

CALL to PRAYER - Thank God for mothers and ask God to raise up godly mothers.

Psalm 113:9 - Made to Mother

Intro - This Lord's Day is also Mother's Day in our society. I have made it a practice to utilize holidays/societal happenings as an opportunity to address those topics from a Biblical point of view. If people are thinking about it, I figure it is good to hear what God has to say about it. I have a dual purpose this morning and will try to hit two birds with one sermon. 1] To honor mothers & motherhood. 2] To address a systemic crisis in society evident by its dishonoring of mother & motherhood ^{Prov. 30:11 NKJV}. Honoring mother & motherhood is a way to live long in the land ^{Ex. 20:12} but dishonoring mother/motherhood is a quick way to destroy a land. And our society dishonors women. Our society can't even define what a woman is much less hold her in high esteem. Men who pretend to be women win *woman of year* awards and women's sporting events. (How is it that men are honored as being the best women?) The spirit of androgyny has infected our age and it tries to deface women, redefine women and remove from women the crown jewel of her beauty & femininity - namely motherhood. Our society constantly delivers sermons trying to convince women they should avoid marriage & motherhood at all costs, it preaches that they should *be mad to mother*. But I want this Christian sermon to clearly proclaim to women that they were *made to mother*. Every woman is designed by God to mother someone. She is made, body, soul, & spirit *to mother*. She has been Divinely woven together with an amazing *mothering* capacity. For a woman "*to mother*" is the ultimate in feminine achievement and it is a beauty beyond compare that should be held in the highest honor and esteem by men, women, boys, girls, society & church. A woman who mothers well is a model & indispensable for sustaining a well-ordered society. And society should stand up and cheer for those women who mother well.

MOTHERHOOD

- Society sells women on the idea that they are second class citizens in a man's world.
 - It tells women they must break through the glass ceiling and work twice as hard to get half as far in this life...it they want to *really matter* in life.
 - Feminism preaches a message that to excel as a woman she must move *beyond her biology* and *escape what is innate* about being a woman. It says motherhood doesn't matter.
 - Stated goals of feminism were to *abolish marriage & have freedom from reproduction*.
 - Feminism sees pregnancy as slavery and being a mother as an obstacle to true fulfillmentinstead of a pathway to fulfillment.
 - "*Being a mother will only hinder you & hold you back...*" is a societal lie.
 - I never took a class on feminism, but my wife and I absorbed its ideas from our atmosphere - everybody "knew" you needed to avoid motherhood at all costs.
 - Motherhood was discouraged and doing anything else was encouraged.
 - Being a mother is seen in society as *selling yourself short* as a woman.
- MOTHERHOOD IS EXCLUSIVELY FEMALE.

- No man will ever be a mother. Women are in a class by themselves – it’s their realm alone
- This distinctive trait for women is an unmatched beauty that only women exude.
- What is a woman? (It is amazing how many of our leaders can’t / won’t answer that question)
 - *A woman is the adult version of one of the two human sexes whose unique anatomy is designed by God for the conceiving, carrying, delivering, and nurturing of a human child.* A woman is made to mother in her body, soul & spirit.
- The Bible teaches a unity in how we are made as either male or female.
 - Our bodies are intertwined with our spirits and souls as a unified whole.
 - None of us are in the wrong body – there is a cohesion in our creation
 - Women are *made to mother* in their very being – body, soul & spirit
 - She has been carefully crafted and woven together for a wonderful purpose.
- Women are made to glorify God in a different way that men are. Unique ability
 - Only a woman can glorify God as a woman.
 - Motherhood is the crown jewel of a woman’s beauty.
 - 1 Tim. 2:15 Motherhood is their unique way to glorify God.
- Mothers are life-givers.
 - Eve was the only creature that God made from living material.
 - Man was made from dirt, but woman was made from living matter.
 - The first woman was to be the “*mother of all living.*” - Gen. 3:20
 - Women are made from life with capacity to bring life into this world.
 - Mothers are life givers. (literally and figuratively)
 - Mothers are nurturers. (literally and figuratively)
 - Motherhood is the means for a woman to excel in the feminine virtues –
 - She shines relationally.
 - She shines in fostering community & unity. the glue that binds people together
 - She shines in being the comforter, nurturer, helper....being hospitable
 - She brings beauty into the world. Men bring utility. Women bring beauty.
 - God made women with beauty, and they beautify our world.
 - Motherhood is the crown jewel of feminine beauty and the ultimate in feminine achievement. Motherhood is unmatched in its positive impact on our world.
- We should not disparage, demean, or downplay the exalted position of MOTHER.
 - We should honor mother, and motherhood.

MOTHERING

- What about the unmarried woman or the barren woman?
 - The childless woman is still *made to mother*. Psalm 113:9
 - Every woman is designed by God to mother someone.
 - Young girls should be in practice...honing their mothering skills.
 - Unmarried and barren women are not barred from mothering...
 -They are called to mothering. (mothering is the highest of callings)
 - Why are certain professions dominated by women?
 - Elem. teachers, childcare workers, nurses, secretaries, HR, PR, hygienists, Veterinarian, Beautician
 - These are areas where women “*mother.*” (naturally/innately excel in mothering)
- Mother Teresa was not married and never bore children but was a very famous *mother*.

- How many did she mother in Calcutta?
- An unmarried woman with no children was “*A Mother in India*” (an honored mother)
- I recently attended the funeral of Gina McKean.
 - I went to High School with her...and OBU MTI classes 25 years later.
 - Gina never married and she never had children.
 - Yet this childless woman was a mother to a multitude.
 - She was the Childrens Director at Portland Ave. Baptist.
 - For decades she worked with kids and loved VBS
 - She was “*made to mother*”, and she mothered 100’s of children.
- You may be a woman who feels a little left out on Mother’s Day.
 - No marriage...no kids....no matter – for you were still *made to mother*.
 - God has designed you and calls you to mother someone.
 - The world may preach that “*mothering doesn’t matter*”.... But mothering matters more than you know and as a woman you were *made to mother*.
 - God made you who you are and placed you where you are so you can mother someone. Don’t be mad to mother...you are made to mother
 - So, who are you mothering? Mother them well.

HONORING & ENCOURAGING

- On this Mother’s Day let us be reminded to honor mothers & motherhood
 - We should teach and encourage girls and women to be godly wives/ mothers.
 - Titus 2:4-5 1 Tim. 5:14-15
 - The feminine virtues should be exalted and held in high esteem.
 - 1 Peter 3:3-4 Isaiah 66:13 1 Thess. 2:7
- On this Mother’s Day let us be reminded NOT to dishonor mothers or motherhood
 - We should NOT speak with a worldly accent or tone and
 - *Dissuade* women from mothering.
 - *Downplay* the importance of mothering as though mothering doesn’t matter. Or saying she would *sell herself short* do what she was designed by God to do. (her biology, psychology and spirituality are linked)
 - *Disparage* motherhood and try to tarnish the crown jewel of what it means to be a woman. (no higher called in life)
 - The pinnacle of success for a woman is for her to be a godly mother
 - The ultimate “*professional woman*” is the woman who “*mothers well.*”
 - Her own family if God has given them to her.
 - Or mother the ones that God has placed in front of her.
- Recently a famous actress interviewed our Vice-President - Kamala Harris
 - She said to her “*Our country needs a “mama-la”*”
 - Drew Barrymore probably meant it different than I will say it....
 - But our country does need some mama’s
 - Society needs women to mother...and to mother well
 - Every woman was *made to mother* someone.
 - So lets honor women....mothers....and motherhood on this Mother’s Day.