

## “Giving Honor to Whom It’s Due”

May 11,

2025

This weekend, mothers are celebrated and honored nationwide for their social contributions and roles. Mother's Day is typically a joyful day of celebration; restaurants are filled, and florists and candy stores surge in business. Family members attend church in honor of their mother's faith. It is like a family reunion, with your mother telling stories about all her children.

But for those who have lost their mom, **the second Sunday in May, Mother’s Day, can always be pretty tricky.** It's important to remember that you're not alone in this feeling. Others have experienced similar losses, and words expressed in poetry and song have been written to honor them. You may be dealing with your regret now, but please know that the Lord is acquainted with all our grief. There is never a reason to stop celebrating all the sacrificial ways she helped shape your life for the good, whether she is present or at rest.

People of my age (77) and older today have parents who may be deceased or are very close to transitioning from this life. Hopefully, some of us will be blessed with treasured and fond memories of our mother’s love for us, whereas for others, it may not be the case. It would be wonderful if all mothers were Christ-centered individuals with a loving relationship with Jesus, and all their children lived by faith as she did. If that were the case for you, you should be eternally grateful that she helped establish boundaries (from trouble) in your life.

### Scripture Text:

**Exodus 20:12 NKJV “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.**

Honoring your parents is part of the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament, carried over into the New Testament. Paul addressed the Church of Ephesus in **Ephesians 6:1-3**, **telling children to obey their parents in the Lord because it is right, and to honor their father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise.** This is a commandment with a promise because honoring parents is associated with experiencing good things and a long life on earth. The verses emphasize the importance of obedience and respect for parents to bring blessings and a positive outcome in life.

When we are young, we rely on our parents for the necessities of life, such as food, care, comfort, and security. Living in a broken world and experiencing calamity, some adult children continue to depend on their parents' assistance even today.

Not honoring your parents can have spiritual consequences, potentially affecting one's well-being and relationship with God. It can also lead to strained family relationships, hurt feelings, and a lack of mutual respect. In some historical and cultural contexts, disrespecting parents could even result in severe punishment or death.

**The Psychological Impact of Dishonoring Your Parents** can have a generational impact on children and grandchildren. The child may experience guilt or shame, while the

parents may feel hurt, rejected, or invalidated by the grandparents. ***Let the power of your prayers and the Holy Spirit*** change things among your adult children and grandchildren. Remember... ***there's a time to speak and a time to be silent!***

**How do you honor your mother and father when they are toxic?**

**It means that with God's help, you must set boundaries, forgive their past, and prioritize your well-being while showing love and respect.** As a believer, pray for their healing, express gratitude for the positive aspects of their lives, and choose kind words when addressing them. Be humble and show them all the kindness you can from a distance, if needed.

Mother's Day Celebrations matter, but you shouldn't give her a card, flowers, chocolate, or dinner only once a year. If she is elderly, check on her often during the week and look for things you can do to make her life a little easier.

**Proverbs 31:25 NKJV *Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.***

**Proverbs 31:25** describes a woman with noble character who is strong, dignified, confident, and secure in her role. She is not fearful of the future but embraces it with a sense of peace and joy, knowing that the Lord is her provider. She is never ashamed to tell others of her hope in God's care for her and her family. She prepares well in advance for her family and avails herself to help others in need. She is well-known in her community as a wise woman for her resourcefulness and knowledge.

God entrusts her with his favor, liberally giving her time and talents to make a difference wherever He leads her. She knows that when she sews good seeds while weeping for others, there will come a time of rejoicing. In times of trouble, she can be heard singing; ***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but holy lean on Jesus' Name!***

A great woman hopes in her heart and mind daily that she will be strong and honorable before the Lord.

**Isaiah 49:15 NKJV *"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, yet I will not forget you.***

Isaiah uses the analogy of a mother's love for her child to emphasize God's unwavering love and care for His people, even when they feel forgotten or forsaken. This verse highlights God's commitment to remembering and protecting His people, assuring them that a wall of protection is going before them.

When a mother feels overwhelmed with the cares and demands of this life, this verse emphasizes God's faithfulness and unwavering commitment, even when she feels lost or forgotten. The tenderness and loving kindness of the Lord are unchanging and unchangeable. His generous grace and great mercies are for all time and eternity.

**Applications:**

**As God honored Eve as Mother of all living, He honors all mothers to be fruitful.**

**God-fearing mothers are the foundation of many generations who seek the Lord.**

**My prayer for all mothers this morning:**

Eternal God and Father, you love us before we were conceived in our mother's womb. We give you honor and praise for your loving kindness and tender mercies. Lord, we recognize mothers' burdens throughout their lives concerning their children. We pray for mothers and their spouses against the world's influence upon their children.

We pray you will fortify them with your truth, strength, provision, and protection from all evil in our broken world. Give them courage to keep their footing on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ as the world's norm continues to shift and change with the winds of adversity.

Let mothers take joy in times of suffering, knowing that the Lord their Healer is holding their hand. As they look... to you, lifting their hands to you, may your blessing be poured upon them to the overflow.

As they go in and out of their dwellings, may no evil befall them, nor any plague come to afflict them. And may they continue to walk in the knowledge and wisdom of your Eternal Word and be strengthened by the joy of your presence.

May the peace of our Eternal Heavenly Father rest upon them, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be their comfort and guide in the Name of Jesus. Amen.