

Mother's Day – May 8, 2022 – Proverbs 31:10, 28, 30
“Thank God for Christian Moms”

Who can find a wife with strong character? Her value is greater than that of gems. Her children rise up and bless her. Her husband rises up and praises her. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is vapor that vanishes, but a woman who fears the Lord should be praised.

With absolute certainty I can say that every person has a mom. Unless, of course, you were the very first Adam. Today is a day we celebrate moms. What is a mom? Is she simply the one who carries and then gives birth to a child? God would say she's so much more.

By looking at three moms from the Bible, we'll see that a mom is the one who carries out their God-given role of raising their child to be God's child as well. That's why we'll definitely what to: **“Thank God for Christian Moms!”**

(Eve)

Our first mom is the first mom. We all know Eve. She couldn't keep her hands off the forbidden fruit. On a positive note, Eve gave all moms a wonderful pattern to follow. In Genesis 4, God chose to record for us Eve's words right after she gave birth to her first child, the first child ever born: **“I have gotten a man with the Lord.”**

Eve acknowledges the Lord is the Creator of human life. God was the one who made her and her husband. God was the one who made the child she gave birth to. Whether it was from dirt, like Adam; or a rib, like Eve; or an egg and sperm like everyone else, the Lord and his creative hand did it.

Eve is also sharing an incredible truth about moms. God has chosen them for a task that no one else can do ... to have a child conceived in their womb, carry, deliver and then raise that child.

That makes children a blessing, a privilege, a gift, a reward from the Creator. Some have chosen to give them other names: a burden, an inconvenience, a mistake. When we approach

being a mom from the special roll God set-up, then it's easy for us to honor moms.

Moms, do you always look at your kids, no matter what their age, as God's gift? Kids, do your words and actions always reflect mom as God's gift to you? Then, this Mother's Day repent and get realigned on the path God intends for you to follow.

(Mary)

Our second mom is Jesus' mom. Luke 1 records Mary's words right after she got the news her womb would carry the Savior: **“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me.**

You distinctly hear her humble attitude. The Lord was going to do something great through her, and she knew it wasn't because she had earned the right, or deserved it. She was thankful that the Lord would use her. An attitude God looks for in every mom.

You distinctly hear her need for a Savior. Yes, Mary was Jesus' mom, but she was a sinner in need of forgiveness, like anyone else. As incredible as moms are, they need a Savior to forgive their angry words, their selfish actions and their jealous thoughts. And, to give them the strength to be more patient, unselfish and content.

In the end, which mom is remembered?

- The one who made lots of money; or the one who passed on lots of things: her Christian faith, values, morals and character?
- The one who spent long hours at the office; or the one who spent long hours reading Bible Stories, listening to memory work and praying with and for her kids?

- The one who kept a spotless house; or the one who took the time to love and listen, to laugh and hug?

A young father was trying to explain what marriage is to his 4-year-old daughter. Since pictures help explain things, he showed his daughter pictures of their wedding day. Then, 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?"*

At times, within our own families and our own congregation we take our Christian moms granted. That's why it's necessary to honor our moms, tell them thank you and tell God thank you.

If your mom is no longer here, you can still thank God for her. You can honor her by leading your kids and grandkids to God now, so you can look forward to a family reunion in heaven.

Some moms find themselves in a role reversal. You, the child, are caring for your parent. For those in that challenging situation, consider it a way to express your appreciation for all the times they took care of you. For those being cared for by your child, express your thanks to them often.

(Eunice)

Our last mom is Timothy's mom. Timothy was the young pastor Paul wrote 2 of his epistles to. In Paul's second letter, he speaks of the impact Christian moms and grandmas have: **"I remember your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it also lives in you."**

Moms, what's the greatest gift that you can pass on to your children? Recipes? Baking or sewing skills? Family treasures? Sure, those might be useful gifts, but for Timothy the most useful, the greatest was a sincere faith. His faith is what allowed him to serve his Savior, to face life's problems, to be strong, to help others, to have joy and hope. His faith was also his ticket to heaven.

The same is true for us. The most useful gift, the greatest gift we can pass on to our kids, or receive

from our parents is a sincere faith. Which parent is the first to tell their child about Jesus?

- Moms are the first to sing to us: *"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,"* or: *"I am Jesus' little lamb."*
- Moms are the first to fold our hands and pray with us: *"Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,"* at meals, and: *"Now I lay me down to sleep,"* at bedtime.
- Moms the ones who helped us pay attention, learn the Lord's Prayer, show us where we were in the church service at church and fed us *Cherrios*. (Fun Fruits on special occasions.)

That's why we honor our moms. It is through our moms we learn about Jesus, about humble service to the Lord, that God is the creator of human life, and the gift of faith is the greatest gift we can ever receive.

Speaking of great, today's lesson also reminds us what makes moms great in the eyes of the Lord: **"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is vapor that vanishes, but a woman who fears the Lord should be praised."**

It was mom, not dad, who instilled in us the *Fear Factor*. We don't mean being scared. It's the fear we memorized and recited from Luther's meaning to the Commandments. *"We should fear and love God,"* is respect for God. We love him and wouldn't want to disappoint him.

We often see all that is wrong in our world. When we look at a Christian mom, we see all that is right in our world.

Here are your 2 assignments on Mother's Day. 1) **Thank God for Christian Moms!** 2) How soon can you thank her for being your mom?