

Good morning Cornerstone BAPTIST.....it is so great to be with you this morning

Amanda and I thank you so much for opening your arms to us and our family, and we absolutely look forward to...

This is mothers day....kind of a weird Sunday for a first Sunday....i typically like to be in books of the bible/series..

But as this is mothers day I thought it would be appropriate to examine the role of mothers in light of scripture

And specifically the role of mothers in the image of God – imago dei

Genesis 1:27..... Humans are the only thing in all of creation created in the image of God.....we are unique because of this, and it is this imago dei that we find much of our purpose and direction in life....

Being created in the imago dei....means that we have a road map to why we are the way we are

Here are several things the imago dei means for us....

- A. It means God loves us enough to give us an image that reflects who he is
- B. It means that we have many of the same characteristics of God, we have emotions, we are creative, judicial
 - a. You don't see many monkeys painting Mona Lisas, or building sky scrapers

And while I think all of these are true, there is one aspect of being created in the image of God that supersedes them all....

You will find, I am about the least artistic person....and I don't really like making art, I am more interested in the history of the art....why it was made and the message being conveyed.....

When an. artist creates a statue or a sculpture, they are trying to convey something to the person who sees it....

To help us with that....I have some pictures this morning of some famous statues.....lets look at them real quick....and see if you can see some kind of message...

The first one is known as discobolus....what is the artist trying to convey.....the details of the disc thrower, form, athletic, muscular....

This next one....some of you may have seen it....this is known as The Thinker by Rodin.....the message being conveyed, man has the ability to think....

This last one, a warrior statue....dominance, protection, strength....

When it comes to being created in the image of God, our mind should ask....what is God trying to convey in telling us In creating us....

And here is what I think it is....he created billions and billions of statues in order to convey the majesty of his glory...

Each of the billions of statues uniquely different.....sizes, shapes, finger prints, hair colors, skin colors....

Many of those billions of creations by God are mothers....which means.....motherhood tells us something about the image of God....motherhood tells us something about God.....

I want us to consider that this morning.....what does motherhood tell us about the image of God....4 things this morning as we look at motherhood and the image of God...

1. Moms give new life – when God created women, he created them with a unique way to showcase his love...women, like God have the gift of generative love....meaning....they give life

Tyler Holley says it this way....women have the ability to love man in such a way that they can turn it into a human being

My momma said....i brought you into this world....and I can take you out

Some of you may think...wait a minute.....didnt God curse woman with pain in child bearing.....indeed he did in Genesis 3:16.....

It was the gift of giving birth that was damaged in the fall.....the pain of birth tarnishes the gift of motherhood...

But the pain in childbirth makes a way for a new possibility.....redemption

After the fall, mothers can still bring the gift of life, but it now comes with great pain.....in giving birth, mothers now give of themselves for the sake of her child.....this should sound familiar to us....because it was Christ who gave of himself that we might live.....

2. Secondly Moms Reflect our submissive relationship with God

Submission is one of those buzzwords that people misuse and misunderstand....

What we sometimes miss is that we see submission within the triune nature of God.....

When Jesus took on the form of man, he also became submissive to the will of the father....

- a. John 6:38 – I have come to do the will of the father
- b. Matthew 26:39 – not my will, but your will

Some women are guilty of thinking that submission is a sign of weakness, I would argue that it is actually an act of the greatest strength...

I've met men who believed that a wife must submit because she is weak....

If your argument is that people who submit are weak, then what you are actually declaring is that Jesus himself was weak...

Mothers are called to a type of holy submission in Ephesians 5:22-24.....it is their willful submission to their husbands that teaches us how to be willfully submissive to God

Moms, your act of strength in submission, teaches your children, teaches those who watch how you live your life to submit to God....

3. Motherhood reflects the way God longs for his people

Stop to think.....God longs to be with you....he wants to....he doesn't need to.....he wants to....

Jesus says this in Matthew 23:37.....oh how I have longed to bring you to me....but you were not willing...

Jesus even brings together a metaphor that moms can understand....the metaphor of a mother bringing all of her chicks together....

I often hear from mothers how some of their favorite days of the year are when she gets all of her children home....she looks forward to it,

God's longing for us is special for us....because....God doesn't need us....he has need of nothing....but we are the only creatures in all the earth that the God of heaven longs for....in his sovereignty he is hopeful we will seek him out

In his grace he is hopeful we will return to him.....and in his mercy he is hopeful we will rejoice in him....

4. Motherhood teaches us that our fallenness can be overcome through love....

What do I mean by this.....there are some of you undoubtedly that are struggling because you have yet to have children, or you may never have children though you desire them deeply....

This is a result of the fall.....there was something that happened to our physical bodies when we sinned, our bodies began to fall apart....sickness, disease, cancer, and yes even infertility are a result of our bodies experiencing the death that we were promised....

I have met many women who have experienced this heart ache, and I believe it is truly a heart ache because our bodies are preventing us from doing what God created us to do....which was to multiply....

But I have also met many women who have met their challenge head on.....i have met many mothers in the church who never had a child of their own.....they teach, they nurture, they correct, they love....

I had several mothers when I was growing up in church....and I needed them

I have also met others who were not able to conceive and chose the route of adoption.....im not sure there is anything more motherly, and more godly, than a woman who willfully and lovingly raises a child that is not her own...

Romans 8:14-17 shows us the very nature of an adoptive God....who willfully and joyfully took us as his own

It is our nature that rejected Christ, but it is in his nature that he saves us.....

As our musicians come forward....the invitation for all of you in the room today is to make Christ the Lord of your life.

During our invitation this morning....if you need someone to pray with you – our elders and myself

If you would like to become a member of Cornerstone.....Matt will be here at the front and you can come talk to him..

Work on ending if you use again....