

MOTHER'S DAY
THE UNFEIGNED FAITH OF GODLY WOMEN
PROVERBS 31:30; 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-5

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Introduction

Today, of course, is the annual, national observance we know as **Mother's Day!** **Mother's Day** was established on the second Sunday of each May to **especially recognize and honor our mothers!**

(It has been that way since President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill to formally establish it in 1914.)

No doubt there will again be a lot of **flowers given, cards sent, and restaurants full** today as many families' celebrate their **moms!**
(I read where an estimated \$25 billion will be spent this weekend in efforts to honor mom! That is a lot of money!)

More people buy flowers for Mother's Day than any other time of year except during the Christmas and Hanukkah season.

Apparently there are many people who think that nothing says **"Thank You Mom!"** like **cards, flowers, jewelry and going out to eat!**

With that being said, **Mothers, we honor you today and thank you for being with us on this special day of recognition!** We pray that you have a Blessed Day today! And **we pray that your family comes through for you and honors you this day whether it be in person or otherwise.**

We sang that special to honor my **wife's mom** who went home to be with the LORD on April 15 a little over three years ago now.

I want to **honor** my mom today by **praising the LORD** for allowing me to have the **mom** He gave me! She has been at home with the **LORD** now for just shy of four years! *(September 25 will be four years.)*

I thank the LORD that I had a **mom** who loved me and my brothers and our dad! There was never any hint of any impropriety in her life (as is so often seen today!) She was a faithful wife to our dad and a loving **mom** to us boys!

Before we get into the message, let me encourage each of you to **honor your mother today and EVERY day, but especially today.**

And if your **mother** is still alive, I hope that you have already sent her a letter or card to tell her how special she is. If you are able to do so, call her on the phone today, or better yet, pay her a visit if she is local!

Those of you who are a part of our **Wednesday Night Bible Study** know that as we have gone through **1 and 2 Samuel** and **1 Kings** and most of **2 Kings** now, **we have seen many different kinds of mothers!**

We have seen **mothers** whose influence *(both positive and negative)* played out in their families lives! A number of the kings that we have seen not only mention the father they inherited the throne from, but some mention their **mothers** which **indicates that those moms had an especially great influence on their sons who became king.** *(Again, some positive and some negative!)*

We have seen some **vile, wicked mothers** such as **Jezebel** and her daughter **Athaliah** whose wickedness influenced their families in a negative manner! Sadly, **there are too many ungodly women and mothers** like **Jezebel** and **Athaliah** in our world today.

Some ungodly women today don't believe they were made by God for a HELP meet for ANY man. And **most of them don't care for what God says about marriage or motherhood** so they either don't bother with it or they have perverted it! Many just do as they please and try to cast off any hint of accountability for their actions! But we all will stand before God one day!

Nevertheless, thank God, **we see many godly mothers in Scripture.** We've seen such women as **Hannah** (Samuel, the prophet and priest's mom)!

And there is also the **widow of Zarephath** who took care of her only son by being obedient to the man of God, Elijah by first taking care of him!

And then there was the **unnamed widow who had been a wife of one of the sons of the prophets** who pleaded for help from Elisha on behalf of her two sons who were about to become slaves. Her husband's death left her saddled with a debt she could not pay. *(2 Kings 4)*

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And don't forget **the great Shunemite woman** who, being childless, talked her husband into making a furnished prophet's chamber for the Prophet Elisha to use and provided food for him as often as he passed by! The LORD rewarded her with a son!

I believe we have some **godly women and moms** in this Church! (I know and thank God that I am married to one of them!) But I thank God for every godly woman whose life impacts others in a positive way!

Maybe we have some women present who desire to be godly or even more godly than you are now! That's a good desire to have! Let me give you a simple admonition from Scripture that will help you fulfil that desire!

James 4:8—*“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”*

Parents and grandparents listen to me...**the young men and boys in our families need to know what kind of woman to look for to be a help meet and companion in their life!**

Also, **the young ladies and girls in our families need to know all of what GOD desires for them to be! They need to be brought up to be virtuous, godly women who will be wives and mothers who are pleasing to the LORD!**

What are the marks of godly women according to Scripture? Well, there are a number of places that we could look at this morning! But we'll look at a just a few Scriptural examples that speak to this!

Proverbs 31:30 here that speaks of the virtuous woman says, *“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised!”* What does that mean?

“favour” = means *“the grace and elegance of form and appearance of a woman”* ...that can be *“deceitful”* i.e. You can be fooled by that!

“beauty” = *the outward beauty of a woman.* Is *“vain”* = *“vapor; breath; fleeting”* ...it also means *“a deception”*.

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My grandmother used to say, “Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly is to the bone, pretty is as pretty does while ugly holds its own!”

What this means is CAUTION! — She don't and won't look like that all the time! It also means that what you see on the outside ain't necessarily what you are going to get on the inside!

“...but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised!”
i.e. That inner beauty of *reverencing* and *honoring* the LORD that works its way to the outside of her life is what is worthy to be *admired* and *praised!*

A woman that FEARS the LORD seeks to REVERENCE and HONOR the LORD in EVERY area of her life, NOT just her Church life!

We could say that A GODLY WOMAN HAS AN UNFEIGNED FAITH OR A GENUINE FAITH THAT IS EVIDENT IN HER LIFE!

I remember being in at a forum for some local candidates here in our county a few years back over at the *Thrasher Horne Center* that was being hosted by the *Clay Family Policy Forum*. Each candidate was given an opportunity to answer the same questions as the other candidates. When candidates were asked about their faith and the affect it would have on their decisions, I remember one particular lady candidate for school board balked and said something like this, *“I'm not going to talk about my faith because that is a deeply personal matter between me and God alone!”* WRONG ANSWER! I didn't vote for her! But she won the election anyway and has NOT been good for the school board! And last I checked I think she is still in office!

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Listen closely, while we must have a PERSONAL FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ, that PERSONAL FAITH is meant to be MANIFESTED IN OUR WALK and EVIDENT to those that are around us!

When *Proverbs 31:30* says *“a woman that feareth the LORD shall be praised!”* Understand that in order for that to happen, **her FAITH has to shine through! It has to be EVIDENT! That means there is evidence!**

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Two good Bible examples of this are **Timothy's mother and grandmother!** The Apostle Paul wrote Timothy about the **UNFEIGNED FAITH** that was **FIRST in his grandmother, then his mother, and then in him!**

*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."*

Those two **godly women** in Timothy's life were a great, godly influence on him even when he didn't have a godly dad to be that influence!

In fact, in **1 Timothy 4:12**, Paul told Timothy that **HIS FAITH** was to be on display! *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, **in faith**, in purity."*

Oh how we need generations of godliness today!

Another good Bible example of this is **Tabitha, a/k/a Dorcas** who got sick and died in *Acts 9? Acts 9:36* says of her, *"this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did."* It also says in *Acts 9:39* that *"all the widows stood by him (Peter) and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them."*

What is the point preacher? The point is that her **FAITH** and **FEAR OF THE LORD** was **manifested** and **able to be seen by others!**

It wasn't the **DEAD FAITH** that doesn't do anything that James spoke of! *James 2:17-18–"17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."*

Again, one who has an **UNFEIGNED FAITH** will have a **FEAR OF THE LORD** that comes shining through their life! Real quickly I want to give you three areas where her **FEAR OF THE LORD** will be **EVIDENT!**

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I. HER FEAR OF THE LORD WILL BE EVIDENT IN HER ATTITUDE!

A **godly attitude** will be exuded in her life and will bring forth **praise from the LORD** and the admiration and praise of others!

It is not her **OUTLOOK**, but rather her **UPLook** that will come through her life!

It is not a matter of her **SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS**, but rather her **GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS** that will be evident in her walk!

That is, she will not be so much concerned with **WHAT OTHERS THINK OF HER** as she is with **WHAT THE LORD KNOWS OF HER!**

II. HER FEAR OF THE LORD WILL BE EVIDENT IN HER APPEARANCE!

She is **MODEST** and **DISTINCTIVE** both in **THE WAY SHE DRESSES** and in **THE WAY SHE CARRIES HERSELF ABOUT!**

She sees her body as the **TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** that it is! *1 Corinthians 6:19–20–"19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

So, as she looks to clothe her body to go out in public she chooses that which is **MODEST** and **GOD-HONORING** rather than that which is **SENSUAL** or **SEXY!**

1 Timothy 2:9–"...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety;..."

Does that mean that she must be dress like a plain-Jane. No! But it does mean she must dress to **please the LORD, not man!**

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Also, she shows herself to be ***DISTINCTIVELY FEMININE, NOT MASCULINE!*** God made you a woman, be a woman and look like it!

*HER FEAR OF THE LORD WILL BE EVIDENT IN HER ATTITUDE!
HER FEAR OF THE LORD WILL BE EVIDENT IN HER
APPEARANCE! MODESTY AND DISTINCTION IN HER DRESS*

III. **HER FEAR OF THE LORD WILL BE EVIDENT IN HER ACTIONS!**

Peter wrote about her actions:

1 Peter 3:2– “... chaste conversation coupled with fear...”

“conversation” = means “mode of life; conduct; behavior.”

“chaste” = means “freedom from defilements or impurities.”

“fear” = means “reverence, respect, and honor.”

1 Peter 3:3–4– “3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

Paul also wrote about her actions:

Titus 2:5 – “To be discreet, chaste...”

“discreet” = means “of sound mind, self-controlled in one’s passions and desires.”

“chaste” = means “freedom from defilements or impurities.”

1 Timothy 2:9 – “But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

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Something else about her actions is also found in *Proverbs 31:11: Proverbs 31:11–“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.”*

That speaks to her faithfulness!

1. **She is faithful to her husband!**
Her love for her companion never wavers!
2. **She is faithful to her children!**
Her love for her children never wavers!
3. **She is faithful to her LORD!**
Her love for Christ never wavers!
Her love for Christ’s Church never wavers!

Conclusion

On this Mother’s Day I call on the women to determine to be godly! But most of what I’ve said about the women applies to the men too!

Have an **UNFEIGNED FAITH** that is **EVIDENT** or **MANIFESTED** in your life whether you are a man or a woman!

If you are godly, stay godly! If you are godly in some areas strive to be more godly in every area of your life!

One cannot be godly apart from having first trusted the LORD for their salvation! Are you saved? If not, trust Christ on this Mother's Day. It'll make you a better person no matter if you are a woman or a man! It'll make you a better parent and grandparent!

It'll come out in your **ATTITUDE, APPEARANCE, and ACTIONS!**