

The Mother of all Mothers

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 3:20

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This is Mother's Day and for those of you, whose mother is living remember her today and tell her you love her; and if she is sitting next to you, do it now. No one except Jesus Christ will ever love you as much as a godly mother.

God's particular love for His people is *agape* love; unconditional love; love that does not originate from an expectation of receiving anything in return.

"We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

It is the nature of a mother's love to be unconditional. How often do we see a mother on TV whose grown child has committed a most heinous crime and she will not admit that it is possible for her child to have done such an evil thing. And even if the child is proven to be guilty she still loves the child. That is unconditional love.

One of my functions as an elder of this church is administration. My duties, in addition to teaching and preaching, include moderating Church Business Meetings, producing Financial Reports, the oversight of building maintenance, obtaining certain kitchen and office supplies and such.

So it falls to me to administer the preaching schedule for the elders. One of the benefits of biblical plurality of elders is the flexibility of the preaching schedule. For example, an elder wants to have the continuity of eight consecutive weeks to preach a series of messages; no problem. Another elder is ill and on a moment's notice needs a preacher to take his turn; no problem. An elder has a speaking engagement that will take him away on Sunday when he is scheduled to preach; no problem. We try to manage the number of times in a twelve-month period that the four of us preach on Sunday, and that is by mutual agreement, so over the year it will not really matter if an elder preaches three or more Sunday's in a row or however it works out.

That, then, is sort of a confession on my part in that I sometimes take advantage of my administrative role and try to assign Brother Swain or Brother Gables or Brother Bunger to preach on special days because I really don't enter into the spirit of a given special day. But this year I deliberately assigned myself to preach on Mother's Day and on Father's Day. It does not come easily to me.

There are special days on the calendar such as Easter, Christmas, et al.

Then there are birthdays; we all have a birthday.

We believe that the Bible is our only rule for faith and practice. Amen?

Then what is the scriptural model for recognizing someone's birthday?

There are only two occasions of a "birthday party" recorded in the Bible.

One birthday in the Bible was the pharaoh's when Joseph interpreted his dream and the chief baker was hanged {Genesis 40:20-23}.

The other birthday was King Herod's where John the Baptist was beheaded. {Mark 6:14-29}

Now I am not seriously suggesting that we have to kill someone to scripturally recognize the guest of honor's birthday but there is no other Scripture to follow.

Why aren't you laughing?

Those of you who know me well know that I am not given to observing special calendar days. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in his book on preaching advises preachers to always take notice of special days because the minds of the hearers are expecting it. So were you expecting a "Mother's Day" sermon?

Listen carefully: I do not despise anyone for observing special days but likewise you must not judge me for not taking much notice of them.

We can extract the application to Mother's Day from the principle given in:

Romans 14:1-13

Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another's

servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose* and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

¹¹ For it is written:

*"As I live, says the LORD ,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God."*

¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

With that caveat I want to honor mothers on this special day not invented by but co-opted and driven by the sellers of greeting cards, boxes of candy, and florists.

That's too cynical I guess, but it's honest.

“Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day; on May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white carnation as a tribute to one's mother, the custom developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased. Over time the day was expanded to include others, such as grandmothers and aunts, who played mothering roles. What had originally been primarily a day of honour became associated with the sending of cards and the giving of gifts, however, and, in protest against its commercialization, Jarvis spent the last years of her life trying to abolish the holiday she had brought into being.”

Encyclopedia Britannica

That is the history of Mother's Day in America.

Rather than the obligatory sermon from Proverbs 31; the Scripture that is almost always the text used for Mother's Day:

Proverbs 31:10-12

¹⁰ Who* can find a virtuous* wife?

For her worth *is* far above rubies.

¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.

¹² She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:28-30

²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her:

²⁹ "Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all."

³⁰ Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing,
But a woman *who* fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

Now I imply no criticism of using Proverbs 31 on Mother's Day, I am sure that I have used that Scripture myself sometime or other on Mother's Day in the past 40 years or so, but I decided to take a different approach today.

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Being an engineer by secular training, I must first define the term "mother."

Miriam Webster's electronic dictionary gives the following:

1 **moth·er** \ 'mō-thər\ *noun*

[ME *moder*, fr. OE *mōdor*; akin to OHG *muoter* mother, L *mater*, Gk *mētēr*, Skt *mātṛ*]

1 a : a female parent

b (1): a woman in authority ; *specif*: the superior of a religious community of women
(2): an old or elderly woman

2 : [source origin](#) <necessity is the ~ of invention>

3 : maternal tenderness or affection

4 expletive deleted

5 : something that is an extreme or ultimate example of its kind esp. in terms of scale <the ~ of all construction projects>

— moth·er·hood \- "hʊd\ *n*

— moth·er·less \-ləs\ *adj*

— moth·er·less·ness *n*

2 mother *adjective*

1 a : of, relating to, or being a mother

b : bearing the relation of a mother

2 : derived from or as if from one's mother

3 : acting as or providing parental stock — used without reference to sex

3 mother *vt*, **moth·ered moth·er·ing** \ˈmə-thə-rɪŋ, ˈmɒθ-rɪŋ\

1 a : to give birth to

b : to give rise to : [produce](#)

2 : to care for or protect like a mother

4 **mother** *n* [**archaic** *mother* dregs, lees; akin to MD *moeder* dregs]

(ca. 1828) : [mother of vinegar](#)

So much for the technical definitions of the word “mother.”

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Now let’s see how the Bible portrays the “Mother of all Mothers.”

How many of you have ever heard a sermon on Eve? There have been many sermons preached about the Fall when Eve is mentioned but I have never heard or preached a sermon mainly about Eve.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 3:20

Have you thought much about how amazing a woman was Eve?

While it is true she was deceived by Satan and that she enticed Adam, who willingly joined her in the heinous sin of trying to be independent from God their Creator, yet Eve submitted to the Word of God when she heard the first hint of the Gospel message.

When we sin and are rebuked by the Word of God do we likewise submit?

Let’s consider the world’s first mother.

Turn to Genesis 2 and follow in your own Bible as I read, paying special attention to Eve’s actions and words.

No one in my immediate audience believes in evolution but if someone hears this all I ask is, is this a plausible explanation of beginnings or does the eternal existence of matter and time and chance explain your being?

Genesis 2:15-25

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him {"caused him to rest,"} in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³ And Adam said:

"This *is* now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

[This is the institution of marriage.

The Bible opens and closes with a marriage.]

Revelation 19:6-10

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the* Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

[This is an important point; shame is the result of sin.]

Genesis 3

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

[This is what is termed "The Fall of Man".]

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

[This is a confession by Eve.]

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,

You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

[Verse 15 is a prophecy by God Himself of how He would deal with sin. A Seed will come from the woman who will defeat Satan through suffering as a Man on the cross of Calvary. The rest of the Bible is a commentary on this verse. The Gospel is Christ died for sinners.]

16 To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire *shall be* for your husband,
And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

"Cursed *is* the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat *of* it
All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you *are*,
And to dust you shall return."

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — **23** therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

The evidence that Eve believed God's promise to produce a "seed" from her who would bruise [destroy] the head of the serpent is found in Genesis 4:1.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

Eve acknowledged that the Lord gave her this baby. She was taken out of man and now the second man is taken out of her. And so it will be until the Lord returns and there is no more need for children to be born.

"Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as the woman was from the man, even so the man is through the woman; but all things are from God."

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

God is the Author of conception

God is the Author of conception. The circumstance of conception does not alter the fact that the baby is a human being.

Ruth 4:13

So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

Abortion is a national sin against God and God may well already have America under a final judgment.

Firsts

This amazing **first** woman, Eve, gave birth to the world's **first** baby and she had no mother or sister or aunt to tell her what to expect or what to do! Now I am allowing that the Lord Himself must have informed Eve when she was "walking in the garden in the cool of the day." But the Bible is silent about that and we can only guess at what she knew. The point is that she believed the LORD God and named her first-born after God's promise.

Eve named her first-born “Cain” which means “acquired.”

Speaking of “firsts” did Cain have the first belly button? Adam and Eve would not have had one as a process of birth but the Lord may have given them one anyway. That question is not too high on my list of things that I have to know the answer.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Back to some more “firsts.”

Not only did Eve experience the first birth she had to endure the grief of knowing that her first son was the **first** murderer.

She would be comforted in the fact that her second son was the **first** saint to go to heaven.

In preparing for this sermon I saw another “first” in Genesis that I had not seen before. Eve is the **first** person to speak the name of our covenant God. “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”

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Some of my most painful memories are of some of the things that I did before I was saved that were a shame for my own mother. Young men and women do you care what your mother thinks of your behavior, your language, your manner of dress? What is said and done by you may be overlooked in kindness but the pain you cause can last a very long time.

Eve, the mother of all living

There are four passages in the Bible that contain the name "Eve" and refer to the wife of the original man, Adam:

1. And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Genesis 3:20

2. Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Genesis 4:1

3. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

4. **12** And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. **13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve. **14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. **15** Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 Timothy 2:12-15

There is the matter of the historicity of Adam and Eve. Were they actually man and woman, or is the Genesis story of Creation a myth? The Apostle Paul and the Lord Jesus accepted the historical account and if they were mistaken on something so basic what else did they not understand?

Eve is not mentioned by name by Jesus but there can be no mistake that He is referring to her.

Matthew 19:3-6

³The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?"

⁴And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made* *them* at the beginning '*made them male and female,*'* ⁵ and said, '*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*'* ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

God first created Adam and gave him dominion over the entire creation and gave him pleasant work to do. Among Adam's assignments was to name all of the other living creatures. Adam named them after their kind. Adam didn't simply name them Fred and Charlie, etc. ; he classified them according to their kind.

As all the living creatures were brought to Adam for him to name them there was nothing found among them that would serve as a helper comparable to him.

God said that "it is not good for the man to be alone" so God made the man a helper that corresponded to him.

Adam needed a companion that he would recognize as being the same kind as himself.

In Proverbs 30:18-19, the words of Agur:

¹⁸ There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: ¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

Consider the goodness of God in designing the correspondence of a man and a woman. God created man and woman and He joined them in marriage in the Garden of Eden and He blessed that sexual relationship and none other.

The fact that Adam, while surrounded by living creatures of every description, was alone [i.e. lonely], and that God knew that he would need companionship comparable to him, shows us the need for fellowship.

A proper marriage relationship is between one man and one woman and is the most satisfying arrangement that two people can ever have.

That said, as America plods closer and closer to Sodom.

Eve was created from the man's rib. This shows us that no other living creature can properly serve as his companion. Adam was delighted when he first saw Eve.

Imagine what Adam thought when he awoke from the deep sleep that God had put him in and saw this beautiful creature before him.

Adam recognized that Eve corresponded to him and exclaimed, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man.”

Actually Eve was given two names.

The **first** name Adam gave her was “Woman” Hebrew: *ishshah* [literally, “man - ess”]

Years ago Dr. John Whitcomb was teaching in this church on this passage and he said, “Woman meant man with a womb.”

Woman is her generic description that refers to her relationship to the man.

The **second** name is Eve, Hebrew: *chawwah* [literally, “life”]

Eve is the “the mother of all living,” the mother of the human race, or the “Mother of all Mothers.”

Her function is to produce “life.”

Childbirth is painful, so I am told and we are informed why that is so in Genesis 3:16

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

As a result of “The Fall”

Genesis 3:6

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

This remarkable woman was the weaker vessel. Paul tells us that that is the reason that women are not to be put in authority over men in spiritual matters. Now that causes anger with the woman's rights people. But I didn't write the Bible and I feel no need to defend what it teaches. My only duty is to teach it as faithfully as I know how.

Charles Spurgeon responded to the question of defending the Bible by saying, "Defend the Bible, I would as soon defend a lion."

It seems from Genesis 2 that God created Adam and gave him the command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before Eve was made out of Adam's bone. So it may be that Eve did not hear the direct command of God.

The woman is the one who has the dialog with the serpent. She adds to what God had told Adam was forbidden to do, saying that "you must not touch it." It may be that Adam had added to the command when he instructed Eve, but we simply do not know that.

While this may mitigate her guilt to some degree she nonetheless knew that she was not to eat that particular fruit. It all comes down to both Eve and Adam wanting to throw off God's authority. The sin then and now is to want to be independent of God.

Since Eve was deceived it may well be that she added the prohibition not to touch the fruit by way of rationalizing her acceptance of the "unfairness" of God that was suggested by Satan.

When Genesis 3 is expounded upon usually Adam is the main player and indeed Adam was the representative man. But both Eve and Adam challenged God the Creator's prerogative to establish law. Eve was the first postmodernist in that she would not accept the principle of moral absolutes; objective truth of right and wrong.

It may sound as though I am being too hard on Eve but all I have done is to use the biblical record to talk about her significance.

On this Mother's Day we have considered the "Mother of all Mothers."

A mother is one of the most amazing creatures and a man cannot ever really understand how a mother thinks.

Motherhood and marriage and bearing children and raising children and teaching them right and wrong and being a wife and chauffeur and a nurse and a cook and a janitor and the hundreds of other things that mothers do is too often unappreciated.

So I do not deny you mothers the honor of a special day.

To all the mothers: "Happy Mother's Day."