

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

10 May 2026

An Exciting Discovery for Mother's Day

Text: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus." *Gal. 3:28*

If you still have a mother then make sure she knows how important she is to you.

If you have a wife who is the mother of your children then the same.

I like to say that men can make a house but it takes a woman to make it a home.

The warmth of the home comes from the woman.

In Reader's Digest some years ago there was a story of a man who wanted to give his wife a special gift on Mother's Day.

He wanted the gift to be unique, something he had discovered himself.

In an antique store he found a pair of hames tips, those devices that look rather like a parenthesis that fit on a horse collar to hold the reins.

He took them home, polished them up, filled them with flowers, and presented them to his wife on Mother's Day.

He had made a great discovery.

The key is that he made his discovery his gift to her.

Here is another exciting discovery for Mother's Day: a mother is a person.

Mother's are often viewed primarily according to their function as family members.

But mothers are persons, persons with feelings, rights, and privileges.

This should not be such a revolutionary discovery.

2

Paul made the same observation a long time ago.

He was arguing for spiritual unity.

The Greeks divided all people into two classes.

Greeks and barbarians.

The Jews did the same thing as they divided the whole world into Jews and Gentiles.

Then there was the category of women.

A wife was the property of her husband.

Her status ranked with slaves and children.

In every respect a woman was inferior to a man.

But Christ changed that.

Becoming a Christian, of course, does not mean that one ceases to be a male or female.

It does mean, however, that gender does not alter one's relationship to Christ in any way.

Each one of us, male or female, father or mother, boy or girl, stands in a relationship to Christ by faith, and we have a unity through our faith. This discovery helps in preaching a Mother's Day sermon.

It is hard to be realistic in a Mother's Day sermon.

If a preacher is not careful, it may sound as though he or she is talking about Superwoman.

Mother's leave discouraged because they know they are not like that.

But if we accept the exciting discovery that mothers are persons, a Mother's Day sermon need not be sentimental and idealistic.

The sermon can inspire rather than idealize.
This is what this Mother's Day sermon is designed to do.

3

In "Heaven in My Hand", a delightful book describing her teaching experience, Alice Lee Humphreys tells of a visit to the home of a very poor student. In an effort to divert attention from the poor surroundings of which the student seemed conscious, she mentioned the smells coming from the kitchen and asked if her mother was the cook. The little girl replied that she was "the lady what cooks."
Her mother was a lady.
What she did was cook.
That little girl was able to separate the person from the function.
Taking this exciting discovery for Mother's Day, that a mother is a person who functions in the family as a mother, notice some of the positive things a mother can do for her family.
A mother gives affirmation.
She can affirm each person as an individual.
Asserting her own individuality, a mother can help others affirm and assert their individuality.
This can have a life-changing effect on a person.
Jesus showed the veracity of this in his encounter with the woman at the well in *John 4*.
He treated the woman as an individual, and in this she found peace and real life.
Each person is unique and irreplaceable.
If you do not remember anything else today remember this.
There has never been or will be another you!

4

A mother can affirm that truth.
Halford Luccock reminds us that the mother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, had nineteen children.
That was a large family even in those days and even for a competent mother such as Susanna Wesley.
He humorously suggested that she got their clothes mixed on occasion but asked more seriously, "Do you imagine she never got them mixed up?
Did Samuel sort of fade into John, and was Charles a misty blending of both?
Would she have cared little if one had slipped out of her life, finding ready comfort in the fact she had eighteen left.
If you have any doubt about it, read her letters to her children.
Each one held his or her own individual place that none of the others, not all eighteen together, could fill".
A mother gives inspiration.
She can give inspiration for spiritual development.
A Christian mother can be an inspiration to others in their spiritual development.
Mothers, of course, have done this for years.
Ian Maclaren reported that before his first sermon, his mother handed him her watch.
She told him that whenever he looked at it he should remember that every hour of the day she would be praying for him.
She added, "And son, when you preach your first sermon in your first church, say something good for Jesus."

5

He testified that his mother shaped his ministry with that sentence, plus her beautiful life.
She can give inspiration for Christian service.
By their very examples, mothers have served as an inspiration for Christian service.
A minister told of coming home from college feeling rather skeptical about religion.

He noticed that his mother looked tired and worried.

She asked him if he would take a meal she had cooked to a man dying of tuberculosis.

She also asked him to take a Bible, as she was not sure the man was a Christian.

The college son asked he what he should read.

She suggested *John 3*.

After spending half the afternoon with the dying man, he told his mother, "He accepted Christ."

Then he added that he had given his heart to God too.

A mother can give expectation.

A mother expects the best for her children.

Sometimes this runs in material or social ways.

But should it not also run in spiritual ways?

A mother should expect the very best for her family spiritually.

The greatest expectation is that each member of the family knows Christ as Savior.

A mother is a person who can find full personhood in Jesus Christ.

6

As a person who has found new life and strength through faith in Christ, she can then affirm her family, inspire her family, and expect the very best of Christian growth in them.

If her husband will treat her as Paul says in *Ephesians*.

Giving his life for her as Christ did for the church.

She will blossom into the most beautiful flower of life ever seen.

And if she sees her husband as a gift of God to her he will become the man she needs and hopes he would be.

This is how God designed the family.

And the world is coming apart because it does not function as God designed families to function.

Men need to cherish their wives and wives need to respect their husbands.

Both will flourish in such an environment.

And especially the children!

The greatest thing one mate can do for the other and their family is love the other mate, giving their life for them.

That is Christian living to the fullest.

And that will bring the Kingdom of God to earth!