



09 May 2025

Mother's Day

By now we all know, or should know, that this Sunday we will celebrate Mother's Day.

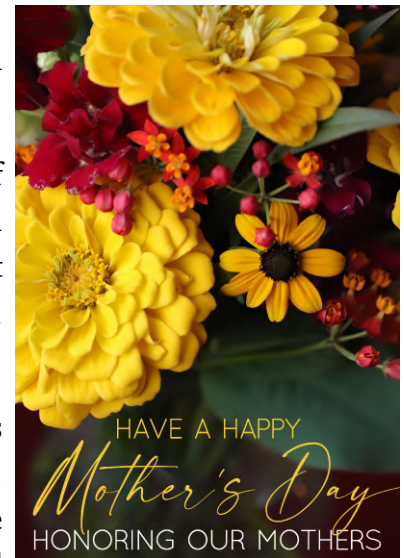
The idea of this special day goes back to a different kind of celebration about 400 years ago in England where people were called to visit their home town church, or *mother church*. Over time it became a time when people would return home to visit their family, and from there it began to decline.

The Mother's Day we celebrate had its roots just over a hundred years ago in a woman who wanted to honor her mother, and all mothers. It began with a memorial service for her mother in a church where each woman there was given a white carnation. She later regretted what the day became with the commercialization. Canada started observing the day in 1914.

Even with the commercialism I am glad we have Mother's Day on our calendar. Yes, it is not a special day the Bible tells us to observe, but there is a solid foundation in Scripture for honoring both our mothers and fathers.

- Exodus chapter 20 verse 12 states, "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the LORD your God gives you."
- Deuteronomy chapter 5 verse 16 repeats that, "Honor your father and your mother, just as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well for you on the land which the LORD your God is giving you."
- The Holy Spirit directed Paul to restate that in the opening of Ephesians chapter 6, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth."

Honoring our mothers who gave us life is important. Recall that when Jesus, God the Son, was on the cross He honored His mother by directing His close disciple to take care of her, to provide for



her as if she were his mother. The apostle John records in his gospel, chapter 19,

“when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household” (26-27).

Celebrating Mother’s Day falls into the area of Christian freedom that the apostle Paul addressed in Romans chapter 14.

“One person values one day over another, another values every day the same. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and the one who eats, does so with regard to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and the one who does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat, and he gives thanks to God” (5-6).

When Mother’s Day approaches some people experience great pain rather than exuberant joy. We know that. We need to be sensitive to that.

All of us can and should celebrate that mothers are part of God’s design for the family, and not just for bringing children into the world but also to teach them about God and point them to Him. We can and should thank God that our mothers brought us into this world. We can and should honor mothers for their faithfulness to God’s design as they provide love, care and direction. We can and should honor mothers in a society which continues to move away from and even repudiates God’s design for the family. We can and should be thankful for all mothers, including those who have not had or lost their own children who have mothered others emotionally and spiritually.

Happy Mother’s Day!

Pastor Lyle

