

1. What's the **relative** importance of career and motherhood in a typical woman's life? I'm 55 and so...and I've been working with men and women my entire life and I've watched this. And it's quite obvious. It's like at 19, it's all career. By 30, that's just not the case.
2. It's not the case...I don't know if I've seen a single woman who I didn't think had a psychological problem who hadn't seriously flipped in their attitude towards the balance of family and career by the time they were 30.
3. And then you see lots of women who at 40 haven't had kids and perhaps wanted to and that's not a pleasant situation. Was talking to a woman who was about 39, a professional woman - attractive, **well-put-together**, competent, well-educated, successful in her profession, unmarried, in a relationship with an older guy - but unmarried and **desperate** to have a child.
4. She said no one ever talked to her about the fact that she'd actually want to have a family or encouraged her to think about doing that. It was as if it wasn't **within the realm of possibility** that one of the things that she might have the ambition to do would be to be a mother - and that's just not acceptable.
5. And it was like she woke up in her late 30s and thought - well the first thing she thought was, this profession of mine is actually nowhere near as comprehensively **fulfilling** as the advertisements claimed, which is something that virtually everyone discovers as they move forward in their professional career.
6. You know I mean the reason that you get paid generally for your work is because you're doing something that you wouldn't choose to do if you weren't being paid for it. And so the idea that your career is going to be the fundamental source of your fulfillment is true for a very tiny minority of people - and even with them it's complicated.
7. So she was tearful and upset about the fact that it took her so long to discover that there were other important **dimensions** to life and that motherhood turns out to be...well...how many things do you do in your life that are **fundamental**, right?
8. You have a career and your education - so that would be part of your career development. That's part of what makes you generally useful in society and perhaps a place that you find some meaning and purpose. You have your friends, you have your family - like your parents and your siblings and so forth, you have your kids, you have your relationship - that's it. There's four things.
9. Now you know, you can expand that to some degree. You can have...maybe you're creative and you make good use of your personal time. There's other factors that aren't **trivial** but those four things are canonically important. You miss one of them and you're going to pay for it. And so, our society needs to rethink our relative valuation of career versus motherhood.
10. So we don't know how to solve this problem but we could at least have an intelligent discussion about it and we could start by admitting that the idea that most 19 year old women are fed, which is that their career will be the primary purpose of their life is actually a lie.

**diligence**  
*(work hard)*

**loyalty**  
*(be trusted)*

**dignity**  
*(self-respect)*

**filial piety**  
*(respect for parents)*

**stoicism**  
*(don't complain)*

**courage**  
*(be brave)*

**patience**  
*(don't anger easily)*

**ambition**  
*(want to achieve)*

**honesty**  
*(don't tell lies)*

**kindness**  
*(don't be mean to others)*

**humility**  
*(don't be proud)*

**charity**  
*(help others)*

I have a **duty** to take care of and obey my **parents**.

Paying a bride price 彩礼 or a dowry 嫁妆 is absolutely necessary.

Money can't buy you **happiness** or **success**.

Marriage is essential to the prosperity of society.

We should wear traditional clothing to create a sense of **community**.

We have a **duty** to help the poor, hungry, sick and homeless.

All men should protect all women.

You must always be prepared to fight and die for your country.

We shouldn't accept foreigners or foreign ideas.

We should respect all religions, beliefs and cultures.

Ambition and diligence is essential for a good life.

Sex before marriage is unacceptable. Divorce is wrong.

All **criminals** are bad and must be punished.

We shouldn't help the **lazy** and unemployed.

You must always protect your family first.

A **real** woman must cook, clean and raise children.

A **real** man must have a **house**, a six-pack, **money** and a **job**.

Parents must educate their kids and help them buy a **house**.

We must lend money to friends or family members in need.

It's our duty to protect our environment and improve our country.

Children don't need technology to learn.

Every family should have lots of children. Anything less is selfish.

Companies should look after their employees and not exploit them.

We should only wear traditional clothes and discard everything else.