“Mothers, Motherhood, Mother’s Day”

May 13, 2018

Ephesians 5:22-33

Mothers. Motherhood. Motherliness. Mothers who are known to smother their children by making all their decisions for them. Womanhood. Women. Ladies. Wives; etc. All of these topics are relevant and practical today. And they are also very personal.

A young man was walking through a supermarket to pick up a few things when he noticed a little old lady following him around. Thinking nothing of it, he ignored her and continued on. Finally he went to the checkout line, but she got in front of him. "Pardon me, sonny" she said, "I'm sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. It's just that you look just like my son, who I haven't seen in a long time." "That's a shame," replied the young man, "is there anything I can do for you?" "Yes," she said, "as I'm leaving, can you say 'Good bye, Mother!' It would make me feel so much better." "Sure," answered the young man. As the old woman was leaving, he called out, "Good bye, Mother!" She waved and blew him a kiss. As he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was $187.90. "How can that be?" he asked, "I only purchased a few things!" "Your mother said that you would pay for her," said the clerk. [Source: www.getamused.com, altered; found in sermon by Pastor Ed Vasicek on [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com) “Goodbye Mother” May 9, 2011].

[Flowers for Mother’s Day pic].

Some people say that it’s a bit unfair that mothers receive only one day of each year considering all the work they do. But, it was in the nineteenth century that society agreed to dedicate one day of the year to mothers.

I agree that mothers deserve a whole lot more credit for what they do. But, is it unfair that you only get one day a year on the calendar?

Wives, sisters, and aunts; shouldn’t they be honored too? Well, there’s no day set aside for you as a wife or a sister or an aunt. And there’s never been a push from society to do it. There is, though, one set aside to honor mothers.

Then, beyond society, our US government made it official all the way back on May 9, 1914. And we now celebrate Mothers’ Day by a vote of the US Congress.

And, if you’re in Church today, let’s add to society and the US government this; God. Would you say that the Bible places mothers in a place of high honor? What does *He* think about motherhood?

As you know, society changes just like science changes. And today’s society is far different than even the 1980’s. And governments change. Many of the laws of the seventies are not the same laws of today. But, God doesn’t change. His ways don’t change. And what He says about mothers, doesn’t change. And it can’t be improved upon.

So, what’s really on my heart today is appreciation. Who here appreciates their mother and especially why? Here’s a picture of my mother when she was about fifteen. The woman in the center is my grandma. My grandparents on my Mom’s side had four boys and two girls. And, just like you, when I think about it, there’d be no me if there wasn’t my mother.

So, I’ve titled today’s message “Mothers, Motherhood, Mother’s Day.” Shall we pray?

Today’s word is appreciation; appreciating God as your Creator and appreciating the qualities that you find in Moms.

Please find a Bible and open it to the second chapter of Genesis because here’s what you find God doing here in Genesis two. Genesis, the Book of Beginnings, shows us the beginning of the family.

And what I’d like you to note with me is this. God tells us exactly how He made the first woman. 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.”*

Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the ground. Eve, the first woman, was made from the first man. When you consider the marvel of God creating the human race, it’s a miracle above every other miracle. Even the process should raise the temperature of your praise. He is amazing. He puts the man to sleep. Then He performs the first medical procedure ever undertaken. While his patient sleeps, the LORD removes a rib and makes another human being, one nearly like the man, but also quite the opposite. And upon waking from his anesthesia, Adam is presented with a new creation, a woman.

Who here appreciates God’s design for the human race?

Have you ever wondered why there’s so much dis-appreciation for human life? God made us in His own image. So, what happens in the heart of the man who rejects the simple, miraculous wonder of a Creator creating human beings? What happens when we’ve gotten to the place where, not only can doctors take an unborn child from its mother’s womb, but then society make jokes about it? Hollywood, even our U.S. Congress, even our Presidents, have often lost this simple reality. Life, for some people, even today on Mother’s Day, means almost nothing. In a landmark decision in 1973, President Richard Nixon signed Roe Vs. Wade into law. And it wasn’t until this past week that the Governor of Iowa, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a new law that says that no abortions can occur in her state after the baby’s heart starts to beat, six weeks. God is our Creator. We are His creation. And, if there’s one thing we should do on Mother’s Day, it’s this. Appreciate and praise the LORD that He is the Creator of the human race.

Here’s how one woman puts it. *“I am grateful I am not a result of chance, produced out of primordial soup. I am a designed, engineered, made for a purpose, person. Even more, our earth, solar system, universe, and everything beyond was ALL created.*

*The One who created all this, owns and rules His work. We are in obligation to the One who made us and we owe Him praise!”* [Susan Macias; found on [www.susankmacias.com](http://www.susankmacias.com) “Thanking God He is Creator of Me”].

Psalm 139:13 *“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. (14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. (15) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

*(16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”*

What am I asking you to do on Mother’s Day? I’m asking you to praise the LORD; to appreciate Him for being your Creator.

Here’s Isaiah 44:2 *“Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee …”*

Jeremiah 1:5 *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee …”*

Psalm 71:6 *“By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.”*

Folks, God made the first man and his wife. Adam, verse twenty-three, knowing that God had just recently performed surgery on him and removed a rib and with the rib had designed and formed a woman, he calls her “woman” because she was taken out of a man.

Genesis 2:23 *“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.”*

Mothers, first, obviously are women. When the LORD formed *man*, He made him from the dust. But a woman he formed out of a man. And the NT tells us it’s still true. Here’s what Paul writes in I Corinthians. I Corinthians 11:8 *“For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. (9) Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”*

Folks, the record is true. And to this very moment in the history of mankind, we see the display of the wisdom and power of God. We see His plan for the human race. God’s plan for man was that he be fruitful and multiply. And so God formed a woman from the man for the man.

Now, none of us can really figure out why the LORD decided to use a rib, but this just might be the reason. *“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.”* (M. Henry)

Doesn’t it bless your soul to just stand back for a bit and take in the majesty of the moment? Don’t argue with the Bible. Don’t debate the question of why God chose to take a rib from Adam to make a woman. Just let the fact that God made a woman for a man be a blessing to you. Just enjoy and appreciate the genius of God that He did what He did.

First, then, Mom was designed and built a lot like the first man; yet wonderfully opposite.

Second, it is by God’s design that a woman be a mother. Adam named the woman Eve. From right here in this second chapter all the way over to Genesis 3:20, it’s always “the woman.” Eight times in this little section you read “the woman.” And finally, in chapter three and verse twenty, you read this. Genesis 3:23 *“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”*

Did you see that? She went from being “the woman” to being “the wife” to being Eve, which means “mother of all living.” The Hebrew word for the name Eve is חוה, which, when pronounced is Chavvah. But what about the name Eve? What does it mean?

The Greek translation of the Bible, the Septuagint, translates Genesis 3:20 like this. “Και εκαλεσεν Αδαμ το ονομα της γυναικος αυτου **Ζωη**, ὁτι μητηρ παντων των ζωντων.”

The simplest meaning for Eve is right here. It’s “Ζωη,” is translated into English as “life.” So, there is a much better translation than the name Eve. Why? Because what does Adam say about his wife? She’s the “mother of all living.”

The fact of your womanhood ladies is that God made you. And, as everyone everywhere knows, women are like men. But you are also quite unlike a man. So, notwithstand-ing the foolishness of a modern society that thinks in trans-gender terms, there is simplicity to the truth. To this very moment, men are men and women are women. And even the Bruce Jenners of the world are lying to themselves. At the age of sixty-five Bruce Jenner chose to no longer be a man. And today we are watching as laws are enacted in our society that say you can change what you are into something you are not.

The LORD made us as we are because He is perfectly wise and His purposes are always for our good. Eve means “mother of all living.” And just like Adam could *not* get along in this world without a woman, so Eve *cannot* be the mother of all living apart from Adam. The LORD said it was not good that Adam should be alone.

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.”*

Adam couldn’t be fruitful and multiply without Eve. And Eve couldn’t be “the mother of all living” without Adam. So, God, in His grace and wisdom, made one into two so that the two would be one; two joined together as “one flesh.” Genesis 2:24 *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”*

A wife and a mother. Ladies, here are two glorious, God-designed, God-given callings. By virtue of your womanhood, you stand in this high position by the wisdom of heaven itself.

And, as you’ve heard me say so many times; see yourself as God sees you and you will be on the road to spiritual success. Ladies, you have the honor of bringing children into the world and in that sense you too are a mother of all living. Your children were formed in *your* womb. So you are the mother all those who live because *you* brought them into this world. Your role, then, as a mother is certainly among the highest in the human race.

Ladies, you are a God-designed, specially chosen and God formed woman. And it is by God’s design that a woman be a mother. From the first woman, Eve, God proceeded to fill the entire world with human beings. Adam called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living.

Isn’t there a reason on Mother’s Day to praise God with all your heart because, not only is He your Creator, He made a woman to be a mother.

And one more wonderful thing. Without a mother, there was no hope for the human race.

Now, think about the wonder of this first Mom. Adam calls his wife Eve, or Zoe, meaning life. Both Adam and Eve had just sinned and broken their relationship with God. Yet, in His grace, God provided a way so they would continue on in this world and be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Sin had just entered the human race. Death had now entered as well. Adam had lost everything. Yet, he calls the woman “life.” Can you not see Adam acting in faith and in hope? There was to be no more livelihood in the Garden. But there was hope outside the Garden. And that hope was in the One Who would come as the Seed of the woman to destroy the devil and his works.

Because of mothers there is hope and a future. Mother-hood, in that sense, overcomes the evils foisted upon humanity by the serpent.

And even though they didn’t know what you and I know about the Savior of the world, they knew that God had a big and a much better plan. The One Who would come into this world to bring life, to bring spiritual life, to bring God’s kind of life would also come through the woman. And specifically that woman would be Mary. And it was Mary who brought the Hope of Glory to us.

So, what’s to be done on Mother’s Day? Yes, we get our wives and girls and mothers flowers. Yes, we sing hymns about mothers. Yes, we say a word about our own mothers. But, isn’t there something bigger?

Aren’t we here today to appreciate the Creator? He is the LORD of life. He is the Creator of life. He is Life.

And the only way we can possibly live with true life inside of us is when we turn from our sins to our Savior.

John 17:3 *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

Have you put your faith in the finished work of the Cross of Christ? If not, why not? Have you received Jesus as your personal Savior? If not, why not?

Today, Mother’s Day 2018, is the Day of Salvation. Here’s the sinner’s prayer. Will you pray it today?

*“Father, I realize I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died in my place on the cross. I repent of my sins. I want to be completely forgiven today. I am trusting you right now to save me. Thank you. Amen”*

Now, last, let me say a word to those who are not able to bear children.

I’ve searched and can’t find a Scripture that says that a barren woman is a cursed woman because she can’t have children. Yes, Rachel complained to her husband Jacob when Leah had children but she didn’t. But there aren’t any Scriptures that I could find that teach that a woman is cursed by God if she can’t bear children.

What the Bible does say is that God fills the womb and maybe some have taken from that that a woman could never be fulfilled if she is infertile and doesn’t have a son or a daughter. Now, it certainly could be a great sorrow if a married woman didn’t have a child. But it’s not a curse.

Hannah, if you’ll remember, was so burdened by not having a child that she pleaded with God and promised that if she were to have a son, she’d give him to the LORD for His service. He did and she did.

So, if it came from the Jews that that a woman is cursed by God and that’s why she can’t have a child, then the Jews are mistaken.

What I did find was this. Isaiah 54:1 *“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child:* ***for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife****, saith the Lord.*

*(2) Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; (3)* *For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and* ***thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles****, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.”*

Do you see what the LORD is saying here? He’s calling the infertile to sing and cry aloud. And why? Because “more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, says the LORD” and, verse three, “your seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.”

Mother’s Day is a day to whole-heartedly praise the LORD because He’s the Creator. Are you praising Him? Is He worthy of your praise? Are you appreciating your God and your Savior and your Life?

Shall we pray?

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_ “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”