

**Mother's Day, 2011**  
**Pastor Keith Rohrer**

Moms, we salute you today for your sacrifices, for your investment in the future, for your investment in the faith. And I have some things to say to *tomorrow's* wives & mothers. I admit that as my own daughter was growing up, I left the world shape me a little too much when it came to speaking to her about her future. This morning I'll say to the young ladies of jr./sr. high age what I should have said to her. It's in the form of a letter, and since it's too late to say them to my daughter Chalon, I'll address my remarks to my fictitious daughter Charlotte.

Dear Charlotte,

After last week's career day, your friends at school are all clamoring about what they want to do in life. I've heard you say Lisa wants to be a fashion designer, Beth wants to be a computer programmer, and Nikki plans to run for office. And then you, you're going to replace Hanna Storm someday. If you want a high-profile career reporting on professional athletics, go for it.

But is a career like that your most valued future? The school counselors will tell you that you ***must*** get a college education, you ***should*** aspire to a profession that will make you well off, and that you ***can*** become anyone you want to be. But no one is saying becoming *anyone* could mean being a wife and mother. I noticed that wasn't on the career list.

It's true that a woman can be—say, a graphic designer *and* a wife, even be a graphic designer and *mother* (although fulltime hours will make it hard to do both well when children are young). But I worry that by what you're *not* hearing, you might conclude that marriage and mothering are unimportant—not real work, not a real contribution.

Perhaps that's because women of the home usually don't get their pictures on magazine covers, or speak at conferences, or get noted for lifetime achievements in their field. (Nor do they get a paycheck in this world.) But make no mistake, being a successful wife and mother *is* a lifetime achievement. The husband who looks forward every day to coming home from work, knows it. The school who recognizes "this mom is an ally rather than an adversary", knows it. The adult child who compares the love she experienced at home to a friend who grew up in the foster care system, knows it.

Even in an American society which increasingly has no time for values, most citizens still value—if only *secretly*—uprightness, hard work, integrity, self-discipline, loyalty, even faith because it changes people positively. And adults are most likely to be such if those things were instilled in them by loving parents in a stable home throughout their childhood years. Healthy homes are the backbone of society; and mom—with all of her love and nurturing, is the backbone of the home.

You can still be a professional if that's what God calls you to be. But when I look at your mother, I'm reminded that being an engineer, a physician, or a CEO of a large corporation or president of this country, is a step down from being a wife and mother.