

REMEMBERING MOTHERHOOD

Deut 5:16 – *Honor your father & your mother*, as the Lord your God has commanded you, *that your days may be long*, & *that it may be well with you in the land* which the Lord your God is giving you.

- A. **Look carefully** at this command, because I think we often overlook something in it.
1. We recognize it to be a commandment of the LORD to Israel, as well as to us (**Eph 6:1-3**).
 2. And we usually catch the promise of a long life if we will obey it.
 3. But do we think much about the phrase, “that it may be well with you” [in the land].
 - a. The Lord is promising that life will go “well” for the one who honors his or her parents.

- b. This doesn’t mean that we won’t experience pain & sorrow, but that overall life will go “well” for us because God will be with us.

1 Pet 3:10-12 – For *he who would love life & see good days*, let him refrain his tongue from evil, & his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil & do good; let him seek peace & pursue it. 12 **For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, & His ears are open to their prayers**; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Psalms 106:3-5 – Blessed are those who keep justice, & he who does righteousness at all times! 4 **Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have toward Your people**. Oh, visit me with Your salvation, 5 that I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, that I may glory with Your inheritance.

- B. **We love** our parents, & we certainly want life to go “well” for us, so just how do we honor them?

1. By obeying them when we are young.

Eph 6:1 – Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2. By *emulating* their good example when we become adults.

2 Tim 1:5 – when I call to remembrance *the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois & your mother Eunice*, & I am persuaded is in you also. 3:14-15 – But you must *continue in the things which you have learned* & been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 & that *from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

3. By *caring for* them as they grow old.

1 Tim 5:4 – But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them *first learn to show piety at home & to repay their parents*; for this is good & acceptable before God (cf. Mk 7:10-13).

C. On this day, nationally, mothers are given a little special attention.

1. And I realize that the Lord Jesus Christ should be the primary focus of this day.

2. But “Mother’s Day” can serve as a reminder of just how important it is to honor our mothers – IF we will allow God to be our teacher.

[I would like for us to consider three reasons why a day like today can remind us of the importance God places on motherhood & the need to honor our mothers.

First of all, considering motherhood is important because...]

I. MOTHERHOOD INTRODUCES LIFE

A. All life began with the miracle of creation.

Gen 2:7 – And *the LORD God formed man* of the dust of the ground, & *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*; & man became a living soul.

Gen 1:27 – And *God created man in his own image*, in the image of God created he him; male & female created he them.

1. Life no matter how tenuous or fragile should never be taken for granted or treated as a light thing (e.g. suicide, genocide, euthanasia, terrorism).
2. Because that which keeps us alive is different from that which keeps the animals alive; it is not the blood only, but the spirit too.

Eccl 12:7 – Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, & **the spirit will return to God who gave it.**

Zech 12:1 – Thus says **the Lord**, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, & **forms the spirit of man within him**

B. **Though all human life** began with God, it is through mothers that He perpetuates it.

Gen 3:20 (After the punishments were stated) – And the man called his wife's name **Eve**; because **she was the mother of all living.**

1 Tim 2:14-15 – And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless **she will be saved** [from the deceptions Eve fell into] **in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, & holiness, with self-control.**

1. As a Christian mother fulfills her God-given role she is under His protective hand.
2. By her character she shows that she serves One who holds the power of a greater life (**Jn 3:16; 10:10**).

[So first of all, we enjoy life & living because of God & our mothers.]

The second reason considering motherhood is important is because...]

II. MOTHERHOOD CALLS TO MIND DEATH

A. **As much as** we value life, the fact that we are here because of our mothers means that we will die.

Gen 3:19 – In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread **till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, & **to dust you shall return.**

1. Adam didn't have a mother as we do, but both he & we end life in the same way ([Ecc 12:7a](#)).
2. Unless the Lord returns first, we will all experience the pangs of death & cross its shadowy vale.

Heb 9:27-28 – And as *it is appointed for men to die once*, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; to those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

B. **For many** of you, this day is a reminder of your final appointment, because your mothers have faced death.

1. If that is the case, then your thoughts of motherhood on a day like this may bring you a great sense of sorrow & loss.
 - a. Maybe she wasn't a Christian, & because of that she led you in the wrong direction.

- b. Maybe she was a Christian, & because of that she meant everything to you & so thoughts of her summon feelings of deep loss.

2. Whatever the case, those unhappy emotions are not unnatural or unhealthy.

- a. Great life lessons can be learned at the graveside of your beloved mothers.

Psa 90:10, 12 – *The days of our lives* are seventy years; & if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet *their boast is only labor & sorrow; for it is soon cut off, & we fly away...* 12 So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Ecc 7:2-4 – It is better to go to *the house of mourning* than to go to the house of feasting: for that *is the end of all men*; & the living will lay it to his heart. *Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning*; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

3. But to bring us hope in our sorrow, we must look to the One Who has power over death, for only He can lead us to the life beyond death that we seek ([Heb 2:14-15](#); [2 Tim 1:10](#); [1 Cor 15:50ff](#)).

[So not only do we live because of our mothers, we also die [physically] because of them.

The third reason considering motherhood is important is because...]

III. MOTHERHOOD ENCOURAGES HOLINESS

A. Holiness is what I hope you remember about your mother, whether she is still with us or not.

1. “A vessel for honor, sanctified & useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim 2:21).
2. A virtuous, selfless servant of God – the center of her life, her joy & her song.
3. A women of faith like those excellent women mentioned in the Scripture.

Gen 17:15-16 – Then God said to Abraham, “As for **Sarai** your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but **Sarah** shall be her name. 16 And **I will bless her** & also give you a son by her; then **I will bless her**, & she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.”

4. Can you think of anyone so blessed by God because she irritated Him or angered Him or rebelliously defied His word? No!
 5. Sarai was so blessed because she was a woman whose faith led to her obedience (Heb 11:11-16).
 - a. As we look at motherhood through her life, what we see is holiness.
 - b. And there were many others like her: Hannah (1 Sam 1, 2), Elizabeth (Luke 1:6); Mary (Luke 1:38).
- B. There is a need in our society to understand that a good mother is holy.

1. When we allow the TV sit-coms to define motherhood, we have lost our way.
2. The feminists can't provide an adequate description of motherhood.
3. The government will side in the favor of the majority view of motherhood.
4. But the virtues of motherhood are described for us by the creator of that role (**Prov 31:10-31**).

Titus 2:3-5 – Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior [**kjv – behavior as becometh holiness**], not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

[Each mother has a duty to promote holiness as did the women of faith who went before.]

CLOSING

- A. **Why do we** need to remember motherhood? What good is a day like “Mother’s Day”?
 1. We need it to rejoice in life!
 2. We need it to plan for death!
 3. We need it to encourage holiness!
 - a. We have many good mothers here who can help us do all of these things.
 - b. Today, & everyday, we honor you (**Rom 13:7**)!

God’s Plan For Our Salvation:

Hear the gospel of Christ: Acts 2; 13; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be the Only Begotten Son of God, Savior, Lord, Christ: Jn 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31

Repent of sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30; 1 Jn 3:4; Acts 3:19

Confess faith in Christ: Rom 10:9-10

Be Baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins: Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38

Be Obedient to Christ: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 Jn 9; Rev 2:10; Jn 12:48