

Mother's Day

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We talk about Mother's day and how important it is and I know it's not true for a lot of you guys. In fact, last night I came up from McAllen. My daughter graduated Saturday and I flew in so I could be here today and I didn't have my bag from my airport, of course, so I had to run to Target to get all the things that I needed this morning. I got to Target ten minutes to 10:00 and I walk in and there are at least 50 guys standing in the card section of Target. Some of the poor guys were even in the wrong section. They were over in the birthdays, trying to find a card. That's pitiful. Guys, let me give you a hint. It happens the same time every year! The second Sunday of every May is Mother's Day. For those of you who really think that's too hard...have you ever missed an opening football game of the Dallas Cowboys, if you watch them? Have you ever forgotten the first day of hunting season? No! We don't forget things that are important. The problem is, we say that Mother's Day is important to us but...The 8:00 Worship leader, Dustin, he comes in this morning. He's a brand new father and he acted shocked that he was supposed to get his wife something for Mother's Day. Like the four month old is going to go out and do something, right? So he orders something Friday online. It's not here. He asks me, *"You think I could just put the order slip in a bag and give it to her?"* I say, *"Yeah, you can, if you want to get knocked out."* Go get her another gift. Just get her something and let her know that another gift is coming. He says, *"Can I take the candle back once the other gift gets here?"* Boy, you've got a lot to learn.

I want you to understand something about Mother's Day. A lot of times we celebrate the wrong thing. I don't mind celebrating Mother's Day in church as long as we understand what Mother's Day is truly about and what motherhood is about. We've accepted a worldly definition of mothers. For us the definition of mother's is this...a woman who conceives, gives birth to, or raises or nurtures a child. I know that some of you are looking at me weird because I'm in a suit and for those of you who are new, you don't understand. On Mother's Day I wear a suit because I have a lot of women in the church that have mothered me through the years and something happens to them when I wear a suit. They're so happy. The 8:00 crowd was almost giddy because I was wearing a suit. This is so easy! Next time we have a difficult decision in the church, like changing the name, or relocating...I'm just going to wear a suit when I talk about it and I think everything should be okay. So, we do this because motherhood is really more than giving birth and raising a child. The mother's that I have in this church did not raise me and didn't not give birth to me but they are definitely mothers to me. They have nurtured me in my life and they have given me compassion and given me softness. They have

given me everything that motherhood truly is. So today if you're sitting out there, I want to wish you a happy Mother's Day. I know some of you are sitting out there saying *I've never had any children, I'm not a mother*. Well yeah, you are. Some of you guys are like *I'm a dude man; don't wish me happy Mother's Day!* But we need to be thankful for motherhood, thankful for what it truly means.

I want us today to get a biblical perspective of what motherhood truly is. We find that all the way back in Genesis, chapter 3. When you look in Genesis, Chapter 3, you see Adam and Eve, Adam the man and Eve the woman. Verse 20, the fall has already occurred. Sin has already entered the world and you see in verse 20, Adam gives his wife the name Eve. I would have thought after the fall he would have a lot of names for her, but he chose Eve and the reason for that is that it means mother of all things. Now, jump down in chapter 4 verse 1 and it says "*Adam knew his wife.*" That's that biblical sense of *know*, don't make me explain that, you'll understand in a minute. Adam *knew* his wife and she gave birth to a son. They called his name Cain. They gave birth to another son and they called his name Abel. Before, now get this, this is where it gets very tricky and intriguing, before she was ever a physical mother, she was called mother of all things and that's something I want you to see because it's important the way God put things together. How God made a rhythm of how things fit together. He did this on purpose. He gave the woman a special role. She was to be a mother; she was to be a nurturer. Now, let me be careful here because some of you are hearing nurturer, and you think that means cleaning the house and cooking. Nurturing is much more than that, in fact, God is a nurturer. He comforts us and he has compassion for us. Nurturing is also confronting, speaking the truth, guiding in love toward the direction we need to be. And God put all of those qualities into the woman. So today you are all mothers in the biblical term whether you have children or have raised children or not. You're all mothers because the spirit of God put inside each of you, He designed you to be the nurtures of all creation. We see it played out. Man on the other hand, we were given the other side of God. We were given the aggressive and strength side of God. We were given the side that wants to make war. That is our part. We're to offer strength in our relationships and the woman is to offer this nurturing quality that we're going to see today. So I want you to see the difference between men and women. Aren't you glad men and woman are different? I mean we are designed to be different. Ladies, you were designed to be a nurturer.

When my kids were little, I'm not saying that dad's can't be gentle, they should be and the dad should be nurturing and loving to their children, but there were times when my kids were little that they were throwing a absolute fit and I was doing everything I could possibly do to quiet that baby. I was rocking it, bouncing it, I was trying to feed it, trying to give it a pacifier, I wasn't singing to them because that made them cry worse, but I was doing everything I could. I was trying to let Dawn sleep because she was tired. After about two or three minutes, I'm

pretty much out, no, I'm talking I did the best I could. I would go thirty minutes to an hour and the baby could not be comforted. Something wonderful would happen when I would carry that baby and lay it on its mother. Almost instantly the baby would stop crying. I was like, "*What! That isn't right! She's laying there, she's still asleep!*" But, the baby just feeling the mother's body, just the softness and warmth, knowing that mother's body brought that baby peace is a gift that comes from God. You're supposed to be softer. Now, I know you can get on the internet and find some women who does steroids and has muscles and can whoop any guy in here but for the most part, women are to be the gentle, softer side and there's a reason for that and I want you to see that.

Today, what we are trying to rescue is the role of women. We're trying to give a biblical approach and help you understand what women are to do, what they are to be and how that plays out in the church. Some of you've grown up in church and you've heard some bad theology when it comes to women. It's usually verses that have been taken out of context and these verses say a man cannot teach a women or have any authority, have you heard those? Or a woman shouldn't speak in church, women are to be silent in church and really, the sermon you hear in a lot of churches for women's role in church is to sit down, shut up and submit to your husband. But I want you to hear that's not biblical. The women being silent in church, let me tell you something, if the women were silent in church, there'd be a lot less of us in here today. If women didn't proclaim the gospel of Christ, there wouldn't be as many people. Let me be even more honest than that. If woman hadn't filled the roles that men left open, the church probably wouldn't exist. So women, don't be silent in church, you talk. What the verse means is women don't embarrass your husband in church. We know he's a moron. You don't have to point it out and we know that you know you know more about the Bible than he does. So when he misquotes the Bible, your job is to remain silent and to go home and say, "*Listen dumb-dumb, that's not found in the book of hesitations. There is no such book.*" Do that privately, that's what the verse is talking about. It's not talking about you not filling roles in the church that need to be done. It's not talking about you not leading out in ministries that you feel called to do. I have people all the time ask me if women can be ministers. Yes! They better be ministers because if you're not a minister, you're not fulfilling the call of God. God has called all of us to minister, God has called all of us to have ministry, and if you don't have a ministry than that means you're not a fully devoted follower of God. So were all to have ministry. Can women work in leadership in the church? Of course they can and of course they should. Now, would I want a woman to be a senior pastor? No, I wouldn't. I had you up to that point. No, because of God's order of things, and we will see that in a minute. He has made man to be the head of the family and to be the head of the church. The church cannot be any different than the family, and so there needs to be a man to be the head of the family and a man as a head of your church. That's what the Bible teaches. I want you to see that the Bible teaches that men and women have a quality and essence, they are equal in dignity, they're

equal in value; equal in human nature, but they have a distinct roles. Men and women have different roles that has God has called us to play and we should accept those roles and we should be excited who God has made us to be. In Genesis 1:27 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* It shows that man and women share the same nature. They're both in God's image and they're both commissioned to rule the earth. Galatians 3:28, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you all one in Christ Jesus."* Christ's redemption has nothing to do with; it makes no distinction between male and female what so ever. 1 Peter 3:7, *"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."* That verse tells us that women are fellow heirs with Christ; they are equal to us in every way. Now you read that "weaker", that's physically weaker, listen if your wife is not physically weaker than you, you might want to hit the gym. I'm just saying...the women should be physically weaker than you. So that's what this verse is saying to us. He's helping us understand that we are equal, but also it goes on to tell us that we have a distinct role. So I want you hear this morning that we affirm that both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood. We also believe the distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order and they echo in our heart. Listen, we don't have a problem today with unsubmitive women, we have a problem with men who have not stood up and been the spiritual leader that God called them to be. Because let me tell you something, if a man will be nail-pierced servant of God, if a man will give his life and live for his wife and love his wife the way Christ loved the church, the women will have no problem following his headship. You see, a lot of you men, you've just laid down. You've allowed the wives to be the head of the house, because face it, you're lazy. It's a lot easier to let them do it then to be the man you're supposed to be. And ladies, let me tell you, because of the fall...you want that job. Now, the man being the head and the women being the nurturer was designed before the fall and it has nothing to do with sin. What have to do with sin are men being abusive and mean spirited and men being authoritative and angry leaders. The fall has to do with women who do everything they can to undermine the man in their life so they can lead. That's the fall; that's the sin. We see it played out all through history.

Today as we read the Bible, there are some distinctions in Genesis 2; the order of creation indicates that God gave priority in the male to the male in the relationship. How did he do that? God gave instruction to Adam not to eat the fruit. It never says he gave the instruction to Eve. In fact, He expected Adam to tell his wife, teach his wife and protect his wife. That's what God decided; that Adam would be the one that head the family and as his wife came along his side to help him, that he would be the spiritual leader in that home and he would help his wife understand what God wanted them to do. Adam named Eve. From the

beginning man was to be the head of the wife. In Genesis 3:1-7 we see that Eve sinned first. Let me tell you what's going on...they're walking through the garden together, and as they're walking through the garden, did you get that...together? They came to the tree of life where Satan began to whisper in the women's ear and he said hey. Guess what? Adam's listening; standing there and Adam doesn't man up and say *God does not want us to touch this tree, God wants us to get away from this tree, come with me; we need to flee from this*. He doesn't do that. He sits there on the sidelines and watches Eve get trapped and tempted by Satan and it says very clearly that Eve ate of the apple or whatever it was first and then gave it to her husband. Now guess what? When God comes down, is He mad at Eve? Does He ask Eve where she is? Does He ask Eve why she ate the fruit? No...He looks straight at the man and says *what have you done?* Let me tell you gentlemen, when you get to heaven and God is asking you about your family...when God is asking you how you led your family...when He is asking you about your children and why they're in such a mess and why your finances were in a mess and why your life was in a mess...when you get there before God and He looks at you...I dare you to point and say it's her fault. Because you see, that's what Adam did. How did that work for him? Think God was concerned about that? *Oh, it was her fault...all right, you're off the hook*. No, Adam bared the brunt. In fact in the New Testament, Paul makes it very clear that Adam is responsible for sin coming into the world. Why didn't he throw Eve under the bus? Because man is meant to be the head. That's the way God designed it and the perversion we see today is because of the sin; because of the fall. I want you to understand that the Old and New Testament both have a high value and dignity that God puts to both roles of men and women. Both the Old and New Testament affirm that you should be under the headship of the man and the man should lead and the women should be the nurturer alongside. Now, here's the great thing...remember we read the verse He made them both male and female? He did that on purpose because He is God and in Him are both. In Him is the compassionate, gentle, nurturing side. That's what He made the woman out of. In Him is the war like, aggressive side and that's what He made the man out of and we are to celebrate those distinctions and we are to honor each other and today we're to honor motherhood not just because you can physically have a child. I know some of you are mad at me, like *you're even going to take that away from me?* Some of you ladies with epidurals are like, that's fine. But you girls that had natural childbirth, you're like, *uh uh, I earned this. This is something I did*. You're right but it does not refer in the Bible to just that being motherhood. Motherhood is all of the nurturing, it's everybody coming together and I am so glad. I thank God for my mom; I really do because she was gentle. My dad, if I fell down and hurt myself, he told me *"Suck it up boy. You'll be alright."* *"But dad, I think my arms broke."* *"Rub some dirt on it."* How did my mom react when I hurt myself? *"You poor baby, come here."* She was nurturing and loving and caring. I am so glad that my mom nurtured me. I'm so glad that my wife has that nurturing side. I'm so glad that my girls have that nurturing side. They are so much different than the guys. Even the way

we drive indicates the difference in male and female, doesn't it? Men drive aggressive, you cut me off, and I'll kill you. Women just let it go. We're traveling and a guy cut me off, I'm like WHAT?! My wife says it's no big deal. I say yes it is! I'm driving my motorcycle down the road and my wife was riding with me, we're driving down this country road and there is a perfect cat in the road...dead. Hey, cats are evil. Cats are the only animal that God let Satan create, so anyway...saw a dead cat. I swerved to miss the cat and I'm thinking, good...another one gone. My wife leans up and says, "Oh, did you see that? I'm about to cry." I'm like "It's a cat! It's not even your cat, what do you care?" We keep driving and a bird flies in front of a truck and flies up over and lands a few feet from us and I started laughing. Dawn asks, "Do we need to go back and help the bird?" Help the bird do what, die?! I wanted to go back and pull its head off and say, here you go, how's that? But I didn't I just explained to her that I didn't know much about bird resuscitation. Man, I'm glad she has that nurturing side because I don't have it and I'm glad that God showed us that in women and that's what we celebrate today. That's what Mother's Day is, celebrating the soft side of God, the compassionate side of God. Celebrating the side of God that we can come in and we can lean into and we can let Him love us and we can let Him forgive us. Let me tell you there are plenty of visions in the Bible about God being masculine and I know you see pictures of Jesus and I'm going to tell you that most of the pictures we see of Jesus he looks feminine. When he came the first time, he came as a nurturer; he came to show compassion; he came to give mercy. But Jesus is coming again and if you read how he's coming in the book of Revelation, whoa, you better be afraid. It says he's going to be riding a horse and he's going to have a sword that destroys nations. Don't tell, Chase my oldest son this, but he's going to have tattoos down his arms and down his thighs. I mean he is a scary looking man coming to wreak vengeance on a defiant earth. That scares me. That's not the side of God I want to get right up next to because I'm scared of that. That's the side he put into man but he put that other side into women and so we know more of God because we are male and female. So today, I want you to celebrate the gentleness, the compassionate, and the sensitivity. I know some of you are thinking that ain't all women! You're right. Because of the fall, because of sin and because of man's inhumanity to man there are some women who have never lived up to their potential that God has called them to do. I want you to know today, for all the women in here today, I thank you for being women and thank you for being different. Stay different, nurture us, push us, speak truth to us, but don't try to be a man. You don't need that. We see enough of that side of God. Be the woman that God has called you to be and that's what we're going to celebrate today. So for all the women in here, thank you for showing us a part of God we desperately need to see. Would you bow? *Father, we thank you that you show us a part of you in each woman that you have created. God, that you have created them distinct and different and you created them soft, caring and loving and compassionate and all of those things God that show us a part of you. God I know today there are women that come in this place and they feel inferior because they've never*

given birth to a child. Father I want them to hear this word biblically, they are mothers to the highest extend when they live out their character and they live out their character in this world for us to see. Speak to our hearts God. Help us to see you as you are and God those in here that have sinned and are running from you, God let us see that compassionate side, that when we fall you pick us up and you nurture us back. Father, speak to us today.