

Welcome to the glorious month of May, our amazing friends in Bluffton and beyond!! We trust you are all eager to step into this beautiful, warm month that we love and live it to the fullest!!! (We are ready for warm... What can we say? We're over COLD. Hear that, weather? We are OVER cold... It's been fun, kidding... Now, Move on!).

So, another month, another article. This has been lots of fun, huh? Wondering what in the world 'that church' is gonna tackle this time. Well, we're sure, if we were keeping tabs, someone has got this one right (if you've been playing the guessing game with us). It is the month of MOTHERS, after all!! Yep, you heard that right... moms are the ones on the agenda this month and what a beautiful topic they are!! (And, yes, oh so complicated!) We don't claim to know everything about them (who does? Let's be honest), but we all have one, so we're gonna talk about them for a few moments with ya! (And if we get it wrong, they'll tell us.)

MOMS: First things first...Yes, they can be extremely embarrassing (we've all been on the receiving end of that). They can read our mind when we don't want them to (grrrr), and they have a way of yelling our name in a crowd that will stop us in our tracks and cause everyone to look at us and say, "Oooo, you're in so much trouble!" They have a look that can scare the most rebellious child into instant obedience and their constant popping up everywhere and knowing everything can be a bit much (esp when we're cool and around friends and feel 'smothered' by them), but it reminds us that we are so very loved. And, truthfully, we may not admit it, but secretly, we never want to live our lives without them in it.

MOMS: They are so patient (they dealt with each of us after all, remember?). They are so loving and kind and supportive and faithful. They are a breath of fresh air and the wind beneath our wings. They are always willing to stay a step behind and have no problem with putting their kids in the spotlight. (They love to embarrass us. Thanks, mom). They don't really take compliments very well, and they have mastered the phrase, "It's just what moms do", so perfectly. (but, we know how awesome they really are though, don't we?).

MOMS: They aren't perfect. They have their flaws. They make mistakes and oftentimes wish they could have a do over. They know they don't always hit the target and sometimes think their failures are unforgivable (we forgive you, mom). They sometimes wish they had done things differently and their deepest heart's desire is to be the best mom their precious child(ren) will ever want or need them to be (Although they don't think they are). They stumble. They fall. They falter and they miss the mark.They aren't superhuman, but they sure do seem like it, sometimes, don't they? They get up early and stay up late. They check on us (constantly) and call to find us (over and over and over) if we're not there. They think we (their children) are the most precious, perfect, beautiful, smartest kids in the whole world!...and yet it costs them so much, cuz they put up with so much. A lot of sacrifice. A lot of mocking. A lot of hurt. A

lot of comparison. A lot of guilt. A lot of mistakes or misses. A lot of regrets. A lot of disrespect. A lot of dismissing. And a whole lot of dishonor...They are often underappreciated and overly ignored by the ones they would die for (no questions asked)... and, even after all that, here they are, in our lives, day after day, moment after moment, just trying their darndest to be all that we will ever need.

MOMS: God loved each of us so much that HE wanted us to have a mom. (You and I wouldn't be here, without HER). Someone to be our biggest cheerleader. Someone to push us beyond what we thought we could do or be. Someone who would always believe in us when we couldn't find the strength or confidence to believe in ourselves. Someone who would lay down their own agendas, dreams & desires (with no regrets) just to be with the ones they love the most (that'd be us kids). God knew we needed someone in our corner when life would be unfair, and a friend who would always stand by our side, even if the whole world chose to walk away. He knew we'd need someone to believe in us and celebrate our victories with us, all the days of our lives. And God knew no one in all the world could ever be those sweet things for us, like mom.

So, He gave us ours. And she deserves to be honored this month (well, every day of every month if we're being totally honest). She has improved our life and helped make us who we are today. She has patiently & lovingly poured herself into each one of us and we are who we are today (or who we're becoming if you're still a baby) because of her sacrifice, presence, time, encouragement, inspiration, patience, kindness, selflessness, and love and we will be forever grateful and better because of her. Yes, she deserves our honor. She has earned our love. She has gained our respect. She has captured our heart!

So today, we say, **HAPPY MOTHERS DAY** to the best human beings in the whole wide world!! We love you, mom!!

Exodus 20:12 TLB—12 “Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you.

* **To all those who have lost your mom, or who have not had a mom in your life, we love you and pray for you this Mother's Day season...