

HONORING MOM

2 TIMOTHY 1:5

2 Timothy 1:3-5 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (ESV)

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

A teacher asked a boy this question: Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you--your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get? A sixth, replied the boy. I'm afraid you don't know your fractions, said the teacher, Remember, there are seven of you. Yes, teacher, said the boy, but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie.

This is the day we honor mom. Mother's day is one of the busiest restaurant days of the year. Linda and I will be joining some of our kids in Waco for lunch today.

So what is the history of Mother's Day?

The holiday was declared officially by some states in 1912, beginning with West Virginia. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. The following day, May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made that proclamation, declaring the first national Mother's Day, as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war.¹

Illustration

A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their Mom with a house plant. They had used their own money and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, there was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace', and

¹ Wikipedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother's_Day_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother's_Day_(United_States))

we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest.

Illustration

A young father was trying to explain the concept of marriage to his 4-year-old daughter. He got out their wedding album, thinking visual images would help, and explained the entire wedding service to her. When he was finished, he asked if she had any questions. She pointed to a picture of the wedding party and asked, “Daddy, is that when mommy came to work for us?”

I realize this morning that Mother’s day is a difficult time for some of you.

- Perhaps some of you have not had the best mother in the world
- Some of you have had a mother who has died
- Some of you mothers feel the pain of a wayward child, this morning.
- Some of you are striving alone as you nurture your child’s faith

I pray that God will give you comfort and grace today.

In the Old Testament we have a commandment from God stating;

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Exodus 20:12)

What does it mean to honor your father and mother? In the original language it means literally “*to make heavy*.” In other words, we are not to take our parents lightly. God calls us to actively give them respect and reverence.

We live in an age of disrespect

- Youth is glorified and old age is seen as something to avoid at all costs – see my blog; “Dementia = Euthanasia” at <http://pastorbobcrowder.wordpress.com/>
- Hollywood portrays kids as the heroes, while parents, especially dads, are just plain dumb.
- The media reflects the attitude of the culture, disrespect of parents and grandparents.

So today it is my great privilege to Honor the Moms. Of course we should always honor our moms every day of the year but today is set aside to remember and honor them.

Illustration

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the Magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I? When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost half of the students answered the question with the word Mother.

I certainly do not need to tell you what our mothers do for us. But let's remember that they:

- prepared food for us to eat
- turned a house into a home
- mended our wounds – is there any medicine today that can stop tears like a “kiss to make it feel better?”
- consoled us when we faced disappointments
- cheered us on when we did something well
- perhaps the greatest contribution of all is that they instructed us about life

Proverbs 6:20 “My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:”

Mothers taught us a lot about life itself! - Here are a few things mama taught us: (Do not know the source)

LOGIC: ""If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don't come crying to me." "If all your friends jumped off a cliff would you jump too?"

TO MEET A CHALLENGE: "I want you to shut up and listen. What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you.”

WISDOM of AGE: "When you get to be my age, you will understand," "I will explain it all when you get older."

ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until your father gets home."

RELIGION: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."

TIME TRAVEL: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

Mothers, what a blessing!

I want to introduce you to a woman named Eunice, found in our text this morning.

2 Timothy 1:5 – “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

We are not told the circumstances, but Eunice married a man that was not a Jew.

Acts 16:1 “Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:”

Eunice was a “*Jewess and believed but his father was a Greek*”. We can take it from both of these verses that Eunice was raised by her mother Lois in a God-fearing home and learned to love God from an early age. His father on the other hand was obviously not a believer as was inferred by “but his father was a Greek.” In the letter to Timothy, Paul did not mention Timothy’s father. Meaning that he was dead, gone or never converted to Christianity.

We know that there was at least one child from this union.

Paul gives credit to Timothy’s mother and grandmother for the way they raised him, “*...in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*” (Ephesians 6:4)

What is that old saying, “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”? In this case the faith of Eunice and Lois kept Timothy close to the teachings of God

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Mothers, it is never too LATE OR TOO early to start instilling God’s Word into the hearts of your children.

Illustration

University of Florida studies have shown that the fetus can hear and remember words and music earlier than 20 weeks.² My son Sean and his wife Elizabeth would ‘talk’ to each of their children while Makenna and Kaylin were still in the womb. Sean would read to them and reading the bible was part of their nightly ritual. It is never too early.

God’s purpose for man is that we fellowship and love him. We are to instill into our children respect for God’s Word, for the House of God, for the Pastor and teachers of the church.

- If you yourself do not respect these things, don’t expect your children to love God or the church
- It has been said that the Christians life style is the only Bible that some people may read. Mothers, what kind of bible are your children reading when they observe your life? That is a pretty sobering thought isn’t it.
- Remember, you can make a major impact on your children with or without the help of a father.
- If you want to instill authentic faith in your children then you should take your own faith seriously.
- If you are just going thru the motions, you can rest assured your children will see it and tragically, may do the same thing when they grow up.

I think about how fortunate Timothy was for having a mother and grandmother who were more interested in him knowing the bible than becoming a great statesman of his day.

How wonderful is a mother today who

- is more concerned about her children’s souls than about their future careers
- is more concerned about her children’s eternal life than their success in life
- is more concerned about their relationship with Jesus than their popularity in the world
- is more concerned about their standing before God than their standing in social status
- is more concerned about their spirituality than their intellectual, musical, or athletic accomplishments.

² <http://www.maimonidesmed.org/114485.cfm>

Illustration

I knew a deacon who had two girls. He placed them in sports. They were good at it. He began to take them to sports events on Sundays. It wasn't very long until the whole family was away from God. Both girls turned from God and began to live a life completely away from God and the church.

Timothy went down in history as a man of faith. I think it was largely because of a praying mother and grandmother who were devoted to God.

Too often I have heard parents say that they wanted their children to make up their own minds about religion. They usually say that because they have not made up their own. So, in essence, they are making disciples of their own belief system. Their children are going to believe like them unless somewhere along the line there is an intervention.

I am so thankful that I know many mothers who set a good example for their children. Remember it is not too late to start; it doesn't matter whether your children are 2, 20 or 40 years old.

We have seen surveys that show that 60% of the active members in churches today are women. Even if the father doesn't set a good example, the mother should stand firm in her faith teaching the children the way of life and following the example of Jesus Christ.

Mothers the price is high when you don't set a good example before your children.

If you are here today and have had the privilege of having a godly mother, you are fortunate indeed.

Mother, written by Howard Johnson (1915)

"**M**" is for the million things she gave me,

"**O**" means only that she's growing old,

"**T**" is for the tears she shed to save me,

"**H**" is for her heart of purest gold

"**E**" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,

"**R**" means right, and right she'll always be,

Put them all together, they spell "**MOTHER,**"

A word that means the world to me.

Bob Crowder