



Living Hope Bible Church

Where hope comes to life, and the Son always shines.

May 8, 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends:

I am convinced that there is nothing in this world that more accurately reflects the love of Jesus Christ than the love of a mother for her children. **Mothers demonstrate a tireless and selfless service that eclipses every other love, except that of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Amazingly, God has placed a nurturing and persevering spirit in mothers that expresses the sensitivity and unconditional kindness that each child desperately needs for emotionally and spiritually development. They also demonstrate a protective ferocity like that of a mother bear and mother hen. Our mothers, despite their personal shortcomings, are a blessed gift from our God and they are to be respected and honored. The Scriptures are replete with admonitions to honor our fathers and mothers. This is why Mother's Day is such an important day when we should appropriately acknowledge, thank, and honor them. I would encourage each of you to take time this Sunday, and each day, to express the appreciation they rightly deserve.

Parenting, as I've often said, is not for the weak or cowardly. As mothers and parents, we are given great privilege and responsibility. I am convinced that motherhood is the single most difficult and important job today. Studies continue to show that parents exercise more influence on a child's development than any other factor. Despite the many influences of peers and culture, mothers can help set a firm foundation in the lives of their children that will help them deal with the many challenges that life will throw at them. And as many of us can attest, parenting is a lifelong profession that doesn't cease when our children reach adulthood. It is the love of a mother that affirms, comforts, and guides our children throughout their entire lives. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "**No man is poor who has a godly mother.**"

Mothers are a unique and separate breed who stand apart from all other individuals. The absence of a mother's gentle, but firm, guiding hand can be and often is the downfall of a child. Unfortunately, our society has diminished the role and importance of the mother. Sadly, many mothers have even abandoned their role through employment and the pursuit of career advancements. And yet the book of wisdom commends the godly wife and mother and places her on equal standing with the most revered and recognized leaders of the land. In fact, at the conclusion of Proverbs as Lemuel describes the Virtuous Woman, he concludes by stating, "**Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates**" (Prov. 31:31). The mention of her position at the city "gates" is significant because it was there that the elders of the land sat and often judged the community's disputes. This was a place of honor reserved for the most respected leaders of the land. Not surprisingly, this is how God views the role of a mother and how each of us should as well. As Teddy Roosevelt once stated, "**The mother is the one supreme asset of national life; she is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist.**"

In conclusion, I want to personally thank each of the mothers of our church for the vital role they play in their families and in our church. **We truly praise God for you!** Please remember your ministry to your children is indispensable and crucial to the future of your children and our church and nation. I would also encourage each of you to prioritize prayer and a deep dependence on the Lord for continued strength and wisdom in your ministry to your children. It is my prayer that **each of us might also be more mindful of the beautiful gift of motherhood**, and make sure we more fully express our appreciation to our own mothers and recognize the crucial part they have played in our lives.

I hope to see each of you this Mother's Day as we celebrate the gift of our mothers and consider how we can more fully support them.

Thank you for your support of LHBC and God bless!

Your Servant In Christ,
Pastor Mark

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