

ODE TO A MEANY-MOM
Mother's Day 2022
2John 1:1-4/Selected Texts
New Life Fellowship – Pastor Joe Green
Sunday, May 08, 2022

[SLIDE #3 – Title Slide]

NOTE:

Tithe Check – NLF to Foursquare — — —

Introduction [Meanie-Mom Letter] — **AUDIO ILLUSTRATION???**

STORY: Every Mom has stories. It had been... a terrible day for Lynn...

Laura had been sick... and had been crying... all day long.

As Lynn was CHANGING Laura's diaper... the telephone rang... and she reached over to answer it... before fastening up the diaper.

Just then... Laura had an attack of diarrhea. Lynn cleaned up THAT mess... and put our daughter in clean... sweet-smelling clothes.

Then... she took Laura... into the dining room... and fed her... and then... into the living room.

As Lynn was burping her... Laura... threw up all over... herself & her Mom.

Lynn... thru sheer heroic effort... managed to absorb ALL... of the damage herself—by some means... keeping the couch unscathed.

Then... I walked in... “The fragrance of Motherhood... was EVERYWHERE.”

Lynn was leaning back on the couch... her torso and arms... somehow CRADLING a reservoir of vomit... AND... a daughter.

Lynn... asked me—AS she is stepping into the shower... with her clothes still ON... “Was all of... THIS... in my contract?”

Meanwhile... Laura was COVERED with barf... and crying... so... I gently carried her... [at arms length] to the kitchen sink... and used the sprayer!

***I suppose... that if we were to take the time... every Mother... HERE today... could tell SIMILAR stories... of their OWN children.

Yet... what is REALLY remarkable... is that...

As challenging... as those days seemed (at the time)—they somehow give us joy & laughter... as time passes and children grow.

Parenting... is one of those things... that if we knew THEN... what we were getting into—very FEW... would probably go thru with it!!!!

However... generally speaking... the rewards & joys... of being a parent... FAR outweigh... the pain & sorrow.

As the Apostle John... writes his second letter—2John—he BEGINS...
...by sharing “the GREAT JOY” he feels... knowing that the members of the church... are following the example... he set for them.

Though some... choose not to see it this way—this letter 2John... is written from John to the Church... and references the INDIVIDUAL members.

Some believe... that... he writes to a specific... “chosen lady” ...and that he references... specific... “children” ...of “[this] lady.”

However... it seems clear... that “the chosen lady” ...is the Church... and her “children” ...refer to the individual members... of the Church family.

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2John 1:1-4 (NIV2011) “The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love. ⁴ It has given me great joy to find your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.”

John... REJOICES... that “[these] children” ...are “walking in the truth.”

If God required parents... to sign a contract... before... He gave children to them... what kinds of things... might He require of the Mother/Father?

I am certain... that... there are some things... that He would require... we PASS ON... to “our children” ...to enable them to “walk in the truth.”

*****What are... some of those things?**

Let's consider some of the things... that might appear on what we'll call... our... Contract for Motherhood. What... should we... pass on?

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1. Pass On... MY FAITH.

[SLIDE #?]

2 Timothy 1:1-5 (NIV2011) *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our LORD. ³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you..."*

Timothy... learned from his Mother—and she... learned from her Mother.

*****If God were writing the contract... He would place... "a trusting faith in Christ" ...at the top of the list...**

...because it doesn't matter... what you've done with your life... or what you've given to your children... IF they've not made a decision for Christ.

The Bible teaches us... that the process... doesn't end THERE.

After salvation... we need to follow the LORD... in baptism... and by being a part of... a sound NT Church.

Not only should YOU do this... but as Mothers... you need to pass it on.

*****Don't leave it up to your husband... or your Pastor... or your Church... to LEAD... YOUR children (or YOUR grandchildren)... to Christ.**

YOU take the initiative... YOU ensure that they have had the opportunity... to be saved.

This is going to require YOU... to know how... to do such a thing—and there is no greater thing to know... than how to lead your child to Christ.

[SLIDE #?]

2. Pass On... A LOVE FOR OTHERS.

[SLIDE #?]

Philippians 2:19-22 (NIV2011) Paul wrote... *“I hope in the LORD Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”*

Timothy... “learned” to love... from his Mom—Paul modeled it... as well.

I am not sure... that... there is a greater example... of this on earth—of the Father’s love—than a godly Mother.

It is from their Mom... that most children will learn... “how” to love... and be loved. It is the Mom... that... a child... most closely watches.

Children watch... how you express your love... to your spouse... and to others. They see how... you love them.

They observe daily... whether you express love for others—particularly people... who are hard to love.

Remember... that Jesus said... that it wasn’t much of a big deal... for us to... love... our friends. (Matthew 5:46 & Luke 6:32-34)

The real test of love... is whether you can love those... who are... UNlovable.

Why does the love of most... grow cold? (Matt. 24:12) Because they don’t see it modeled... as they should.

***** Mom... are YOU... a loving person... OR... have the circumstances of your life... calloused you?**

**** *Have you become... **hard** & **uncaring**—**OR**... **do you have a genuine love... for other people?***

*I'm **not suggesting... that it is easy to love others... but I AM suggesting... that the generation of children coming up... in this world... need to SEE LOVE... being modeled in their lives.***

YOU... may very well be... the greatest model of it... they... will ever have.

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3. Pass On... A DESIRE TO PASS IT ON.

[SLIDE #?]

2Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT) “Timothy, my dear son, be strong with the special favor God gives you in Christ Jesus. ² You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.”

**** ***You must pass on... a desire... to PASS IT ON. Timothy received from his Mom... a desire... to PASS IT ON—it was cultivated by Paul.***

PASS ON... what GOD values. What kind of values... am I speaking about?

There are many... and I will only mention them... in passing—you may make note of them... and reflect on them... in YOUR life.

[SLIDE #?]

1) Will you PASS ON... a regard for obedience?

OR... will you pass on... a life of bending the rules... and looking for loopholes in everything?

Will your children LEARN about... obedience to God... from YOU?

Will they LEARN about... obedience in the workplace... from YOU?

Will they LEARN about... obedience to the law... from YOU?

Will you MODEL for them... what it means... to be “teachable”?

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2) Will you PASS ON... a respect for church?

OR... will you **pass on**... a set of **SHIFTING** **worldly values**?

When children are asked... if they will be **AT Church**—listen to some of the things... children... have said to me—do they sound familiar at all?

- I have to **play or practice**... **baseball**... **football**... **basketball**... **soccer**... **volleyball**... **softball** (I understand... there will be times).
- I have to **do my homework**.
- I needed **to rest**.
- It's my **only day off**.
- I was **grounded**. (**From CHURCH?!?!?**)

There are **others**... but suffice it to say... that... for far too many... **Church comes LAST**... when it needs to come a lot higher... on our list of priorities.

Why? Is it because... the Pastor gets upset? **HARDLY!**

***If you want to ruin... your life... and the lives of your children... by modeling for them... that... **pleasure and recreation**... are just as important... or MORE important... than their spiritual growth... then head them off down that path.

I will not be the one... who one day... will give an account—YOU... WILL.**

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3) Will you PASS ON... biblical values about money?

[SLIDE #?]

4) Will you PASS ON... things such as kindness... forgiveness... and mercy?

[SLIDE #?]

5) Will you PASS ON... the biblical value... of personal responsibility?

- *Let them clean their room. Let them help... with the lawn or dishes. They ought never to hear... from your mouth—I've done my part... and THAT... is ALL I'm doing.*
- *When they do wrong—make them own up to it... and discipline them.*
- *When they do right—praise them... and encourage them.*
- *Sexual Purity?*

Conclusion

I must admit... that... I do not envy... the Mothers in this room... OR... the work you do. However... I do have... immeasurable admiration... for you.

I realize... that Christian Mothers (and fathers)... are under great attack in our nation... like never before.

You are under enemy attack... as he works in & thru... government... culture... and even thru your peers... maybe even thru your extended family.

The goal... is for YOU... to conform—and what is used... are your own feelings of guilt... and inadequacy—to pressure you... to give in & give up.

For many Moms... Mother's Day is a two-edged sword...

Regret... Unforgiveness... Bad decisions... Personal selfishness... Divorce... Guilt... Abandonment... Miscarriage... Abortion?

Some may feel continually beat-down... by YOUR choices... God CAN heal.

How many... I wonder... have issues... with YOUR Mom... impacting YOUR life... YOUR walk with God... YOUR family... in a negative way?

Unforgiveness? Bitterness? Abandonment? Hatred?

CLOSE:

***How will YOU... respond... this morning?

I hope... that... something has been said... that will spark a renewed passion... to be... a Mother... who has an increasing desire... to please the LORD.

There are no real contracts... but there is certainly a great responsibility... for you... to be different from the rest.

You can see the statement... on the back of your bulletin insert.

If you agree with God... about the things... you need to PASS ON to your children... and if you also agree to yield... to the leading of the Holy Spirit...
...in these things—then I am going to ask you... to sign... the statement.

Then... keep it in your Bible. No one is going to see... except you. No one is going to be checking on you—but God knows... the desire of your heart.

HE knows... whether you are serious... about being a godly Mother—or just another woman... who has given birth to some kids.

***How will YOU respond... this morning? [Pray blessing over ALL Moms]

***Pray over MARRIED couples wanting kids. [????????????????]

Pray OVER the Body... SALVATION – HEALING – Holy Spirit

Altar Team Ministry – (Staff, Council, H/G, Min. Leaders, Altar Teams)

[SLIDE #?]

Proverbs 31:25-31 (NIV1984) *“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’ ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”*