

## \* MOTHERHOOD, A REFLECTION OF GOD'S HEART | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 5/10/2026

CARE: Comfort | Abounding Love | Resilience | Empathy – A Reflection of God's Love (John 19:26-27)

**INTRO:** Today is **MOTHER'S DAY** — A Day of Gratitude, Reflection and even Mixed Emotions. → **For some**, it's joyful. **For others**, it brings loss, longing, or complicated memories. But wherever you find yourself today, I want to remind you that **God's Word speaks to all of us!** → **Few earthly gifts reflect God's Heart like a godly MOTHER!** – Through motherhood, God shapes lives, forms character, strengthens families, and influences generations. – God has placed mothers in the home to display His comfort, care, and faithful love. → **So then, Today is more than a Celebration**, it is a Reminder to **Honor how God uses mothers to Reveal His Heart** in a world that often grows cold \*

**MOTHERHOOD is Honored by God Himself (tt. John 19:26-27)** – Even while suffering on the cross, Jesus paused in His agony to CARE for His mother. – *“When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”*

- **Think about that moment...** Jesus was carrying the sins of the world. → Nails were in His hands and feet. → The weight of judgment rested upon Him. → **Yet He still made sure His mother would be CARED for!**
- **What a picture of HONOR: (Exodus 20:12)** *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”* → **Notice**—it does not say, *“Honor them if they were perfect.”* It simply says, **“Honor.”**
- **HONOR is an act of obedience to God.** – Jesus even **rebuked** those **who claimed to worship God** while neglecting their parents. (cf. **Matt 15:3-9**) (*Corban*)

**P/A:** In a world where Motherhood is often Undervalued, today we want to pause to say: **“Thank You, Mom!”** – But beyond appreciating earthly mothers, **we also see Something Deeper within the scriptures...** i.e., The Nurturing Qualities of a Mother REFLECT the Loving Character of God Himself.

- To explore this though today, I want to use the acronym: **C.A.R.E.** (i.e., of Mothers and of God)

**I. C — COMFORT:** *One of the greatest gifts of a Mother is **Comfort**.* – There is just something about a **mother's presence** that calms fear and eases pain: **A child can fall off a bicycle**, scrape a knee, and run past everyone else in the house shouting, **“Mom!”** Why? **Because mothers have a God-given ability to comfort.**

- **Someone humorously said:** *“No matter how old you get, when life falls apart, your first instinct is still to call your mother.”*
- **There is truth in that...** A mother may not always have the answer, but she knows how to bring comfort, reassurance, and hope! (*Thanks for Caring Mom!*)

**A. Limitation of Comfort (tt. Isa 49:15-16)** – **The Comfort of a mother is only a Reflection of the Comfort of God** *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely, they may forget, **Yet I will not forget you.** – See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands...”*

1. **What powerful words!** – God says, **“Even if human love fails, Mine never will.”**

2. Mothers Try Their Best, but **they are Human!** They cannot always be there. They cannot always protect us from every storm. → **But God never sleeps!** → God never forgets! God NEVER abandons His children! (*That's especially comforting to hear, because Satan whispers doubt in our ears every day!*)

**B. Lifetime of God's Comfort (tt. 2 Cor 1:3-4a)** *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation..."* – Notice the phrase: **"God of All Comfort."** It's Not partial comfort... Not occasional comfort... but **All comfort!**

- When your heart is broken—God comforts.
- When your future feels uncertain—God comforts.
- When grief overwhelms your soul—God comforts. (*Because He is the God of All comfort*)

**P/A:** A mother's embrace may calm us for a moment, but God's presence can sustain us for a lifetime!

**Segue:** God not only created mothers for comfort, but He also created them to LOVE with remarkable endurance... *That brings us to the second letter...*

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**II. A — ABOUNDING LOVE:** *A mother's love is often **Unconditional.*** – She loves in good seasons and hard seasons. – She loves the obedient child and the rebellious child... The successful child and the struggling child. – A mother may not approve of every decision, but HER LOVE REMAINS!

- **One writer described motherhood this way:** *"A mother's favorite child is often the one who **needs her most at that particular moment.**"* (*Because she is Needed! g God's 1<sup>st</sup> responder*)
- **Isn't that true?** → The **sick child** receives extra attention. → the **hurting child** receives extra prayers. → the **wandering child** receives extra tears. – That does not mean she loves the others less... **it simply means that a Mother's Love responds to the need of her child.**

**A. As with Comfort, a Mother's Love is **Only a Reflection**** of the abounding and constant **LOVE** that God offers us in Christ! – **(Rom 8:38–39)** *"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* – What assurance!

- We may fail Him, but **He still loves us.** → We may wander, but **He still pursues us.** → We may stumble, but **His grace still reaches us!**

**B. As Mother's, God's Abounding Love is Forever Evident (Jer 31:3b)** *"The LORD has appeared..., saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'"*

**C. Some people live with the Fear that God has Stopped Loving them because they Failed. – But listen carefully:** God's love is not based on your performance. It is rooted in His character!

1. A loving mother may discipline her child, but **discipline does not cancel love!** → Likewise, **God corrects those He loves,** *"...for who the Lord loves He chastens..."* (Heb 12:6a).
2. Sometimes His correction hurts, but **His love never changes.** → If **Earthly Mothers** can continue loving imperfect children, **how much more will our perfect heavenly Father continue loving us?**

**P/A:** Lamentations says: (Lam 3:22-23) "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, **Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning...**" – Every morning God's love meets us again!

**III. R — RESOURCEFUL:** *Mothers are amazingly Resourceful.* – They can stretch a meal farther than anyone thought possible. → **MOM’S can find things nobody else can locate!** → They somehow know where the **missing shoe is**, or where **baseball glove** ended up.

- Many of us grew up hearing: **“Go ask your mother. She’ll know.”** → And usually, she did!
- Mothers have a way of Making Limited Resources **accomplish great things.** → **A simple meal becomes a feast.** → A difficult house becomes a home. → **What would you do without mom?**

**A. The “Resourcefulness” of Mom MIRRORS the eternal Resourcefulness of God.** → God Knows What We Need! → **“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:19)** – Notice it says **“Need,”** NOT **“Greed!”**

**B. Their Sacrificial Effort for their families also Reflects the Heart of God.** – (Prov 31:15) **“She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.”**

- God’s Sacrificial Provision works the same: (Luke 19:10) **“the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”** – He provides forgiveness for sin, peace for troubled hearts, and eternal life for all who trust Him
- **God faithfully provides for His people is a variety of ways.** Sometimes His provision is financial, emotional, or spiritual. → Sometimes it is **simply Strength to make it through another day.**

**Segue:** Mothers Comfort, Mothers Abundantly Love, and Mothers provide Resourcefully. ***But there is one more quality that makes motherhood so powerful...***

**IV. E — EMPATHY:** *A mother often knows when something is wrong before a word is spoken!* **She can hear PAIN hidden behind silence.** *“How are you?” ... “Fine.”* But somehow Mom knows **you are NOT FINE!** → God had seemingly instilled within them a general degree of EMPATHY!

- Empathy **enters into another person’s feelings** and understands their struggle!

**A. Empathy points us directly to Jesus Christ.** (tt. Heb 4:15-16) **“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”** – Jesus Understands Human Struggles and Pain because He experienced human suffering!

- He Understands **Rejection**, **Betrayal**, and **Sorrow** → He understands **Temptation!**
- When we cry out to Him, He does not respond with indifference. He responds with **mercy/grace!**

**B. A Mother hears her Child Crying in the middle of the night** and immediately moves toward the sound. → Likewise, **God moves toward the Cries of His children.**

- Psalm 34:18 says: **“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” (Psalms 34:18)** – P/A: Maybe someone here today **feels wounded**, **discouraged**, or **forgotten**. → Can I remind you: **God sees you.** → **God understands you.** → **God CARES for YOU!**

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:** As we close today, **we Give Thanks for Mothers**—their comfort, their abounding love, their resourceful care, and their deep empathy. **These are not random traits of human kindness; they are Reflections of the Very Heart of God...**

- Every soothing word, every sacrificial act, every late-night concern, every silent prayer from a mother's heart is **a faint echo of a much greater reality** → **Our God who comforts, loves, provides, and Understands US perfectly!**

And yet, **EVEN THE BEST MOTHER IS STILL HUMAN!** → **Her comfort** is limited, **her strength** can wear down, and **her love**—though deep—**is still Not Perfect!** → But what a gift this is, because **it keeps pointing us beyond her to the One who never fails...** To the One who says, ***"I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

- So today we don't ultimately rest in the **Goodness of Motherhood**... We rest in the **Goodness of God** revealed through it.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!**