

Happy Mother's Day to you all who are able to celebrate the Mother's Day with your great mom today! For those who are not able to celebrate this day due to the passing of your great mom OR because of not-so-good relationship you have with your mom, I am offering my prayers for God's comfort.

Since it is Mother's Day, I feel like it would be good to start the message with "Momisms" which sums up all the things that a mother would say to her children in a 24-hour period. Here it goes...

Video: ["Momisms (The Mom Song)"; 2:58]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxjLVyYiIgM>

Yes, our mothers say a lot, don't they? Yet, we love our moms and we will talk about loving our moms by honoring them today.

Ephesians 6:2-3 says this *"Honor your father and mother. This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. Not all the Ten Commandments have a promise but this one does. And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, you will live a long life, full of blessing."* That's a promise from God.

Then, the question before us is this: ***How do we honor our parents?*** At each stage of our life, our relationship to our mother and our father changes. We have one relationship as a child, and another relationship as a teenager, as a young adult. Also, we have a third relationship as an adult to adult with our parents. The Bible says something about these three relationships.

1. First, the Bible says as a child we honor our mother and father by obeying them.

That's kind of obvious but that's what the Bible says. We honor our mother and father by obeying them—by doing what they ask, by following instructions, and by minding directions. I do it willingly. I do it cheerfully. And I do it immediately sometimes 😊 That honors God by honoring our parents.

Ephesians 6:1 says this, *"Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you."* **One of the most important life skills we have to learn in life is how to respond and relate to authority.** One of the things we have to teach our children growing up is the difference between

position and person. The person may be a not-a-good-person but we are to honor their position.

The Bible says that God has ordained three authorities on earth. There's authority in the home (Eph 6:10), in the church (Heb 13:17), and in government (1 Pet 2:13-14). They each have different roles and different spheres of influence.

But a child who grows up thinking, *Nobody is ever going to tell me what to do*, isn't going to hold down a job for very long. A lot of times, we have to do things we don't want to do because somebody in authority, a boss or employer, asks us to do it. So, we are to honor our parents by obeying them as a child. What happens when we become a teenager? The Bible says this...

2. As a young adult we honor my parents two ways.

First, by respecting them. **Leviticus 19:3** says "*Each of you must respect his mother and father.*" **Hebrews 12:9** says "*We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us.*"

Respect does not mean we don't see their weaknesses. In fact, as we grow older they become very obvious that our parents are flawed human beings just like we are. By the time we get to be a teenager we see their flaws. As a teenager, usually all we see in our parents are their flaws.

But God says respect them in spite of those. Respect means two things. It means we accept them and we forgive them. **Accepting and forgiving is part of honoring and part of respecting.**

Accepting our parents – the good, the bad and realizing that God gave them to us; they're our parents. And we accept them. You may say, "Why should I accept my parents? I didn't have a choice." Neither did they! Unless you were adopted and then you are one of the few special ones who actually was chosen to be their child and you get special privileges. But if you were just born they didn't get a choice of what they were getting either. *Think about that.*

Respect means also forgiving. We need to forgive our parents for their weaknesses and their faults because we're going to need forgiveness too in our life. We're not perfect. So we honor our parents as we grow into adulthood by respecting them. We don't talk to them disrespectfully. We honor them by the way we talk to them. They're our parents.

We honor our parents **by listening to them as a young adult**. The Bible talks about listening, the value of listening to our parents. **Proverbs 13:1** says *“Intelligent children listen to their parents; foolish children do their own thing.”* Shall we be the intelligent children or foolish ones? The choice is ours.

So as a young adult we are to honor our parents by respecting them and not treating them with disrespect, and we listen to them.

But most of us here are grown-ups and in the third stage in relating to our parents. The Bible also says something about our adult to adult relationships with our parents, particularly as they get older and aged. The Bible says two things.

3. As an adult we honor our parents two ways.

First, by appreciating them! **Proverbs 23:22** says this: *“When your mother is old, show her your appreciation.”* There are a thousand things we could appreciate but let me just share two for today.

One, appreciate their efforts. We can appreciate their efforts. Parenting is difficult. It’s time consuming and it’s demanding. Have you ever thought about how much easier your parents’ life would have been if they hadn’t had you?

Personal illustration if time allows- Being not an easy child: Being sick, a strong-will-child, etc.
Mom never gives up on her child and gives her best effort to her child!

When was the last time you thanked your parents for putting up with you? Please thank them while you still have them with you. We need to appreciate our parents’ effort.

Another thing to appreciate is their sacrifice. Parenting is expensive. According to a recent report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average cost to raise a child born in 2013 will be **\$245,300**. This does not include when they come back home. It’s very expensive to raise children. Not only the cost of raising a child in dollars, they give up their personal time for us, their children. It is an unselfish decision to be a parent. As an adult we honor our parents first by appreciating them.

The second way that we honor our parents as an adult is by meeting their needs. As time passes the roles reverse. As our parents age, we start taking care of them. This is the natural and normal way. They took care of us and later in life we are to take care of them. Many of us have already moved into this stage. Because

people are living longer these days *many of us are in what I call the sandwich generation* where you take care of both parents and children.

What about elderly people whose spouse has died or they're on their own or they have no children to take care of them? Who's supposed to take care of those? **1 Timothy 5** says this, "[In your church] *treat the older women as you would your own mother*, [any older woman you see in here, you treat her like your own mother] *and treat the younger women [in the church family] as your own sisters.*"

The Bible says...*The church should care for any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness by taking care of their parents. It is their first responsibility to show godliness at home. Not at work, not at church but we are to show godliness first at home by taking care of them.*

Even on the cross Jesus took care of his aged mother. Think about this. The Savior of the world is dying for the sins of all mankind. There's nothing more important than what Jesus is doing on the cross. And on the cross he only said seven statements. But one of them had to do with his mother and taking care of her after he was gone.

He says things like "*Father forgive them because they don't know what they're doing.*" And he says, "*It is finished.*" Salvation is paid for. But right in the middle of all of this he looks down to John the disciple, one of his friends, standing next to his mother Mary and he says, "*John, behold your mother. Mother, behold your son.*"

Jesus is transferring care of his mother who was under his care because Mary was alone. Her husband, Joseph, disappeared from her life for a long time for some reasons. She was a single mom. He's transferring care of his mother to his best friend. Caring for our aged parents is so important that Jesus modeled while dying on the cross for our sins.

Personal illustration if time allows- Caring for the parents-in-law and being cared by them, etc.
Caring elderly is a Christian thing to do!

1 Timothy 5:8 says, "*If anyone doesn't take care of his own family, especially his immediate family, he has denied the Christian faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*" That's pretty strong words. The fact is this: We honor God when we honor the parents. Whether they were good, bad, or in different parents, we honor God by taking care of our aged parents.

It doesn't take a lot of money to honor our mother and father. It just takes a lot of love in sharing our TIME. They don't need you to buy them expensive things. They just do need our attention. And they do need our love. Make a phone call or visit your parents today to tell them you appreciate them for being your parents if you have not done so. It would make them happy for sure.

For honoring our parents, I would like to close the message by offering a special Mother's Day prayer. Let us prayer.

Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers! Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us, and women who have treated us as their own children. You teach us how to be good mothers, cherishing and protecting the children among us. Help us mother lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy. Help us raise our children to be the people they are born to be.

We need your comfort here today, Lord, because some are missing mothers, some are missing children, some are parted by distance or death. Comfort those who have given up their child for adoption, or who chose not to give birth, and had an abortion. Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not. We pray for those here whose mothers have disappointed them; we ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness, for healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence. Help our congregation be a space where people can feel mothered, their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.

Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world; mothers who cannot feed their children, mothers who are homeless or without a homeland; mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets. Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty. God of mothers, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother, God our Mother, loving us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known, hear our prayer this day, Amen.