

A Mother's Day Sermon

[1 John 4:7-21](#), [John 15:1-8](#)

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. It is the one day of the year that mothers are to be honored with no dishes to wash, no laundry to do, no meals to cook. Sorry, I got carried away! I'm so ready for my spa day! I don't pretend to know all there is to know as a Mother. I do know that as Mothers we go through phases as our children grow and as we get a little older and wiser. I remember when our daughter was born, my husband and I were scared beyond reason. I've heard it said that parents wished children were born complete with instruction books. I distinctly remember calling the doctor because my newborn daughter wouldn't burp. My kind, wise pediatrician simply said, "Well, maybe she doesn't have to." Since then we have become experts in equal distribution of wealth (making sure all snacks, toys, and markers were evenly dispensed), legal defense

(particularly in property distribution matters), scientific alternatives (the many uses for duct tape and super glue), artistic expression in ALL types of medium, and like the apostle Paul, we have served in a tent-maker capacity!

Here are some observations about real Moms – you've probably seen this circulating around the internet:

- Real Mothers don't eat quiche;
They don't have time to make it.
- Real Mothers know that their kitchen utensils
Are probably in the sandbox.
- Real Mothers often have sticky floors,
Filthy ovens and happy kids.
- Real Mothers know that dried play dough
Doesn't come out of carpets.
- Real Mothers don't want to know what
The vacuum just sucked up.
- Real Mothers sometimes ask 'Why me?'
And get their answer when a little voice says, 'Because I
love you best!'

- Real Mothers know that a child's growth is not measured by height or years or grade. It is marked by the progression of Mommy to Mom to Mother...

Mothers in general have mastered multi-tasking with the best of them. Many Moms are part of the dual-income role and still make it to soccer games and Girl Scout meetings. And there are those Moms who know the importance of teaching their children about the love of Jesus Christ for us all.

Our scripture readings refer to God's incredible love for us. For many of us, we have seen God's love reflected in our parents. As we honor our Mothers today, consider the fact that as much as our Mothers show their love for us, God showed love to us as well through God's son Jesus Christ. For all intents and purposes, God is a parent. As God's children, we are given the best God has to offer, just as a mother or parent often forgo something for themselves in order to give to their children. 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.” God showed infinite love to us through the death and resurrection of God’s son, Jesus Christ.

Speaking strictly to the women here today, (guys, I’ll get to you next month!), some of you are not mothers. But you are a part of this community of Christian believers. We have a small but mighty group of young people here that are observing everything we do. In some way, every woman here is a surrogate mother, grandmother, aunt, cool big sister, or friend to

every one of our young people. I need to digress a moment and say just how awesome Youth Sunday was last week. I was so impressed with all of our young people and their eagerness to take leading roles in the worship service. They got that eagerness from watching us. They felt that ‘calling’ if you will because someone in this church embodied the love of Jesus Christ and shared it with these young people.

I need to take a moment and talk about my own children so please indulge me. When I was commissioned here to serve as pastor, I gave my children the choice to either come and hear Mom’s preaching every week (in addition to the preaching they routinely receive at home!), or they could stay at our home church and continue attending services there. After their first Sunday here they were hooked – not because of Mom’s

preaching, but because of the community of caring individuals that immediately welcomed them as their own children.

Our children need guidance. Our children need security. Our children need love and support, especially when things get tough. Children today are literally bombarded with over-stimulation through the vast options in the media – internet, iPod, Wii, virtual reality, not to mention the numerous options for sports and dance and Scouts and birthday parties. As parents and surrogate parents, we need to find ways to teach good morals and God's guidance for their lives. That's an incredible responsibility, yet it is one we seem to grasp without a second thought. We value our children here at Mount Tabor and we are grateful to God for their lives and their futures.

Mother's Day – it seems like such a small token to honor those who have nurtured us throughout our lives. Not everyone

here is a mother, but everyone here has a mother. Here are some facts about Mother's Day:

Early "Mother's Day" was mostly marked by women's peace groups. A common early activity was the meeting of groups of mothers whose sons had fought or died on opposite sides of the American Civil War. In New York City, Julia Ward Howe led a "Mother's Day" anti-war observance in 1872, which was accompanied by a Mother's Day Proclamation. The observance continued in Boston for about ten years under Howe's personal sponsorship, then died out.

Several years later, a Mother's Day observance on May 13, 1877 was held in Albion, Michigan, over a dispute related to the temperance movement. At the urging of its founders, in the early 1880s, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Albion set aside

the second Sunday in May to recognize the special contributions of mothers.

In its present form, Mother's Day was established by Anna Marie Jarvis, following the death of her mother on May 9, 1905; she campaigned to establish Mother's Day as a U.S. national, and later an international, holiday.

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. On 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.

(Story from internet search for Mother's Day facts)

Mothers who love God and feel called to teach their children of God's love for them are truly treasures here on earth. Some of our Mothers have passed on and are now treasures in heaven. As we honor our Mothers today, we can see a glimpse of God's love for us through the love and care of our Mothers. I truly understand the blessings of a group of caring adults that serve as the village to help raise a child. We are the village and there are many children who need our guidance. We have the awesome privilege of seeing a glimpse of the future in the eyes of our children. Let us walk in the light of God's love and share that love with our young people and our community. Amen.

Mothers teach us about foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

- Mothers teach us about logic: "If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don't come crying to me."
- Mothers teach us about maturity: "Eat your vegetables or you'll never grow up."
- Mothers teach us about religion: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."
- Mothers teach us about time travel: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- Mothers teach us about contradictions: "Shut your mouth and eat your dinner!"
- Mothers teach us about contortionism: "Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"
- Mothers teach us about perseverance: "You are going to sit here until you eat every last piece of that broccoli."
- Mothers teach us about genetics: "You're just like your father."
- Mothers teach us about the weather: "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."
- Mothers teach us about the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

[Carnations](#) have come to represent Mother's Day, since they were delivered at one of its first celebrations by its founder.^[9] This also started the custom of wearing a carnation on Mother's Day.^[5] The founder, Anna Jarvis, delivered a single white carnation to every person, a symbol of the purity of a mother's love.^{[10][11][12]} She chose the carnation because it was the favorite flower of her mother.^[13] In part due to the shortage of white carnations, and in part due to the efforts to expand the sales of more types of flowers in Mother's Day, the florists promoted wearing a red carnation if your mother was living, and a white one if was dead; this was tirelessly promoted until it made its way into the popular observations at churches.^{[10][5]}

In May 2008, the [US House of Representatives](#) voted twice on a resolution commemorating Mother's Day^{[14][15]}, the first one being unanimous so that all congressmen would be on record showing support for Mother's Day.^[citation needed]