

Mother's Day | Preparing, Celebrating, Discipling

I. How to Celebrate Mother's Day the Wrong Way:

- **Some people don't glorify God on Mother's Day because they worship mom.**
 - It may sound strange to word it that way, but — biblically speaking — worship is simply placing value in something. Everything we do all day long shows what we value, and anything we value more than God is false-worship. It's idolatry.
 - Though it's completely appropriate to show our mothers how much we value them, we should never value them more than we value God. In Luke 14:26 Jesus said that those who come to Him must hate his mother. Of course, we understand that the Greek word being used describes loving something less than we love something else. And that's the point. It's perfectly fine to love our mothers as long as we don't love them more than we love God.
- **Some people don't believe mother's have any flaws.**
 - When it comes to Mother's Day, the church has bought into the feminist agenda that not only is it blasphemous to say anything critical of women, if you're going to say something about women at all, it must be uplifting.
 - And since no one ever has anything bad to say about mothers, many children grow up believing that mom can do no wrong or they become bitter because of the rank hypocrisy in their home.
 - Mothers should be the first to communicate to their children that they too are the chief of sinners in their home who desperately need to repent and be forgiven by God.
 - We're not suggesting that we dedicate our Mother's Day to pointing out her flaws, but we must accept the fact that God will not be glorified if we believe a lie about our mothers.

II. How to Prepare for Mother's Day:

- **We must prepare to give God all the glory for our mothers.**
 - Every good and perfect gift comes directly from God. That means that your mother is His grace in your life. Even if you mom wasn't there or was a bad mother, the fact that God used her to give you physical life is a gift.
 - The Mother's Day Bible Reading will be broken into two categories. The first category will be about recognizing God first and foremost, and the second category will be about mothers.
 - Some of you will not find too much joy in the second part of the list because your mothers didn't fulfill many of those blessings in your life. That's okay, you can celebrate God on Mother's Day by thanking Him for His grace in your life.
- **We must prepare to honor our mothers.**
 - Good or bad, sweet or sour, children are to honor their parents in the Lord. Therefore it's completely appropriate to thank our mothers for the ways they have submitted to God.
 - If God says that a wise mother instructs her children in the ways of the Lord, then we should be ready to thank our mother's for obeying God by instructing us in the ways of the Lord.
 - It's also appropriate to spend time in prayer thanking God for His gift to you, but also — potentially — working through some of the bad attitudes you may have about your mom.
 - At some point or another our mothers have hurt us. But you won't glorify God on Mother's Day if you don't let go of that offense and live in a spirit of forgiveness.
 - Some of you are harboring bitterness against your moms, and you need to prepare your hearts to worship God on Mother's Day by asking God and your mother to forgive you.

- Of course, you can also decorate your Celebration Walls . . . just remember, in the same way we don't want to cover our Celebration Wall with images of Santa Claus, we must be careful to remember that the Celebration Wall is designed to draw our minds to God and His Word. It's about God . . . not us. That means that a Celebration Wall covered in pictures of mom with no focus at all on God and His goodness, is to completely miss the point.

III. How to Celebrate Mother's Day the Right Way:

- One of the best ways to celebrate God on Mother's Day is to spend time in prayer thanking God for the gift of mothers.
 - We can thank Him for using them to give us physical life; we can thank Him for explaining in the Scriptures how our women can be the best mothers possible. We can thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to empower our mother's to serve Him. And we can be thankful for those things even if our mothers didn't take advantage of them.
 - From there obviously it's appropriate to thank God for the righteousness He's worked into their lives specifically.
- It's appropriate to spend part of the time reading select passages from the Mother's Day Bible Reading.
- It's still completely Christ-honoring for us to fawn on mom in ways that she likes. Get her flowers, take her on a hike, make her favorite food, or maybe just allow her to get a nap.
 - We should definitely celebrate our moms in light of God's grace.
 - Just remember, the best way to celebrate God on Mother's Day is to make the day about God. And because God finds joy in us loving and honoring and respecting and obeying our mothers, let's have some fun doing just that.

IV. How to Disciple during Mother's Day:

- As always, discipleship is best done as we invite others into our Christ-honoring celebration. We should model for them how to do it, equip them to the best of our abilities, and keep them accountable.
- Dads can disciple their children on Mother's Day by leading them in worship of God and biblical honor for mom.
- But Moms can disciple their children on Mother's Day by focusing their eyes on the Savior.
- A humble mother is going to make a bigger deal out of her Lord than herself. What better way to lead your children in the worship of God than to take a day designed by the world to celebrate you and turn it into an opportunity to praise God.
- And we can do this for our friends as well. If you have a friend who's at odds with his or her mother, you can worship God and disciple that friend by encouraging him talk with his mom or going with her to apologize to her mother.
- God has given us the same Ambassadorial role of reconciliation that He gave to Jesus. We disciple best when we help those who are positionally reconciled to God to be relationally reconciled to each other.