a tenaciousness that says whatever it takes whatever it costs my kids will love and know God. This can only be fully done “when we lay down our own interests to look out for the interests of others” – our kids.

***“I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England”.***  
– John Wesley

## **V. KIDS AS AMMUNITION**

***“Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, are children born in ones youth”. (Psalm 127:4)***

- A. The bible equates our children to a weapon. We are to train and equip them to be shot out into the world. As a general prepares his army for battle we must equip our kids for battle.
- B. Kids are ammunition against the enemy. ***Kids do not have a junior Holy Spirit in them.*** They can grasp and know God in many ways better than we can. I have learned more from my kids as we invest in them spiritually than I could have ever imagined. They do not have the religious baggage, and false mindsets to hinder them as we do. Kids have simple faith, you tell them, teach them and demonstrate truths of God and his word and they will do it.
- C. With our children, we can affect eternity much more by sending out our kids when they are grown and trained, then by putting them on the sidelines so we can be sent. **As wives and moms our husbands and kids are our ministry, so let’s ask God how we can minister to them and do it.**

***“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.”***  
***(Phil.2: 12)***

- D. We need to show the results of our salvation in the way we mother and handle our family. There will be many seasons of our life to do other things, we cannot let the “**getting-out**” attitude rob us of the most important season of our life. Let’s not just do it, let’s enjoy it!
- E. The world tells us, “its too hard”, “you need a break”, “it is too much work”, “you deserve...” etc. I am not saying we should not have a break or alone time or time for ourselves, but I have experienced in my own life these statements becoming the attitude of my heart. As we grow and think like Jesus, the attitude of our heart will become His. Instead of meditating on the need to “get out” meditate on the eternal rewards and how we move Gods heart in every act of service we

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do.

- F. Being a mother is HARD. Do we enjoy “every” moment? Well we certainly do not, we are human and the stretching, crazy times are like anything else that is hard, it shapes us by how we let it. When we “embrace it” and get on a pilgrimage of making Gods heart ours it changes everything!
- G. The other day I was up with our fifth child; Justice in the middle of the night rocking him, singing, praying and ministering to him. Suddenly I teared up as the realization of what I was doing and how my heart and mind was enjoying this middle of the night time! I was flooded with memories of hundreds of middle of the night feedings, diapers and sick/crying kids that my heart was nothing, but selfishness, anger and frustration, unable to see. I have a long way to go and am always going to wrestle with this, but the joy of seeing how much God has changed me became overwhelming to me and my gratefulness to God overflowed!

## **VI. PRACTICAL TOOLS TO EQUIP YOUR KIDS**

Some time ago Antonio and I called our two older boys, Michael and Gabriel into the living room one summer day. We gave them a little teaching from the Bible, of the person of the Holy Spirit; who He was, that He speaks to us and that we can hear from Him. We went further and told them that we can speak to Him and that He hears us. We shared with them that He is God and what He says is true. Anytime He comes into the room, He brings joy and peace. He may bring to light sin in our lives. But He brings forgiveness and removes shame. We told Him about His presence. There is nothing like being in His manifest presence. After about a 20-minute discussion, I told them that we are going to talk to Him right now and we are going to listen to Him. He was going to speak to us and we were going to share what He says. I turned on some worship music in the background. I said to my boys, “*we will be still in His presence and then when you want to, I want you to ask the Holy Spirit one question. “God, what do you think about me? I don’t want you to say anything else, just wait on Him. Wait until He says something.”* We then invited the Holy Spirit to increase His presence among us. We all closed our eyes and just sat still in His presence. I would open my eyes once in awhile, just to see if they were following my instructions. I noticed their postures became soft and relaxed. Our second son, Gabriel began to cry with his eyes closed in God’s presence. I could sense His sweet presence all over us. It was such a tender time in His presence. After about 15 minutes, Antonio asked Michael if God said anything to him, He said, “*Yes, God told me that He loves me.*” I enjoyed listening to Michael say this, because we can’t get enough of hearing how much God likes us and even loves us. We then turned to Gabriel and asked Him what God said to Him. His response really surprised us, “*God said, I was cool on the inside and cool on the outside.*” The Holy Spirit is a person and knows what to say just to us, awesome.

That day we introduced the person Holy Spirit to our kids. Or a better way to put it, we gave language to what they have probably already felt, heard and saw. Since that day we have continued to give God room to speak to us as a family and to each of our family members. The Holy Spirit brings life, comfort, joy, peace, freedom, direction, and so many other things that we need, but more than that, we have communion with God through the person Holy Spirit.

- A. In our home we still have so much to learn, but I will share with you a few ways we have trained our kids and watched their hearts come alive:
  - 1. **Make sure they have given their life to Lord.** I have been surprised at how many kids

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just assumed they were Christians because their parents were, and I am equally surprised at how many parents leave it to a Sunday school to take their kids through this. Even a child as young as 4 can understand the simple gospel of making Jesus Lord. Making sure it is taught over their whole childhood what it truly means to live a life dead to self and alive in Christ. This is the process of “being saved” we are all on and kids are no different. The church of today has often not really preached the true exchanged life we have an opportunity from ground zero to put our kids on the right path.

2. **Teach them how to hear the Voice of God.** The story mentioned above is a great example of what anyone can do with children. So often we teach our kids to talk to God, but not that he talks back! And boy does He ever talk back. Kids seem to be especially receptive, I believe because they do not have the static and unbelief we have as adults. We have personally done this with our kids, with children in orphanages (we have received some amazing testimonies even after we have left) around the world and it is powerful. One simple way to start this is by having them dial down and explain that the Lord loves to talk to his kids and he wants to talk to us right now. Have them close their eyes (mostly because I have found kids get distracted otherwise) and have them say some phrases such as, “Holy Spirit I welcome your presence” or “Holy Spirit I thank you for your presence”. Wait a few minutes and then have them ask, “God, What do you think about me?” Soak in it for a few minutes and then ask them what he said, you will be amazed! Doing this with my kids produced in my kids a beginning of what they now do regularly on their own. They talk to God all the time and tell me what he says. It is a normal part of life and should be. This simple thing will catapult them into a journey for a life of knowing how real God is!
3. **Teach them to Pray-Read the Word:** We have our kids not just read the word, but we have them “pray-out” whatever has “life” on it. We instruct them on the importance of dialoguing with God about what they are reading. To start this we had them grab their bibles and walk around our coffee table (don’t laugh! Studies show that when we are moving our mind is more keen and focused). We take a passage of scripture like Psalm 119 for example and have them take turns reading it and as the Holy Spirit highlights something we have them pray it out. ***Ex. “Lord help me to always hide your word in my heart so that I do not sin against you, teach me how to stay connected to you”.*** (Psalm 119:11) As they do this even awkwardly in the beginning they learn to not only read the word, but actively implement it in their life and call on the Lord to help them apply it. The younger kids who can’t read yet walk with us and we teach them easy scriptures to pray out. It is a powerful time as they become aware that God’s word is alive.
4. **Teach them Apostolic Prayers:** Apostolic prayers are simply the prayers the apostles prayed. You can apply these to virtually anything you pray for. Some easy ones to start with are Ephesians 1:17 and Ephesians 3:16-19. Example, ***“Lord, give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I can know you better, give me revelation of your word as I read it.”*** As you and them grow in this start adding more verses and other apostolic prayers. We love to teach our kids to pray in the microphone in our prayer meetings to build confidence and learn how to lead prayer corporately. Everyone needs to learn to pray and once they begin to learn there are no limits!

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5. **Have them teach you:** We have our kids put together teachings to present to the family on various topics. The teachings are usually 3-5 minutes and they have to teach a subject, support it with scripture and a personal story. We also encourage them to make notes. They open and close in prayer and we encourage them to allow people listening an opportunity to respond to it and check their heart in that area (prayer time). We have found this to be a great time for them to really grow in their bible knowledge. We have also enjoyed hearing them talk and surprised at what they know. This works best for ages 9 and up, but the younger ones can share a testimony of what God is doing in their life.
6. **Teach them to be a balanced Christian; actively walking in the fruits of the Spirit and gifts:** We focus a lot on teaching them how abide in Christ, character, to guard their eyes, ears and mouth. We also love teaching them how to walk out the gifts of the Spirit. When they begin to operate in hearing God's voice regularly you can begin to encourage them to ask God what he thinks about others. This is really what it means to prophesy. Psalm 139 says that Gods thoughts for us outnumber the sand on the seashore. Instruct them to ask God a few of those thoughts for someone else and that will be a prophetic word! As they exercise this they will grow fast in it and as a result will give some of the most amazing words to people, I love having them prophesy over me. A quick instruction on it, explaining to them 1 Cor. 12 and 14 that prophesy is meant for building people up, encouraging and edifying. This will take them on a journey they will LOVE! There are many other gifts like healing the sick, praying in tongues etc. that kids can and should operate in. Kids are ready and capable of all that we as believers have access to, the sky is the limit. Teach them, learn together and watch God move through them powerfully.
7. **Remove Distractions:** In our home God really took us through a season of purging. We cleaned house of all the garbage that had come in through entertainment and media. We had a period of time we felt the Lord took us into where we fasted media completely. This time lasted a year and that set the stage for experiencing things in God as a household that made everything else pale in comparison. Once these distractions are gone we all have such an opportunity to flourish. Where music and movies once dulled our spiritual senses now the Holy Spirit can have direct access to. Having an atmosphere that fosters the prophetic spirit is simple yet often overlooked. This alone will take your entire home to new heights.
8. **Live Out Your Faith Before Their Eyes:** I cannot say enough how kids watch us and then do it. When we are authentic Christians and do what we say, they respect it and know it. It is important to not only teach them verbally, but demonstrate it ourselves. We have seen some of the biggest growth in them when we apologize for something and they see us change it.
9. **When Disciplining:** It is important to teach them what the scriptures says about sin, forgiveness, repentance, grace, love, truth etc. Right after disciplining has been one of the greatest opportunities to teach, we get to impart truth at a very vulnerable time. We build character, bring affection and ultimately get to teach the bible. Some things that have worked is allow them to speak to God after they have been disciplined and shown

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in the Word where what they did was wrong. Not only have they sinned against us, but they have sinned first against God. They need to learn how to take care of business with God and then those they affected. I remember the first few times where Antonio would tell them what to say to God. Eventually they knew what to say and it is always important to see sincere brokenness. God opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Let's model humility and teach it. We must keep in mind also that it is important to learn biblical discipline. Some parents error by being too much of a friend and value friendship and openness over tough-love; while others error in being too harsh and strict and demanding perfection. We have to have balance and wisdom in handling our kids and being a steward of their hearts. Be a learner of what the bible says about this.

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness”. (2 Peter 1:3)*

**I hope as you have read this two-part series on embracing motherhood that the Lord has and will continue give you fresh vision. Not just vision for raising up kids on-fire, but for embracing the high call of motherhood that God has entrusted us. We are bringing up the army of the Lord. God has already given us everything we need to equip our kids. We have to walk in a continued position of humility, leaning on the Lord and He will help us. Thank you for letting me share my heart and in closing I wanted to share this article that sums it all up:**

## **Cost of Motherhood**

*“There is a cost of motherhood. And the price is no small sum. And if you are not willing to pay this price, no amount of encouragement about the joys of motherhood will satisfy.*

*But the price of motherhood is not fundamentally different from the price of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. In fact, Christian mothers see their duty as mothers flowing from their calling to Jesus Christ. And what is this cost?*

*Christian motherhood means dedicating your entire life in service of others. It means standing beside your husband, following him, and investing in the lives of children whom you hope will both survive you and surpass you. It means forgoing present satisfaction for eternal rewards. It means investing in the lives of others who may never fully appreciate your sacrifice or comprehend the depth of your love. And it means doing all these things, not because you will receive the praise of man — for you will not — but because God made you to be a woman and a mother, and there is great contentment in that biblical calling.*

*In other words, Motherhood requires vision. It requires living by faith and not by sight.*

*These are some of the reasons why Motherhood is both the most biblically noble and the most socially unappreciated role to which a young woman can aspire. There are many people who ask the question: Does my life matter? But a mother that fears the Lord need never ask such a question. **Upon her faithful obedience hinges the future of the church and the hope of the nation.**”*

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*Endnote: Article resource - Vision Forum Ministries*