

The Heart of a Mother

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

Finding ways to celebrate some of the most important people in the world is how most of us started this week. Flowers, cards, and a dinner at a local restaurant are some of the modes that we found to say "I love you." This past Sunday was that day that we annually set aside as an honorarium for mothers. While the tradition of commemorating our moms on the second Sunday of May goes back to 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson ratified the request of Congress and signed it into our national calendar, the heart of showing appreciation for the ones we love the most goes way back.

One of the things that make Mother's Day different from some of the other "special events" on the calendar is that it was not born by the creative team of the marketing department of some greeting card company looking to increase sales. It all started in church one Sunday morning when a woman named Anna went up to talk to her pastor. She felt that God had a whole lot to say in the Scriptures about bringing honor to fathers and mothers and that more could be done in obedience to that admonition in her local congregation. Anna requested that there might be a special worship service that reflects the Bible teachings concerning giving due homage to mothers. The pastor agreed. On May 10, 1908, they celebrated a special Mother's Day worship service in that local church and Anna personally brought carnations for every mom present.

Since the idea of reflecting on the essential value of motherhood struck a chord in so many hearts, this concept exploded so quickly that it was only six years later when our national leaders formally adopted the occasion. Everybody seems to understand that we need our mothers. And yet, honestly, we often fail to appreciate, and encourage these wonderful women enough.

There are a lot of pressures put on women these days and moms seem to carry the brunt of society's demands. They are expected to do everything. There is an ominous sense that the amount of stress that many mothers carry is too heavy to bear. One can't be at each parent meeting and participate in every car pool, strategize learning methods with each teacher and help with every homework assignment. She can't be forever flawless. Sometimes her meals will not taste good and the laundry won't get done. Her makeup may run on a hot day and bad hair days come with the job. There will be some sports and hobbies that she just won't enjoy with those she loves and persistent patience will sometimes run thin. Praise God that we have human mothers. That means they aren't as perpetually perfect as we once believed when we were young and a kiss from her removed pain and dried tears. They

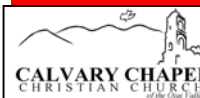
are faithful yet fragile, extremely valuable and yet sometimes vulnerable.

Have you ever heard the saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world"? I think that there is a sense of truth that resonates with this. God has given the role of motherhood tremendous influence in the outcome of her kids. Sometimes I will tell the testimony of my own mom and her heroics in raising my sister and I. The day my wife became a mom would change her life forever. Shelley has credibility in the eyes of anyone who knows her and our four children. It's not easy and awe-inspiring women are doing it every day. I was reflecting on the profound influence of these women in my own life and considering how I can best obey God and give them the proper honor. This is the first Mother's Day without my "grams"; my faith filled Grandmother who always prayed for me. She died last November. Although she has passed from this Earth to be in the presence of Jesus, her legacy lives on here in that my current life is the answer to her prayer.

The impact of mothers can't be overstated. Mom, do you realize that you are changing the world? We need to do everything in our power to support and encourage this critical role. I believe it is a holy call of God, not to be taken lightly, and is a unique role that there is no replacement for. If you fail at your job, they will replace you. If you can't meet your community volunteering commitments, they will get through it. But in your role as mom to your kids, there is none but you. No backup plan. By putting first things first, you will never regret the life you lived as a mom. Live it with all your heart, by the power of God's spirit, and you will have all that you need. We love you!

To read other articles by Pastor Dan visit [Ojai Valley News Articles](#)

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



P.O. Box 1443
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-9498
www.calvaryojai.org

Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:30am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View