

Daughter/Wife/Mother in One A Modern Parable of the Trinity

Regina still replays the day in her mind - the day her world was forever changed. She took the test while Tom was at work. He didn't have a clue. Wouldn't this be a great surprise for their Anniversary Dinner tonight?!

She stared at the small white cassette and her heart began to race as she saw the tiny pink line forming! Positive, she screamed!!! For a moment, she wished she wasn't alone. She wanted someone to celebrate with her! As she danced around the room in delight, Regina swooped up the cat in her arms and twirled the white ball of fluff down the hall to the kitchen. "Let's have ice cream to celebrate, Snowball!"

When she told Tom the wonderful news over appetizers that evening, he reacted the very same way by swooping up Regina in his arms and twirling her around the restaurant -- he was so delighted. They celebrated with more ice cream!

This morning she had decided to take the day off of work to begin putting together the nursery. After Tom left for the office, she sat at the kitchen table and stared at her ever-growing baby bump. "You sure have grown a lot in these past six months," she said to her pre-born baby. Regina talked to the baby every day. "I can't wait to see you and hold you and be your Mommy," she would say. At that moment a frightening thought struck her, and her smile straightened into a grimace of concern. "There is so much to do, how am I going to handle being a mother, too?" she asked herself, still rubbing her belly hoping the baby felt it as a hug. The thought began to take root and grow into worry, so she did a very sensible thing to keep it from exploding into outright panic -- she called her mom.

Just hearing the sound of her mother's voice caused Regina to burst into tears, "Oh Mom, I don't know how I am going to do it all! I've never been a mother before! Life is already so busy for Tom and me. Babies take up so much time and energy. I am going to be responsible for raising a human being! How did you learn to handle it all -- work, home, church, volunteering, friends?" She began to sob.

"I'm coming right over," her mother replied and hung up the phone. Literally, six short minutes later, the wisest woman Regina has ever known walked in the door and handed Regina a gift bag. It was a little heavy. Regina reached in and pulled out a leveling tool.

She looked at her mom and wondered if this was a sign of the early onset of dementia! "Thank you Mom, but I think you grabbed the wrong bag," Regina said gently. "I need tools to raise a child, not build a bookshelf." Her mom laughed out loud, her wonderful laugh that filled a room and tossed her hair about. "Don't worry, dear. I'm not losing my mind....yet! This is exactly what you need right now."

This is what I have learned about life, my sweet Regina. I am one person. In the beginning it was easy. My role in life was that of a daughter. At 24, I became a wife. Two years later, you made me a mother. I am still only one person. But those three roles are very different. I have a very different relationship with my parents who see me as a daughter, than with your dad who sees me as his wife and life partner, and you who sees me as mother -- three very different roles, three very different relationships, but one person.

That is where this level comes in handy. Being those three persons is very, very challenging indeed. So, you have to keep balance. She handed Regina the level. Hold this and tell me what you see. Regina carefully gripped the tool with both hands and watched the bubble in the middle. "I see this bubble that is supposed to stay centered. That keeps everything perfect, but it is hard to keep it there," Regina answered.

“Alright,” her mom said. “Now move both your hands to the left edge. What happens?” The bubble goes way off and it’s hard to hold it straight, Regina said.

“That’s correct. Now put both hands on the right edge. Same thing, happens, right?” Regina was beginning to understand. “It requires balance.’ her mom said. “Yes, sometimes one relationship is more demanding than the others and your bubble is off. Give to those times what is needed, but always return to the center. You can’t stay on one side or the other because the weight becomes too heavy, and then you may lose the gifts waiting for you on the other side.”

