

## A Mother's Unconditional Love

This week's theme for our church devotion is "Love." It is the first, and most important, of nine characteristics of a person of faith, presented in Galatians 5:22-23 as the "fruits of the spirit." As we celebrate Mother's Day love is an appropriate fruit of the spirit to focus on today. A mother rallies around her children. She nurses them when they are young and feeds them as they grow older. When a young child falls down, who do they run to for comfort? Mom. An embracing hug is usually all the child needs to be reassured things are going to be OK. *As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you ... (Isaiah 66:13)*. Seeking mom's advice continues throughout life because of her compassion, wisdom and perspective. Abraham Lincoln said of his mom, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother." How about you?



The characteristics of motherhood are consistent with what scripture says about love. Our church asked me this week to select a Bible passage about love. What I selected is often read at weddings, but accurately describes the role of a mom throughout our entire life. The familiar verse says,

*Love is patient, love is kind.*

*It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*It does not dishonor others,*

*it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,*

*it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

*It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).*

Moms know their children. They know their areas of weakness, yet they love their children unconditionally, even when they mess up. It takes patience and understanding. Motherhood also takes sacrifice, putting the needs of her family ahead of her own.

Sometimes it is not easy. Moms have to make unpopular decisions that weigh a child's personal will vs. what is good for the child. Often the standards are based on biblical principles. There is joy as a mom watches her children grow up to be loving parents of their own children, taking after the model their mom was for them. *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6)*.

Moms reflect Jesus' love, teaching us to love because our mom loves us. *We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19)*.

The Bible tells us in the 10 Commandments to honor our parents. It is that important. *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)*. So on this Mother's Day let's honor the unconditional love we received that helped to shape our lives.

**Question:** How are you honoring mothers on Mothers' Day?

**The Bible Says:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)*. All of these describe characteristics of our mother.

**Prayer:** Most gracious Heavenly Father. We thank you for the gift of our mother. Whether or not they are still with us, their influence is with us as long as we live. We pray that our mother will know that we love her, just as she has loved us. Amen.