CHCC – May 10, 2015

**What Godly Moms Tell Us About God**

Erma Bombeck tells of God in the act of creating mothers. She says that on the day God created mothers He had already worked long overtime. And an angel said to Him, "Lord, you sure are spending a lot of time on this one."

The Lord turned & said, "Have you read the specs on this model? She is supposed to be completely washable, but not plastic. She is to have 180 moving parts, all of them replaceable. She is to have a kiss that will heal everything from a broken leg to a broken heart. She is to have a lap that will disappear whenever she stands up. She is to be able to function on black coffee & leftovers. And she is supposed to have six pairs of hands."

"Six pairs of hands," said the angel, "that’s impossible." "It’s not the six pairs of hands that bother me," said the Lord, "It’s the three pairs of eyes. She is supposed to have one pair that sees through closed doors so that whenever she says, `What are you kids doing in there?’ she already knows what they’re doing in there."

"She has another pair in the back of her head to see all the things she is not supposed to see but must see. And then she has one pair right in front that can look at a child that just goofed & communicate love & understanding without saying a word."

"That’s too much." said the angel, "You can’t put that much in one model. Why don’t you rest for a while & resume your creating tomorrow?"

"No, I can’t," said the Lord. "I’m close to creating someone very much like myself. I’ve already come up with a model who can heal herself when she is sick - who can feed a family of six with one pound of hamburger - & who can persuade a nine year old to take a shower."

Then the angel looked at the model of motherhood a little more closely & said, "She’s too soft." "Oh, but she is tough," said the Lord. "You’d be surprised at how much this mother can do."

"Can she think?" asked the angel. "Not only can she think," said the Lord, "but she can reason & compromise & persuade."

Then the angel reached over & touched her cheek. "This one has a leak," he said. "I told you that you couldn’t put that much in one model." "That’s not a leak," said the Lord. "That’s a tear.” "What’s a tear for?" asked the angel. "Well it’s for joy, for sadness, for sorrow, for disappointment, for pride." "You’re a genius," said the angel. And the Lord said, "Oh, but I didn’t put it there."

God made mothers with incredible capacities – he made Fathers as well

God is presented to us as Father. We address him that way and we learn about him as a Father. God is a He and he also encompasses all he has created in both genders. God created mothers as well to reflect his attributes as well and we can learn so much about God from exploring the ways in which Moms interact with their kids.

So there are some who would love to be a mom and are not. God see your longing and he knows what you are going through. Some have never known their moms and there may be some deep pain in that.

A mom’s love is so deep and tenacious and protecting and hopeful and gracious. A mom’s love encourages to be what we were meant to be.

Here’s the thing about moms. They love us unconditionally and they also want to help us get better.

God loves us just as we are and he loves us too much to leave us where we are.

We want to look this morning at moms who we can see and relate that to a God that we cannot see. The great thing about creation is that throughout creation you can see clues about what God is like. Look at the stars and you realize his vastness and greatness. Look at an ant and you see his intricacy and design. Look at a flower and you see His beauty.

1. **God loves us just as we are:**
2. **Like Moms, God is Protecting & Caring** (Wayne)

**(Pictures – Lioness / Bear / Owl – nurturing and protecting)**

You don’t mess with mom! She will take you apart.

Story: The crow outside of the Cloverdale Library

**(Pictures – Israeli mom protecting her child / mother Hen)**

**Luke 13:34**

**34“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.**

God is for us and looking to care for us in powerful ways.

Come and let me take care of you. I will give up my life for you. Stories of hens staying over their chicks during a fire.

When that baby is born and is so tiny and given to the mom. It’s amazing the bond that is there.

The stories of mothers giving up their lives for their children is legendary.

Story:

Years ago, a mother was walking across the hills of southern Wales carrying her baby when she was overtaken by a blizzard. When the storm subsided, her body was found beneath a mound of snow. Before she died, however, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it around her baby.

When unwrapped, the baby boy was found alive and well. Years later, that child, David Lloyd George, became the prime minister of Great Britain and one of England’s greatest statesmen.

Story:

Princess Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria, had a little boy who became very sick with black diphtheria. Doctors quarantined the boy and told the mother to stay away.

She tried, until one day she overheard him whisper to the nurse, “Why doesn’t my mother kiss me anymore?” Princess Alice ran to her son and smothered him with kisses. Within a few days, both died.

I will actually give my life for you. That is what Jesus literally did.

**Isaiah 46:3-4**

**“Listen to me, descendants of Jacob,**

 **all you who remain in Israel.**

**I have cared for you since you were born.**

 **Yes, I carried you before you were born.**

**4I will be your God throughout your lifetime—**

 **until your hair is white with age.**

**I made you, and I will care for you.**

 **I will carry you along and save you.**

God’s capacities to care for us are much more far reaching than our moms. The stories are legendary of moms caring for their kids. God has no human limitations. He is able to be completely be there for you when you are out of reach of any human. “I will carry you along”

“God, you got this.”

It has been said: "A father becomes concerned when his child breaks a bone….a mother when her child skins a knee!"

Just where you are as you are, a mom is loving you and protecting you and nurturing you. You don’t have to perform for moms – it’s like you are a part of them. You literally were. God cares for his own. God will never leave you.

Illustration: A mother who had twelve children was asked which one she loved the best. Her answer: "The one who’s sick until he gets well; and the one who is away until he gets back home!"

Susanne’s mom – mother died while she was an infant and then the nuns gave her to a young couple. The mom loved her deeply but unfortunately the father was a very difficult man and he ended up kidnapping Susanne’s mom and travelled as a logger from town to town in Northern BC. Her mom hired a private investigator to find her. She fought to get her back and cared for her until she passed away when Susanne’s mom was in her last year of high school. Never legally her mother but took that role and lived it.

**Picture of an eagle and young**

**Deuteronomy 32:11**

**Like an eagle that rouses her chicks
    and hovers over her young,
so he spread his wings to take them up
    and carried them safely on his pinions.**

I had to check out what pinions means: the terminal section of a bird's wing including the carpus, metacarpus, and phalanges; *broadly*:  [wing](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wing)

You cannot make God reject you. When you turn to him and put your life in his hands, he will care for you.

God is not careless with us. Bring our real selves to him and he will put his arms around us.

God loves you just where you are. The goal of our homes…You come home from school and it has been conditional love you just know there is an unconditional love that is ready to nurture and care for you.

Thank you moms for that kind of care that puts you out and causes you to make sacrifices

It’s this love that wants to make sure you are OK. Checking in with you and making sure you get home ok. A mom’s concern for her kids. Praying for them when they are going down a path that may hurt them.

1. **Like Moms, God is Our Cheerleader** (Wally)

And when we begin to realize the gift/freedom we are given to fly like a young eagle by our Moms/by God, then God, like our moms, becomes our greatest cheerleader!

* ***Video: The Incredibles (25 seconds)***

“That’s my boy!”

* In John 2:1-11 there is a similar scene:

***The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, 2and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.”***

***4“Dear woman, that’s not our problem,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”***

***5But his mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”***

***6Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. 7Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” When the jars had been filled, 8he said, “Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies.” So the servants followed his instructions.***

***9When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. 10“A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”***

***11This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed* in him.**

**12After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.**

I can just picture Mary on that walk to Capernaum … strutting proud as a peacock, telling everyone, “That’s my boy!”

* Throughout Jesus’ life, especially in his ministry years, Mary is always close by … protecting, caring like a Godly mom does, but also cheering, “That’s my boy!”
* And I know without a shadow of a doubt, that those words are spoken with joy and pride every day from God’s throne about you!
* **Every day God looks at us and says, “That’s my girl/boy!”**
* From the moment you were conceived, Psalm 139:13 says,

***You/God made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16You saw me before I was born.***

* And what does God say about his creation in Genesis 1:27,31

***God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them… Then God looked over all he had made and he saw that it was very good!***

If you don’t hear God’s voice telling you every day of your life that you are very good, stop and do one of two things on those days:

* Sit with God reading/listening to Psalm 139 & Genesis 1:27-31 … hearing the words directly from his throne.
* …or, reach out to the other cheerleading voice that God intends to speak into your life, a Godly mother … and mom’s speak those words of God.
* If you’re having one of those days … stop, choose either option, because **the message from a Godly mother is the same as it is from God himself:**

**“That’s my boy!” “You’re my boy!”**

**“That’s my girl!” “You’re my girl!”**

**“I created you and you are very good!”**

**“I love you just the way you are!”**

Like moms, God is our great cheerleader.

* And not only does God cheer us on just as we are, incredibly, he loves us too much to leave us where we are … Pastor Wayne…
1. **God loves us too much to leave us where we are:**
2. **Like Moms, God Helps us Grow Up** (Wayne)

Come follow me/discipling/training

Helping us to grow.

**Hebrews 5:12**

**You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.**

Illustration: Pablum

Can you imagine eating Pablum until you are 70?

God wants us to grow up. Little kids are cute but you would wonder after a while if a kid didn’t grow.

Modeling: Kids are watching and learning. Always are.

Setting up boundaries: You must not go there. It’s not cool to take Johnny’s toy in the nursery. You are going to have a time out.

Here’s how several elementary school students answered the following questions about moms:

*Why did God make mothers?*

• She’s the only one who knows where the Scotch tape is.

• Mostly to clean the house.

• To help us out of there when we were getting born.

*How did God make mothers?*

• He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.

• Magic plus superpowers and a lot of stirring.

*Of what ingredients are mothers made?*

• God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean.

*Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?*

• We’re related.

• God knew she likes me a lot more than other people’s moms like me.

“Things moms teach us”.
\* Mothers teach us about foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you’re in an accident."
\* Mothers teach us about logic: "If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don’t come crying to me."
\* Mothers teach us about maturity: "Eat your vegetables or you’ll never grow up."
\* Mothers teach us about religion: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."
\* Mothers teach us about time travel: "If you don’t straighten up, I’m going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
\* Mothers teach us about contradictions: "Shut your mouth and eat your dinner!"
\* Mothers teach us about contortionism: "Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"
\* Mothers teach us about perseverance: "You are going to sit here until you eat every last piece of that broccoli."
\* Mothers teach us about genetics: "You’re just like your father."
\* Mothers teach us about the weather: "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."
\* Mothers teach us about the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Training: **(picture of Eagle)**

How to fly: Back to the lessons from the eagle, the little eaglets do get bigger. There is no way mom eagle can keep up with the hunting needed to support the growing bird. The little eaglet needs to learn how to fly. The eagle will carry the baby birds on their wings when it is time to leave the nest. In a sudden movement she swoops down to force them to fly alone but always near enough to swoop back under them when they become to weary to fly on their own. It is a powerful image of God nurturing and supporting us when we are weak yet always encouraging us to grow and mature.

Mom’s never give up in that role of training. It isn’t easy when you are in the middle of it and your kids are not too keen to learn to fly.

**2 Tim 1:5
I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.**

-The faith that was in Timothy was first in his Grandmother and in his mother.
They were an example of faith.
They taught him the scripture.

**2 Timothy 3:15
You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.**- Mother’s how much time do you spend talking to your children about the Scripture?
They should first hear about God from you.
Teach them the songs about Jesus.
Teach them about Jesus
Get a good Bible Story Book.

Read to them…sing with them. The Great commandment. Deut. 6:4-9 Teach them

Of all a mother can do, giving her life totally and completed to our Lord Christ will have the greatest impact on her children. Here’s why; a mom totally committed Jesus is a mom who will display a life that demonstrates everything good and right. Because of this she will instill in her children a need to love the Lord, to walk in His way, and fulfill His calling.

The result will be kids who:
i. Seek to discover this Jesus who Mom loves and serves so well.
ii. Find their purpose in life.
iii. Who make good decisions.

1. **Like Moms, God’s Love is Tenacious** (Wally)

And moms, on those days when it seems like all your efforts are for nothing … don’t give up on the next generation!

* One of the things I have come to learn from watching my mom, and especially my wife as the mother of my kids … is that Godly moms never give up!
* Godly moms are tenacious in their love, not only for their own children, but for all of the next generation, because God gives them an inherent drive, a tenacious love.
* The Bible tells us that God is a jealous and tenacious lover of his children!
* Romans 8 is one of the great chapters of the *Bible*. Why?
* Listen to what it says about our relationship with God:

***15****You received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”****16****For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.* ***17****And since we are his children, we are his heirs…*

***31****What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?* ***32****Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?*

***38****And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today, nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.****39No power in the sky above, or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

What a picture of God’s love – unfailing, unending, tenacious.

* Philippians 1:6 says,

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

* On that day, when that day is completed, we’re ushered fully into the presence of a God who loves us more than we can imagine.
* It’s like the day in the life of a toddler: scurrying about all day … mom watching over him, protecting him, caring for him, teaching him, correcting him, encouraging him…
* … and when the day is finally over, **(picture of child in mom’s arms)** he nestles into his mom’s arms and can sleep wrapped in contentment, peace, security, love without limits.

Moms you have an amazing calling, an unequalled opportunity to reveal God to children, to the next generation.

* God has equipped you to reveal his tenacious, unending love for humanity like no one else can.
* All women … you are created equally and uniquely in the image of God … we call it the Imago Dei.
* You can reveal who God is in ways that we men fall short … that’s part of the reason you were created female in his image … and God says you are “very good!”
* Embrace who you are as a daughter of the Most High King!
* Take advantage of the access you have to God’s throne.
* Go every day with confidence, so that you can tell us, especially the children/next generation, about your God!

**Conclusion – We Honour Godly Moms Because they Tell Us About God** (Wally)

Today, we honour you ladies, each and every one, daughters of the Most High King, God our Father.

* Would you take your rightful place at his throne daily…
* And like the women who went to see Jesus’ tomb, only to find out that he wasn’t there … like those women, would you come running with excitement and joy, telling us what you have seen and heard from God…
* **Truths about God’s love for us, how he wants to care for us, protect us, how he boasts about us being his children, (that’s my boy! That’s my girl!), how he wants to nurture us so we grow and can be perfected in his image, and how his love for us will never end.**
* We need to hear the voice of godly moms, of godly women … in our families, in our church, in our schools, in our neighbourhoods/community.

**Let’s pray.**

Ladies, all the women here today, would you please stand.

* Worship team come up … men, as you sit, please turn toward, extend your hand as a sign of blessing on these good, “very good” women.

Ephesians, chapter 3:

***14****When I think of all this … I pray to the Father,****15****the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.****16****I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you* (every woman standing here today), *with inner strength through his Spirit.* ***17****Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.*

***18****And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.****19****May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

***20****Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.****21****Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!*

*Amen.*