

THE FOLSOM
VIEW

“...HAVING THE EYES OF YOUR HEART ENLIGHTENED...” EPHESIANS 1:18

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING AT 900 E. NATOMA, FOLSOM, CA 95630

Love Your Mother

BY DAVID POSEY

Today is Mother’s Day, but you know that already. Holidays present problems for faithful Christians — especially those that are given religious significance, such as Easter and Christmas. We are not authorized by the Scriptures to set some days above other days to honor Christ and God. Nearly all of the

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holidays, including Easter, have their origin in mythology or, at least, competition with those who honored certain gods, such as Cybele or Isis or Re.

Mother’s Day is no different, really. Its origin is just as steeped in idolatry-tradition as Easter and the rest. But it’s the human holiday that seems to be acceptable to Christians — it’s the holiday we love to love.

For one thing, it’s not “religious” even though it occurs on a Sunday every year. So, it’s “safe.” And who’s going to criticize the honoring of one of the greatest institutions God has created — motherhood?

So, we honor our moms, our mommies, our mommas, our Mimi’s, our grandmas, our grannies and nannies and nanas (sorry if I didn’t include your particular pet moniker). And well we should. Mothers are special.

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care much for pie.

— Tenneva Jordan

Mother’s Day can be a bittersweet day, too. For some, unfortunately, “mother” does not conjure up sweet memories at all. Though they



do it far less frequently than fathers, some mothers abandon their families. Some live their lives full of selfish ambition, leaving their children to fend for themselves.

There are others that go through life with a rather sour disposition, “weaned on a pickle,” as grandma used to say. You expect moms to be sweet-spirited and failure here is a major disappointment.

Then there are those whose mothers have passed on. There is no mother whom we can honor in the flesh — just a memory. I’m one of the many who are in that category, and while my memories are as sweet as can be, Mother’s Day only serves to remind me of how much I miss her. I wish she were here to see all of our lovely grandchildren — I know they would love her so much.

The Bible tells us that mothers are to be honored (along with fathers); that mothers are teachers; and that they can be easily hurt by our actions. Fathers instruct and lead and watch and are “proud” of their children; but a mother’s life seems to be tethered in a special way to that of her child. There’s a bond with a child that only a mother can have and understand. They bore the child and that gives them a special place in that child’s life.

It’s usually the moms who begin a conversation with, “Well, you know Jimmy, he’s...” Dads don’t do that very often, unless they are bragging about something their child did. For moms, it’s in their DNA to talk about their kids.

I wish I could impress upon every child old enough to “get it” how important it is to honor his or her mother. When my mother died, I received countless cards and e-mails, full of kind words and encouragement. But the one I remember most was sent by Bob Owen and it contained only three words: “only one mother!” It’s possible, through death or some other circumstance, to have more than one spouse; most of us have more than one child and we all have many friends. But you only have one mother. Just one.

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one mother the wide world over.
— George Cooper

We’ll never know how much our mothers loved us. The only clue we’ll get is when we have our own children and feel such deep love for them. We soon realize that we will never love our mothers as much as they loved us, no matter how much we try.

That realization also contributes to the bittersweet feelings of this holiday. Perhaps, then, today is not so much about how much we love our moms, but about how much we appreciate them. The word of the day is gratitude.

DP

Quotes

“Honor your father and your **mother**, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16

Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly:

— Ambrose Bierce

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go round will wave at his parents every time around — and why his parents will always wave back.

— William D. Tammeus

Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

— Elizabeth Stone

Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children, and no theories.

— John Wilmot