

## **“A Woman’s Heart”**

May 10, 2020

I Corinthians 13

Welcome to the Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday service. I’m Pastor Dan Peters. My wife Janet and I are very happy that you’ve decided to be join us. We appreciate you more than you will ever know. And we do pray. We pray for you and for your family and for your friends. So, thank you for being here.

Today we honor our moms. Today we celebrate Mother’s Day. Here’s hoping that you’ve all done something for either your Mom or your wife or both; something that is truly meaningful; something more than flowers and a card.

I’ve wondered, though, if we haven’t missed something here. The symbol for Mother’s Day is also a heart. And, I think it’s a perfect symbol.

Today’s message is titled “A Woman’s Heart.”

Shall we pray?

Father, I thank You for our mothers. And I thank You for my Mom. Thank you for the love You sent to me through her. And, thank You for my wife. Today, I ask for each one listening to Your Word that we all, both men and women; and children, get a new awareness of the heart of a mother. I ask this in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Please open your Bible with me to Luke chapter four.

The heart. Your heart is what you really are. It’s the essence of your person. As you can see here, the LORD created you with a heart that functions at least three ways; heart, mind and. You feel with your heart. You think with your heart. And, you also make decisions with your heart. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Creator.

Now, many times you’ve heard a Mother’s Day sermon from the thirty-first chapter of Proverbs, where we find the Prophet Lemuel expounding on and explaining what it means to be a wife and a mother. He answers the question “Who can find a virtuous woman?”

So, that’s not my goal today. Instead I want to focus on something else. My concern is this “What does the heart of a woman need? What does the heart of a mother need? What does the heart of a wife need?”

And here’s why; because Moms and wives are expected to do everything and are often not appreciated enough by any of us; because if the heart of a woman is not well, the family is not well. The wife, the mother, is the heart of her family.

So, I want to say a word to encourage all of you to weigh this; consider the needs of the heart of that woman in your life; beginning, of course, with Mom.

What I have to say today applies to each of us. So, the question for Mother’s Day this year is “What does the heart of a woman need? What specific thing can you do *for her* rather than to always be expecting something from her?”

Your Bible, remember, is the One Book that understands you better than anyone on earth. So, what, according to the Bible, does a mother’s heart need?

So, what I’d like to say today applies in many areas; but these two main areas; children towards your Moms and husbands towards your wives.

First, at the top of my list is appreciation and understanding; gratefulness and awareness.

Do you remember the story in the New Testament when Simon Peter’s wife’s mother had an excessively high fever? Do you remember what Jesus did for her?

Dr. Luke tells us this in Luke 4:38 “*And he [Jesus] arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's [aka Simon Peter] house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him [Jesus] for her. (39) And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.*”

Can you see that Jesus was very concerned for Peter's mother-in-law? Most of the time, we expect that our wives and our mothers to be the ones who will always understand. But, what does Peter say about a mother's heart; a wife's heart? He tells us a message to husbands.

Here's a word to husbands on this topic. I Peter 3:7 “*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*”

Can you see Peter revealing to us what a mother's heart needs? Her heart needs understanding.

We are always expecting our wives and our mothers to understand us; to understand *our* needs; to be there every time we need them. But, look closely at Peter's words.

I Peter 3:7 “*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*”

Children, learn from your dad, to show your mom a considerate spirit. God's word pictures never fail. They are always appropriate and accurate.

He sees each person as a vessel; a containers; a living container; a container that needs filling. And, in this case, the weaker vessel is to be, according to God Himself, to be understood.

It's a huge responsibility for a man, isn't it? God designed us to be filled with the right things; the things *we* need; the things He knows will benefit us the most.

So, husbands, for Mother's Day, have you obeyed I Peter 3:7? Are you living with your wife according to knowledge? Do you give her honor just because she's a wife and a mother? That's the LORD's command.

Husbands, give honor to her as your wife. See her as the weaker vessel; the one who will be filled to the full if you'll live with her according to knowledge, if you'll honor her as a woman, a wife, and a mother.

And, commands the LORD, see yourselves together as being heirs of the grace of life.

What does your Bible say you are to do? It says you are to do something that affects the heart of that special woman in your life; those special women in your life. Yes, he's speaking directly to husbands. But, isn't she both a mother and a wife?

And why? Why obey? Why be considerate of her? So that your prayers will not be hindered; so there'll be no obstacles between you and the LORD when you pray. When you see her as she is; when you live with her according to knowledge; when you show honor to her; you fill that vessel with something no other person can do.

Folks, moms and wives need something. They need something as the vessels God has made them to be. They need your understanding.

Do you see, men, how important it is for you to do this? It's because God made your wife with a need that you are able to meet.

Imagine, for just a moment, that a son or a daughter speaks words to Mom that hurt her; that wound her; unkind words. Those words are not words of honor or understanding.

Folks, everybody everywhere wants somebody to understand them; a wife and a mother need it. And God requires that we give it to them.

You see, men, when you show her understanding; when you are considerate of her feelings; when you live with her with understanding, you affect two huge changes. One, you fill up a heart with something wonderful. And two, you significantly change your prayer life.

Men with wives are teaching children with mothers something only a family can do well.

That wife or that mother can get many things from a boss or someone she works with. But she can't get understanding outside like she can get it inside the home.

I want you to think, for a moment, about your relationship with your spouse. It makes for a wonderful relationship for a man to do this for his wife. I have a totally wonderful wife. She's an excellent mother. And, she's an excellent person in many respects. But, my attitude, my respect, my understanding, my gift to my wife is what God say fills her container like no one else on the planet. My wife needs my understanding.

And children, what God says to the husband is what God expects from you. Mom is not only important because of what she *does* for you. She's important because of who she is according as the LORD has made her.

Men, would you like to remove stress out of your marriage while, at the same time, adding a new power to your prayer life? Show your spouse more understanding. Show her

consideration. If you are considerate towards her, you are applying God's will to your home. It's God's plan. And, it works. Understanding is something we all want from those around us. God designed us with a need to be understood. But, especially, a woman needs her husband's understanding. And especially a woman needs the understanding of her children.

So, for Mother's Day, what will you give? Why not give her, along with those flowers and chocolates, a new spirit of consideration; not because she deserves it; but because she needs it. Why not say these three words to her today "I appreciate you"? The LORD made her with a need for consideration.

First, the heart of a woman needs understanding and appreciation.

Second, she needs your trust.

For this I'll take you back to the Prophet Lemuel in the Old Testament. Here's what he says in Proverbs 31:11 "*The heart of her husband does safely trust in her...*"

What does a wife and a mother need from those closest to her? Understanding? Yes. But also, she needs your trust. This phrase "safely trust" is a powerful phrase. It's one word in the original. In English we have to use at least two words. It means "confiding trust and reliance."

I know you think you need your Mom or men, that you need your wife for all she is and does for you. But, there's a whole other side to this, as is seen in the Bible.

The heart of her husband confidently relies upon his wife.

Can you see your role from God's viewpoint, as it pertains to that woman in your life? Your role to be a truster.

How many of you know Proverbs 3:5? “**Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”

It’s the exact same word as Proverbs 31:11 “The heart of her husband does **safely trust** in her...”

Proverbs 3:5? “**Trust** [safely] in the LORD with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”

There are many, many things you can give Mom for Mother’s Day this year. There are many, many things you can give your wife for Mother’s Day this year. But, how about “confiding trust and reliance”?

What difference do you think it will make in your home; in your relationship; in your marriage?

Can you see what blessedness you will add to your wife’s heart when you safely trust in her? Your wife, your Mom, they know they’re far from perfect. But, this isn’t a word merely to wives and mothers. It’s a word that describes the responsibility of the husband to his wife and, of course, to a child toward his mother.

First, the heart of a woman needs understanding and appreciation.

Second, she needs your trust.

Third, your wife needs your love. Here’s what the Apostle Paul says about this in Ephesians chapter five. Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, **love your wives**, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ...”

Now I want to make this practical with just one additional passage of Scripture; I Corinthians 13, commonly called “The Love Chapter.”

And here’s the first practical expression of love; I Corinthians 13:4 “Charity [love] suffereth long...”

To suffer long is to be patient. And we all know how difficult it is to be patient.

This, I believe, is a true story.

“Dr. Thomas Cooper was a sixteenth century medical doctor, a lexicographer, a theologian, a writer, and the creator of a thesaurus. He called his thesaurus a dictionary. He, during the late 1500’s, edited his dictionary with the addition of some 33,000 words and many other important improvements. He had already been collecting materials for eight years when his wife, unbeknownst to him, went into his study one day while he was gone, threw them in their entirety into the fireplace, burning all of his notes under the pretense of fearing that he would kill himself with study. Eight years of work was now a pile of ashes!” Cooper, in a spirit of loving patience, when back to work and re-did all of his work.

[Found on <https://bible.org/> “A Loving Husband In Action” by Pastor Steven J Cole, October 15, 2017 and <https://en.wikipedia.org/> “Thomas Cooper”]. [Also, this comes from Wikipedia. John Aubrey wrote this about Cooper in “Brief Lives.” *Dr. Edward Davenant told me that this learned man had a shrew to his wife, who was irreconcilably angrie with him for sitting-up late at night so, compileing his Dictionarie, (Thesaurus linguae Romanae et Britannicae, Londini, 1584; dedicated to Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, and Chancellor of Oxford). When he had halfe-donne it, she had the opportunity to gett into his studie, tooke all his paines out in her lap, and threw it into the fire, and burnt it. Well, for all that, that good man had so great a zeale for the advancement of learning, that he began it again, and went through with it to that perfection that he hath left it to us, a most usefull worke.*”

Most of us will never realize how much other people need love. And most of us will, likely, never have to be that patient with those around us.

Children, love your Moms. Men, love your wives, as Christ loves His Church and gave Himself for it.

What can you give your Mom or your wife for Mother's Day 2020?

First, understanding and appreciation.

Second, trust.

Third, love.

Children, find a way to understand, trust, and love your Mom. Men, find a way to understand, trust, and love your wife.

So, in conclusion, let me remind you that these practical words come from God's Word.

The LORD is the One Whose love makes all this possible.

Here's the simple Gospel message. John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

The most important thing you can do this Mother's Day, if you haven't already done so, is to be saved.

God has loved you with a perfect love. And, in love, He gave us His Son. Jesus, the Son of God, entered human history in order to become the Substitute and the Only Sacrifice for your sins.

Have you put your faith in the Son of God as your personal LORD and Savior? If not, why not?

"What will you do with Jesus Christ today?"

Will you, today, trust Him as your personal LORD and Savior? He's the Best. He's the Greatest. And, if Jesus Christ has suffered the worst of all deaths, He did so, that you might be saved. The Perfect Sinless Savior died on the Cross and took the payment for all your sins. And, in order to receive His forgiveness for those sins, you need to put your trust in Him.

Today, you need Him. Today is the Day of salvation. Today, you can pray this sinner's prayer and enter into an eternal relationship with the LORD

#### Sinner's Prayer

"LORD, I admit that I am a sinner and in need of your grace. I believe that You sent Your Son to the Cross to die for me. Please forgive me of all my sins and make me Your child. Thank you."

"Father, I thank you for the simple Gospel. And I thank you for the clear reminders in Your Word as to what we can do for our wives and our mothers. And, thank you for sending Jesus to the Cross for me; for us. And thank you for the free gift of eternal life that He bought for us that day. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

If, today, you have received Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Savior, I, or someone from our Church can be of further help to you in your walk with the LORD. So, please contact us at [www.ebcsaybrook.com](http://www.ebcsaybrook.com) or 860-388-2582.

Thank you.

And, please stay for just one more minute to hear a word from someone from our Church family.