“Mother of All”

Proverbs 31:10-31

May 11, 2017

Please find with me Genesis chapter three.

Thank you Mom for bringing me into this world. Thank you Mom for raising me. Thank you Mom for being a single Mom. Because of some extenuating circumstances my mom became a single Mom when I was just ten.

So, thank you Mom for raising all six of us as a single Mom. Thank you Mom for letting me grow up and for making me do things I didn’t want to do. And thank you Mom for loving me.

Moms don’t get enough credit, do you, Mom?

Just like fatherhood, motherhood doesn’t come with a “Manual on How to Mother Well.” Moms are far from perfect. But, as God would have it, your Mom is the Mom He gave her to you. She should have a special place in your heart.

Today we honor you mothers. We say thank you with cards and phone calls and flowers and something special and gifts and a sermon from the Bible. So, thank you mothers for your willingness to serve those God brought into your life and for making our lives productive and successful.

This is a story from a number of years ago. Maybe you’ve heard it. “A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing.

He asked her what was wrong and she replied, “I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars.”

The man smiled and said, “Come on in with me. I’ll buy you a rose.” He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers that would be wired to her.

As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, “Yes, please! You can take me to my mother.” She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave, stayed with her a while and then drove her rest of the way home. He then returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up the bouquet and drove that two hundred miles to his mother's house to give her the flowers.” [Found on [www.theholidayspot.com](http://www.theholidayspot.com)].

Have you thought much about appreciating your Mom this year or did you wait until today, Mother’s Day, to remember to do it?

I’d like to begin today with Genesis 3 and verse twenty. Genesis 3:20 *“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”*

In this verse we’re told that Adam named his wife. He called her Eve, which translated means “Mother of all living.” So, I’ve titled today’s sermon “Mother of All.” Shall we pray?

Today I want to show you the place of honor the LORD has given to you ladies as wives and mothers. Mothers are the artwork of the LORD. God has specially designed a wife and a mother so that your life brings Him glory. I want to say a word to wives and mothers; but also a word to our young ladies. I want to say something about relationships, marriage, and, hopefully, bring something practical and personal to you and your loved one. So, for the next few minutes, be willing to let the Bible direct, correct, encourage, and challenge you in your God-given role in this world. I especially want to say a word to wives. And there may be a few things I’ll say today that will challenge you. I hope that’s the case.

Eve, which you know, was the first wife, first woman, and the only woman who had no parents. Eve was also the first human being to listen to the devil. She’s also the first person to be deceived by Satan and the first person to fall into sin. And, someone has reminded us that she is the first person to blame someone else for what she did and she’s the first person to refuse to take responsibility for her sin. [Found on [www.rayfowler.org](http://www.rayfowler.org) “Eve; The Mother of All Living” by Ray Fowler.

And did you know that Eve was the first woman to experience loss? She lost her innocence when she took a piece of fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She also lost Paradise when she and her husband were removed from the Garden. She’s the first mother to experience the loss of a child. She’s the first mother to have a child who committed murder. She’s also the first person through whom the LORD said He’d completely defeat Satan.

So, Eve is the Mother of all. Here’s what I’d like to say for Mother’s Day this year.

First, then, God pronounced her good.

Did you ever notice that, in the beginning, every single thing God created was good; except one thing? Please look with me in your Bible at Genesis 2:18 *“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”*

After all He had made, just one thing was missing, so-to-speak. And that was a woman. Just the fact of a woman’s existence in the human race; that is a good thing. All was not perfect in the beginning. It was very good. But it was not perfect until Eve came on the scene.

We’re inside one of the most confusing times in the history of mankind when the leadership in the United States of America says if a man wants to use a ladies restroom, he’s allowed by law to do so. And, if that’s not confusing enough, today it’s OK to not consider yourself to be what you were born to be or your birth certificate says you are. And further, it’s even OK to call yourself a girl if you are a boy and vice versa.

Yet, the LORD said it very simply. *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”*

Just the fact that God created womanhood is, according to the Bible, a good thing. As you all know, historically, biologically, psychologically, theologically, mentally and emotionally, and Biblically it’s normal to call yourself a boy if you’ve been born a boy or to call yourself a girl if you’ve been born a girl.

God makes it as plain as possible in the beginning of the human race that there are two sexes. Turn back to the very first chapter of Genesis at verse twenty-seven. Genesis 1:27 *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

Genesis 5:2 *“Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”*

And He clarifies it further by reminding us that in every species in the animal kingdom the exact same thing holds true. When Noah had built the ark, the LORD said every single animal entering in that day would be both male and female.

Genesis 6:19 *“And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.”*

Genesis 7:3 *“Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.”*

Genesis 7:16 *“And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.”*

The norm, going all the way back to first days of the world was that God pronounced the woman good.

Ladies, can you see the honor that God has placed upon you just by virtue of your being a woman?

First, then, God pronounced her good.

Second, not only did the LORD pronounce her good, He also created you to be a companion to your husband.

Genesis 2:18 *“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”*

Ladies, it’s a high honor to be a wife. God’s plan from the outset of His creation was that a woman join with her husband as a companion. And the word used to describe this honor is the word “help.” The LORD intends that a wife be a help to her husband.

Ladies, mothers, young girls, let the Bible adjust your thinking so that you fulfill the role of being the companion the LORD intended. I will tell you as I say these words today that I have such a companion in my home. She is more to me than the whole world.

Now, just a few things here will make your life as a wife and a mother a wonderful blessing both to your husband and to the world.

One, a man is called by God to rejoice in the wife God gave him. Proverbs 18:22 says this. Proverbs 18:22 *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”*

Proverbs 5:18 puts it this way. Proverbs 5:18 *“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.”*

This term “fountain” refers to the ability of a wife to bring children into the world. God calls you to be a blessed, a happy fountain; one who brings life into the world.

One, a man is called by God to rejoice in the wife of God’s choosing.

Two, a man wants a faithful woman for a wife; someone who will support him in accomplishing the things God intends for him.

In the NT Book of Ephesians Paul explains it like this. Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*

Ladies, your place as the wife of your husband will either make or break him. He both wants and need your support as his companion.

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Two, a man wants a faithful woman for a wife; someone who will support him in accomplishing the things God intends for him.

And three, a man wants a wife to respect him.

Just as a woman wants, above all, to have a husband who will love her and her only, a man wants a wife to respect him. Here’s what we read in the NT. Ephesians 5:23 *“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”*

This is the LORD’s way. This is the LORD’s plan. This is the LORD’s word on how the man should treat his wife and how a wife should treat her husband.

Can you think of a more workable, practical, common sense approach to relationships in this world?

Here’s how one Christian writer describes this relationship. “The home is a symbol of the husband’s wisdom, provision, and protection. But it is the wife’s spirit that sets the mood of the home. It is essential for a wife to promote an atmosphere of peace in the home. Her goal is to keep her home free of clutter and exorbitant noise as the

children grow in orderliness and respect. A mother will carefully evaluate the needs, the schedules, and the resources God has provided so that you as a wife will be an efficient helpmate. By doing so, you will eliminate tension and help establish a calm household.” (B. Gothard) [Found on [www.iblp.org](http://www.iblp.org) “How Can I Meet My Husband’s Basic Needs?” by Bill Gothard].

For a long time now companionship has been lost blessing. Ladies, do you see yourself as the gift God intended you to be? God made you for companionship. God created you to be a companion to your husband. It is in the very nature of a woman to be a companion.

Men, *“she will share your moments, your days, and your years. She will share your joys and sorrows, your successes and failures, your dreams and your fears. When you are ill, she will take the best care of you; when you need help, she will do all she can for you; when you have a secret, she will keep it; when you need advice, she will give you the best advice.*

*She will always be with you: when you wake up in the morning the first thing your eyes will see will be hers; during the day, she will be with you, if for some time she is not with you by her physical body, she will be thinking of you, praying for you with all her heart, mind, and soul;*

*when you go to sleep at night, the last thing your eyes will see will be her; and when you are asleep you will still see her in your dreams. In short, she will be your whole world and you will be her whole world.”* [Found on [www.a1realism.com](http://www.a1realism.com) “A Wife” by Sheikh Abdullah Adhami].

According to the Bible, it isn’t good for a man to be alone. That’s not to say that many times a man is single. But companionship is among the highest blessings to a man. Most men would love to have someone as his companion. My life would not be what it is without mine. She really is the best.

First, then, God pronounced her good.

Second, LORD created you to be a companion to your husband.

Third, God made a woman from his rib. Look with me at Genesis 2:21 *“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; (22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

*(23) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. (24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”*

There’s an interesting correlation here in the Hebrew language in this verse. The Hebrew word for man is “ish.” The Hebrew word for woman is “ishah.” Some have said that this is clear evidence that the first language known to man was Hebrew.

The great Bible Commentator Matthew Henry wrote this about Eve. *“The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”*

Ladies, you have a huge influence on the heart, the mind, and the success of your home. God intended for you to be that influence.

Here’s what we find in Eve. Genesis 3:12 *“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”*

Eve could have just kept the fruit to herself. She could have just let Adam continue his care for the garden that day. Instead, she operated out of her capacity as an influencer. How easy is it for a woman to break a man’s spirit! How easy is it for her to heal a man’s spirit!

These are the words of a wife to other wives. *“But when he comes home to his sanctuary he doesn’t need us wives to first start pondering on him about all the concerns of the house and what happen and how we are going to fix this or that…What he needs is for you to give him that space to cool down.*

*But in the middle of his bad day and your bad day if we don’t choose how to approach or wait for the right time we can break his spirit. And the only reason we can do this to one another is because we know each other’s breaking point we know when to fight not so fair. In other words we hit below the belt we can bring up past situations which will hurt the other person.”* [Found on [www.thedevotioncafe.org](http://www.thedevotioncafe.org)]

And to confirm this, read with me Proverbs 12:4 *“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.”*

Ladies, moms, girls, you can never underestimate the power you have to influence the man and the men in your home.

Eve, from the first few pages of your Bible, has shown us that God’s way is the high road. She has many more lessons to teach us. But these three, I hope, have been a blessing to your soul

First, God pronounced her good. Just being a woman is a good thing.

Second, LORD created you to be a companion to your husband.

Third, God made a woman from his rib. God has placed you in the role of an influencer.

Lastly, a word for today. Please follow with me what is found in the book “The Home Beautiful.”

*“Again let me say that no wife can over-estimate the influence she wields over her husband, or the measure in which his character, his career and his every destiny are laid in her hands for shaping. The sway which she holds over him is the sway of love, but it is mighty and resist-less.*

*If she retains her power, if she holds her place as queen of his life, she can do with him as she will. Even unconsciously to her herself, without any thought of her responsibility, she will exert over him an influence that will go far toward making or marring all his future. “If she is vain and frivolous, she will only chill his ardor, weaken his*

*resolution and draw him aside from any earnest endeavor. But if she has in her soul noble womanly qualities, if she has true thoughts of life, if she has purpose, strength of character and fidelity to principle, she will be to him and unfailing inspiration toward all that is noble, manly and*

*Christ-like. The high conceptions of life in her mind will elevate his*

*conceptions. Her firm, strong purpose will put vigor and determin-ation into every resolve and act of his. “Her purity of soul will cleanse and refine his spirit. Her warm interest in all his affairs and her wise counsel at every point will make him strong for every duty and valiant in*

*every struggle. Her bright, orderly, happy homemaking will be a*

*perpetual source of joy and peace, and an incentive to nobler living. Her unwavering faithfulness, her tender affection, her womanly sympathy, her beauty of soul, will make her to him God’s angel indeed, sheltering, guarding, keeping, guiding and blessing him. Just in the measure in which she realizes this lofty ideal of wifehood will she fulfill*

*her mission and reap the rich harvest of her hopes. “Such is the “woman’s lot” that falls on every wife. It is solemn enough to make her very thoughtful and very earnest. How can she make sure that her influence over her husband will be for good, that he will be a better man, more successful and more happy because she is his wife?*

*Not by any weak resolving to help him and be an uplifting inspiration to him; not by perpetual preaching and lecturing on a husband’s duties and on manly character; she can do it only by being in the very depths of her soul, in every thought and impulse of her heart and in every fiber of her nature, a true and noble woman.*

*She will make him not like what she tells him he ought to be, but like what she herself is. “So it all comes back to a question of character. She can be a good wife only by being a good woman. And she can be a good woman in the true sense only by being a Christian woman. No-where save in Christ can she find the wisdom and strength she needs to*

*meet the solemn responsibilities of wifehood. Only in Christ can she find that rich beauty of soul, those gems and pearls of the character, which shall make her lovely in her husband’s sight when the bloom of youth is gone, when the brilliance has faded out of her eyes and the roses have fled from her cheeks. Only Christ can teach her how to live so as to be blessed and a blessing in her married life.”*

These words are from a Book titled “The Home Beautiful written in 1912. [Found on [www.scottbrownonline.com](http://www.scottbrownonline.com) and from “The Home Beautiful, By J.R. Miller, Pathway Publishers, Copyright, 1912, Revised edition, 2000 p. 47].

Can you see the high honor that’s been given to you by the LORD to be a woman of God and a wife and a mother that pleases the LORD?

Will you pray this pray with me today? *“LORD, Your ways are much better than ours. Help me to apply Your ways to my home. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”*