



Homemade
Mother's Day 2018
Pastor Ted Cunningham

We've been ready for this day. Today, we're just celebrating moms. Usually, we honor moms on Mother's Day and bash dads on Father's Day. And let me tell you, at Woodland Hills Family Church, that ain't happening. We've decided to honor both mom today and then dad on Father's Day.

We've been coming through some pretty heavy teaching, a pretty heavy series. If you're new to our church, we've just come out of a series called *Hometown*, where we were going through Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls and the lives of Jerusalem. When we started that series... I'm just going to give you a little snap shot. We asked our church to mourn and fast and pray for the needs of our community and, I kid you not, the day we set our fast as a church staff and the day we started the fast... I used this in context. All hell broke loose. I went to staff the next week and I said, "We ain't fasting anymore. What happened?" We know that God used that series and will continue to use that series in our lives and in the life of our church.

Today, it just kind of feels like just a deep breath as we recognize how important women are. Today, we're going to use a word that we don't use a lot in our culture anymore and that word is *homemaking* or the *homemaker*. The definition is simply "The creation and management of a home, especially as a pleasant place in which to live." In the Song of Solomon, the Shulamite woman refers to her home as the En Gedi, a lush desert oasis, a place where you retreat to, to be refreshed physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.

How many of you would say that describes your home growing up? Today we know this. We honor all the mothers and the grandmothers and the stepmothers. We honor those who long to be mothers. We also know today is a day where many are mourning and looking back and remembering Mom and Grandma. We also know today is a day where there are families that are challenged, and the mother/son or mother/daughter relationship is strained and this can be a challenging day. We understand there are all sorts of complexities that can come with this day as we seek to honor women.

Today, we are going to look at Proverbs 31. Just throwing it out there that you'll look around and there will be some people feeling exhausted. If you're wondering why people sigh or roll their eyes when Proverbs 31 comes about, it's because it's the hymn of a virtuous woman. A lot of times, when we read this, women can say, "I don't measure up to that." Hopefully, today, we'll put that in context.

There is a symbol we use, and everybody pretty much knows what this symbol is right here (ladies room symbol). Everybody knows this symbol unless you're from North Carolina, then this is a challenging

symbol and we don't mean to start the morning off offending you, but that's kind of what we do here at Woodland Hills Family Church.

They've uncovered this symbol. For years, we thought this symbol was a dress, but it's actually a cape. I didn't know that until recently. So, we are changing the symbol here on our women's restroom to be a cape, and all the men said... Amen. Celebrating Mom as a super hero.

I brought a picture of Amy's Mother's Day gift (fire pit next to raised gardens). I gave this to her over the last month. She said, "I want a garden." And this is what Amy Cunningham means when she says garden. It doesn't mean just a few pants from Home Depot. We had to put cages around them because years ago... And I still can't believe some of you are still falling for this. Years ago, I was told that marigolds planted around the border of your garden keep out deer and rabbits. You know who told you that? The people who sell marigolds. They are the ones who came up with that line. It doesn't work in the Ozarks. So, we created this.

I want to give every man in here this little tidbit. I want you to memorize it, guys. If you get nothing else today, memorize this and repeat it often for the rest of your life. It's simply this: "What my baby wants, my baby gets." If you're here with your wife, I want you to turn to her and say those words. What my baby wants, my baby gets. And look at all the ladies that are giving their lists.

Guys, who do we have to thank for those elaborate garden projects? It's not the Proverbs 31 woman, it's the Waco woman (Joanna Gaines). When news came out in 2017 that they were cancelling their show, Amy came into the family room and said, "I've got terrible news." I thought there was a medical report I didn't know about or... She said, "No, it's terrible. Give me just a second to process it. Joanna Gaines has decided not to do another season of Fixer Upper." When Amy walked out of the room, I was celebrating. "Father, in heaven, thank you for answering the pleas of my heart." I like Joanna Gaines; it's Chip Gaines I hate with every ounce of my being. That man is not a Christian; it's all part of the show because that garden project, that's Chip Gaines right there.

My wife is passionate about her home and she loves working around the house, and I have come up with a simple saying, "What my baby wants, my baby gets." How many of you got Joanna Gaines' cookbook? I was going to pass them out this morning, but they're like \$85.00 so I think you're going to have to go on Amazon or wait until you can get them used.

We're in Proverbs 31 and we're going to start at the end of the chapter and then go back to the beginning and work forward. As you read Proverbs 31, you need to read it with the end in mind. Here's the end of Proverbs 31 - ***Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*** Keep that at the forefront of your mind as we study Proverbs 31.

1 Peter 3 says, ***...the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (in a woman), which is of great worth in God's sight.*** That's what we're going after today. That's what we're working towards.

Verse 31 of Proverbs 31 says, ***Honor her for all that her hands have done...*** This is where we get the *Homemade* idea. We're talking about homemakers, whether it's the work inside the home or the work

that you do outside of the home to create a home. We're honoring all moms and all homemakers today. *...and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

So, when we talk about honor, it's something Gary Smalley taught us for years. Dick Foth, who has been here a couple of times – we're hopefully getting him back soon – has been the sacred echo behind what Gary was saying and it's something we believe around here. Carolyn just mentioned it in worship and I love it. It's this big idea:

Honor affirms value, it does not determine it. So, today, we are affirming the worth of woman as seen by Almighty God. For some of you, you haven't received this honor. For some, you haven't had a husband who has honored you for the value that's placed in you by God as it should be honored or affirmed. Some of you maybe had a dad, while you were growing up, who didn't value you as a precious daughter. Again, the value that comes to you from Almighty God.

I heard a pastor this week and I love what he said. "If I go to the Redwood Forest and I see the redwoods, I can speak all day to their beauty. I can describe them. With words, I can paint pictures to try to get your mind to go the Redwood Forest with me, but in all of my description, I can't add one inch to those trees."

Today, your value is there. We're just affirming that value. But, it's something we know when we come to Mother's Day, when we come to Father's Day, when we speak about marriage and family, there is always this... And I saw it yesterday. Last night, my daughter read for me one Christian author who said, "Feel free to skip church tomorrow if it's too painful for you." I always cringe whenever the church is kind of pushed to the side because if today is a painful day for you, we're glad you're here. We don't celebrate brokenness, we celebrate life, the life that comes only in Jesus.

We're not a moralistic church, so we're not a church that is just about the dos and the don'ts. If you read Proverbs 31 through all of the dos, and not through the lens of grace or through life in Christ, you'll miss the whole point of it. Don't skip church; be here, be a part of it, even if you've lost children, even if your relationship with your mom was not good or you are a mom and your relationship with your children is not good right now.

Some of you may be raising teenagers. I just had this thought this week. Some of you don't feel liked right now, but I want you to rest in the fact that one day your grandchildren will love you always. Rest in that. That's life. That's not sitting in the brokenness, that's understanding this too shall pass.

Today marks our 16th anniversary as a church and for 16 years, we've said this around this church and it's simply this big idea. **Every member is a minister.** Whenever we teach on marriage... I get this all the time and I get blasted for this often. Some say, "Well, I'm not married." Okay, then that means your coming in thinking you should only listen to a message as a member. I remind those who aren't married or those who have been through a struggling marriage that we want you to listen to every marriage message at this church as a member for you and your marriage and in your life, but we also want you to listen to it as a minister, someone who can take what you're learning and what you're hearing and go encourage and challenge and speak life and blessing over another couple.

Today, on Mother's Day, we want to encourage you to do the same thing. Listen today as a member, how it applies to you, and then also listen to it as a minister, how you can help someone else with what you hear.

Proverbs 31... I'm just going to put the whole list up there that describes this woman, as you see what she does. This isn't how she does it. We're going to look at how she does it, but we're going to see what she does. And when you see this list, this may be why you heard the groans or saw the eyerolls. Proverbs 31... This is a hymn to virtuous woman. In this hymn, we see that this one woman is:

- Wife
- Mother
- Business woman
- Investor
- Farmer
- Manufacturer

You will completely and totally miss the point of Proverbs 31 if you think the author intends for every woman to do all of this. What did the author originally intend? I'll give you a closer example. Right now, we're debating the Second Amendment as a nation. Yes, I'm getting political on Mother's Day. Why not? I hear people saying this: "Well, when they wrote the Second Amendment (or Bill of Rights, writing the Constitution and all of our founding documents), they didn't know about the AK47."

I think even deeper than that; you have to go, "What did they really mean when they wrote the Second Amendment?" You have to go to the author original intent. Some of you brought your more liberal-leaning moms with you today and you're like, *He's ruining this*. I'm not here to persuade you on what you believe about the Second Amendment, but it does apply to what we're doing in Proverbs 31.

Not really. I was really working hard to work this in for the last couple of week and I thought I should do it on Mother's Day.

What did they really mean. Honestly, I think any person who is rational in their thinking understands that when the framers of our constitution, when they were putting together the Bill of Rights, they didn't have the Second Amendment in mind to protect our rights to hunt. That's not what they were doing. They were protecting the rights of people against the government. The original intent behind the Second Amendment was to make sure the government doesn't take over the citizens' life. Every time you approach the scripture, you should be asking what it meant to the original hearers. What's the original intent behind this text?

When we read Proverbs 31 today, we can sometimes forget and think it's about what every woman should become. No. It's not the ideal standard for every woman to become a business woman, investor, farmer, manufacturer. And there are single ladies in her right now. We don't want you to hear today that if I'm not a wife, if I'm not a mother... I'm not a business woman, I'm a teacher. We don't want you to hear the message that you're half a person or not a complete woman. That's not necessarily the intent of Proverbs 31.

I had one professor at Dallas Seminary who said, “If you think about the Book of Proverbs, it’s all wisdom sayings and tendencies and how life works. It talks about speech and work and the adulterous woman and it gives wisdom throughout the whole book.” At the end of the semester, he actually made us argue that Proverbs 31 is just personifying, it’s not even a literal woman. He said, “I want you to argue that Proverbs 31 woman is personifying wisdom.” It’s just wisdom pictured.

There’s another commentator that I use a lot. After I outline a chapter or book or a sermon or something, I make sure I go to Pastor Bob Deffinbaugh. He’s very likeminded with where our church goes. I like what he says as he tries to unpack the hymn to the virtuous woman. He said, “*The main purpose of Proverbs 31 is to exhort married men to appreciate the worth of their wives and to give them the freedom to function in accordance with their gifts and talents and in keeping with their God-given role as a wife.*”

It’s with that lens today that we are going to jump into Proverbs 31. I’m going to give it to you in seven thank yous. I’m going to share a lot of this as Ted Cunningham honoring Amy Cunningham, but I want you to think about your wife and how to honor your wife. There were so many times that I studied this week where I said, “Oh, that is my mom; that is Bonnie Jean Cunningham” or “That is my mother-in-law.” I found ways to honor my mother-in-law this week. I’m here to tell you I’m blessed with an easy-to-love Mother-in-Law. How many of you can say you have an easy-to-love mother-in-law? We make jokes about mother-in-laws all the time. I have an easy-to-love one.

We’re going to jump right in. We’re going to do seven thank yous. This would be a great way to go to lunch today or to go to brunch to just simply say this thank you to your mom, and then we have the text that supports it all.

“Thank you for enjoying our home.” We start in Verse 13. ***She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.*** The literal meaning of *eager hands* there is “the delight of her hands.” Working around the home is something she enjoys doing. She enjoys this so much. I was thinking about this. My mom and both of my grandmas, Milly Cunningham and Mary Jane Ludwig were all singers around the house. When they did work around the house, it wasn’t in a frustrated, I hate doing this way. They found some joy in it and there was a song in their heart. We believe the heart is the well-spring of life. Everything flows out of the heart. So, when they were seeking the delight of their hands and enjoying their home, it came out in song.

My Grandma Mary Jane didn’t know any songs, I mean not one song. I don’t know if she never listened to the radio. She made up the lyrics of everything she sang. She made up words, she made up song.

I can still remember walking into the kitchen in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on vacation and seeing Milly Cunningham there in her dress – she always wore dresses – in the kitchen and she was either at the sink or at the stove making pig stomach for her family to enjoy. She was a hummer. I remember her humming, I remember her singing, but there was delight in her hands.

I asked you, as a church family, what songs you remember your mom sang as she worked around the home, enjoying the work of her home. I received too many responses to give. It was broken down pretty evenly between Christian homes and non-Christian home.

Kimberly said, "How Great Thou Art was always mom's lips." Valerie said, "What a friend we have in Jesus." Kristin said, "Rise and Shine and give God the glory, glory." This was the same with my mom. Let me just remind every mom in here, your teenagers love that at 6:00am. For you to walk into their room, rip open the curtains, and sing, "This is the day, this is the day that the Lord..."

Becky said, "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Then this one... "This is my Story, this is my song. Praising my savior all the day long." Karen said, "Always while doing dishes, we sang, "In the Garden." Pam Brown said her mom Norma's song was "Stop running in and out, the flies are getting in" by Burl Ives. I had to look that one up. I didn't even think that was a real song. Raise you hand if you've never heard that song. It's on iTunes, check it out.

Susan said, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Teri said, "Elvis. I Can't Stop Falling in Love with You." And this one I love. Eric said, "Mom loved Eddie Rabbit and was always singing, "Oh I love a rainy night, love a rainy night..." I love that we don't know any of the words past the title of the song. Gretta said, "Harper Valley PTA." That's a good one. June said, "I don't remember the name of the song, but the only line I remember is 'She has a lovely pair of coconuts,'" so I don't know what that's all about. I need that for the next service.

Guys, I've got to show you; this is so great. Look it up if you think I'm making this up out of the scripture, but, again, original intent... The passage goes on in Verse 14 to say, ***She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.*** It goes on to say she enjoys shopping and gathering. Guys, turn to your wife and say, "What my baby wants, my baby gets." How many of you guys hate Amazon Prime as much as Chip Gaines? I hate Amazon Prime as much as I hate Chip Gaines. But, what a great way to start Mother's Day. "Mom, thank you for the delight you take in all that you do around our home."

My mom worked outside of the home. She worked a fulltime job. I get all these pictures in my mind. I'm only sharing this story so my mom will cry on Mother's Day. I just remember my mom walking in after a long day – and I just know she was beat up by corporate America and by the business world and how difficult and challenging that was – and reaching down under the stove. How many of you the broiler on the stove was where you stored the pots and pans?

I can still remember... The door from the garage opened right by the stove. She didn't even take her coat off. She would open the door, lean down, grab the pot... I don't know how much joy was in her hands at that moment. She was tired. But, she was providing for her family.

This is why we grew up on Hamburger Helper. Can I get an amen for Hamburger Helper? I know they say millennials don't like hamburger or beef until they start having children. You'll know exactly what we mean when you start having children. It's cheap and easy to cook, and all the moms said... Amen. I remember that she would get the stove going... This may be too much information, but just to take you into the Cunningham home on 24 Leisure Lane... Isn't that great. I grew up at 24 Leisure Lane and I now

live on Tranquil Lane and my parents live on Peaceful. The number of times we would be sitting around our little kitchen table, my brother Andy, myself, and my dad, with my mom cooking. It was so great because she would stand at the door... How many of you had a mom that would use the door to fan in cold air? A mom who enjoyed the work and enjoyed the work of the home.

“Thank you for starting your day so early.” Thank you for being the first one up and making sure your kids have breakfast, making sure your kids are ready to go. For Amy, it starts early. I know Travis shared a couple of weeks ago that Kari Brawner is a list maker. She loves making her lists. He said that even if something wasn't on the list and they did something off the list, she would add it to the list with a box just so she could check it. That's Amy Cunningham too and her list starts around 4:00 am. I can hear the tapping, I can hear the thinking.

I wake up in the morning and let me just tell you... When a guy wakes up, there's literally no list in his head. My first thought is can I get another 15 minutes? But with Amy, it is eyes open; her day starts so early. ***She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.*** (v15) We do that too. Our maids and butlers and all that are well taken care of. We don't let them just work for us; we make sure they are cared for.

Here's the investor part. ***She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.*** (v16) Here's a farmer and investor, someone who is pouring back into her family, thinking about the future. It's important for you to think about this. Moms are constantly thinking about the future. I think it easier for dads to get into survival mode. It's just what do we need to do to get the day...

It's so funny, last night, we were all at home and I just had this memory, and it's so my mom too, but Amy was here at the church working all afternoon while we were relaxing at home. I don't know why we weren't here with her. I called her at 5:30. Carson is standing in front of me and we're both kind of panicked. I called her and I go, “Hey, babe, we're just standing here figuring out what we're going to do for dinner. Are we going to eat tonight?” I know every mom in here is just shocked that men can't actually provide something for themselves.

Did anybody have this issue growing up? If my mom wasn't around we were like, “What are we going to eat? We've already had Nutter Butters, we've already had Swiss Cake Rolls, what else is there. We should probably get something healthier, and then mom shows up and we could have done that. We could have made that sandwich. We could have turned on the grill.” I know how to turn the grill on, but I would need someone to bring me the meat. I'll put it on there, cook it, put it on the platter, and send it back in the house.

“Thank you for ending your day late.” She starts early and she ends late. Amy is the last one down every night in our home. ***She sets about her work vigorously...*** She's passionate about it. Not only does she delight in it as we saw in the beginning of the text, but now she just stays at it. She doesn't quit when the job has to be done. There are times I feel like forcing her to sit down. When she's doing all that laundry, I'm like, “We've got to get you some help. You can't be running yourself like this all day. Take a break.” But they go all day. ***...her arms are strong for her tasks.*** (v17)

She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. (v18) She's prepared. She made her list. This is actually beyond just the word picture for evening time and going back till the sun sets, but it's also that oil in the lamp word picture we get from scripture that she has prepared her day, she has planned her day, so she knows how to get through the day, and she knows everything that is coming. And she tries her best to have in on the schedule and she tries her best to just take it out and tackle it an item at a time.

"Thank you for opening to others." Not only does she care for her own home... ***She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*** (v20) I say this again to my mom this morning. She is one of the most generous women I know. She is constantly thinking about other people. I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand and I'm not saying that my friends in here that use my mom as a babysitter are poor and needy. That's not what I'm saying at all.

My mom is not only a mother to me and a grandmother to my children, but she has become a mom and a grandmother to many children and grandchildren in this congregation. What a beautiful example for me when... Sometimes I'm just shocked at how long she's with some kids and what she's doing. She'll come over in the morning when Amy and I are leaving for a trip and she'll be with our kids and then after she drops our kids off at school, she'll go watch somebody else's kids. Mom, I want you to hear it from me. I'm one son that's very proud of that when I see that. That is someone that is not just thinking about herself or her own family, but she's teaching her family, she's teaching her children. That is an example that is set. What an example for every mom in here that is not just thinking about her home and thinking about the affairs of her home and thinking about the needs of her children.

My mom goes into Kohls... She's the only woman I know that comes out with two carts of stuff and Kohls actually gives her money. I don't know how this works. She said it's all legal. She doesn't have one of those senior problems that I know some of the other people have. She's thrifty. Getting her to spend money on herself is almost impossible. She's spending money on her children and her grandchildren, on your children, on your grandchildren. If she ever finds out your child likes something, she will never forget that. When she finds it for a dime at Kohls, she's buying it. It's kind of funny because your kids may be 17 now. After they told her something they liked at age four, she's giving it to them at 17. They ask what she's doing and she's like, "Well it wasn't on sale all these 13 years." That is a good grandma and all the men said... amen. Someone that is thinking about other people.

"Thank you for speaking words of high value over dad." Amy, thank you for speaking words of high value over me. The scripture says, ***Her husband is respected at the city gate...*** He has a position of respect and he's making judgments and ruling there at the city gate. ***...where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.*** (v23) He is known for his wife and the wife brings honor just in the way she carries about her business and her tasks. She is speaking a blessing over her family and over her husband.

I just want to say this on behalf of every man that's in here right now with a respectable wife, with a wife who is honoring in her words and actions. Thank you. Thank you for being someone who blesses your family with that gentle and quiet spirit, with that fear of the Lord that is in you and what great affirming that does for the value of your home.

“Thank you for picturing a special future for our family.” I love this text. I’m trying to figure out how to do a whole message off of this. ***She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.*** This isn’t a woman who fears the future. This isn’t a woman who fears what’s going to happen with her children. She has full confidence. She fears the Lord and her fear for the Lord, her gentle and quiet spirit that is growing in her, which of great worth in God’s sight, allows her to look at her kids, then look back to the Lord and say, “You’ve got this. I’m doing everything I can.” And when that child’s brain falls out, she doesn’t fret, she doesn’t white knuckle grip it, she’s able to say, “Lord, I’m going to continue to pray until this child’s brain finds it’s way back in.” She pictures a very special future for her kids. She’s passionately saying, “Lord, I trust in you. I am with you fully. She can laugh at the days to come and actually have joy.

“Thank you for teaching us.” ***She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*** We read this in Deuteronomy. It’s a passage that we use often around our church. It simply says this and I’m going to share it with moms today. It’s directed toward parents and those in community. ***5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.***

Mom, this is on your heart, the fear of the Lord, a love for the Lord is on your heart. And then what’s on your heart will be passed onto your children. It’s why you can laugh at the days to come, why you can find joy in the days to come as you live out your life in the lord. ***7 Impress them on your children.*** How do you do that? Well, they’re watching, they’re listening, they’re remembering, and then they are repeating. ***Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*** (Deuteronomy 6) From sunrise to sunset and all throughout the day, let your conversation be that of following Jesus, following the Lord.

“Thank you for making me do my part around the home.” Yes, you were eager to do the work and sometimes, mom, it’s so much easier for you to do it and get it done than to show us how to do it and wait for is to get it done, but you made us do it. ***She watches over the affairs of her household...*** This means that it’s not just her doing all of the work, there are others involved in this. The whole family is involved in this, but she’s the great conductor of the whole orchestra. She’s the one telling people where to go, what to do. This is Amy and I love it. Sometimes that is conflict in our home because when I have my day planned and she’s got my day planned and they come together, the merging of the days together... I joked with her on the way here because she’s been telling me all week to say this and to say that. She says she’s not a communicator, but she’s been giving me a lot of stuff to say this morning. ***...and does not eat the bread of idleness.*** (v27)

I have a pastor friend who was counseling with a couple recently and there was stress in their home. He was trying to get to the bottom of it. Why is there so much stress? She has two small children, but what’s really going on. He said, “Ted, I just kept digging and digging and I couldn’t figure it out. Their home just seemed like every other ordinary home, like we all have. Affairs about the house, stuff that needs to get done, tasks that need to be completed, food that needs to be made, dishes that need to be done, clothes that needed to be folded, cars needed to be cleaned. It just seemed normal.” But then he figured out she was surfing Facebook three hours a day.

He's an older pastor. All of his kids are raised, and he's got grandkids. He said, "As an older pastor, I was able to just encourage her. I said to her, 'I think you underestimate how much it takes to run a home. I'm not telling you that you're wrong and you shouldn't do this. It's between you and the Lord to determine this. I think you have an idleness. Facebook is an idleness. You don't have time to be on your phone or any device for three hours a day; it's depleting you.'" He said that just as a grandpa talking to a grandchild, just loving her and saying, "It's too much for anybody, not just a woman, but for a man as well.

This week, I wrote down some things my mom always said to me and some I'm hearing Amy say to our kids. I kind of put them under the unreasonable requests column. Think about what a mom says all day long, every day. You're going to have 30 or 40 out of this list.

Brush your teeth. Take a bath. Put deodorant on. Fix your hair. Go to bed. Get up. Get dressed. Wash your hands. Pick up your room. Go to your room. Catch the bus. Go to school. Get in the car. Find your own ride home. Put your seatbelt on. Go to church. Get the groceries in. Clean your plate. Make your bed. Do the dishes. Take the dog out. Run the vacuum. Do your homework. Say thank you. Say please. Say yes ma'am. Go outside and play. And all the moms said... Amen. Turn off the PlayStation. And all the moms said... Amen. Turn off the T.V. Get a job. Give to the church. Sit still. Pick it up. Drop it. Don't touch that. Get over here and give me a hug. Get off of me. Are you going to say I'm sorry? Well, sorry is just not good enough. Look at me when I'm talking to you. Don't look at me that way. Give me a hug.

All that it takes... I was with a mom recently and it's not important who it is. I heard her tell her 18-year-old to brush his teeth. I went, "What!?" I got on to her. "Why are you telling your college son to brush his teeth?" She responded back, "Because he doesn't."

Listen, you want to honor your mother today? Brush your teeth. Don't make her tell you. If you want to honor mom today, take a bath. If you want to honor mom today when your headphones mess up your hair, fix your hair for the pictures out there. Take the dog out before she asks you to take the dog out. Do the dishes. Just run the dishwasher. You don't even need dishes in it; just run the dishwasher. Let her think you're doing something. Honor mom. Be a part of the home. She enjoys the work of her home.

Gary Smalley said this for years. The home is the extension of the wife. One of the best ways we can honor a homemaker is to be involved in her home. Again, my wife is quality time and acts of service. I can buy her a cookbook, but building a garden – acts of service – where we can sit around a fire and watch the garden grow together, quality time. Acts of service and quality time means I serve her for long periods of time. That's how you honor.

I'm trying to get my kids to see that. I think they are seeing that. Mom takes great joy in her home and we honor mom when we come alongside her in the affairs of her home. And all God's people said... amen.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her... (v28)

Amy Cunningham, happy Mother's Day. Bonnie Cunningham, happy Mother's Day. Linda Freitag, happy Mother's Day. Turn to your mom who you brought with you today and say, "Happy Mother's Day." In our prayer, we remember all of those who are mourning today and those who are remembering mom. I hope you have those good pictures today and you can share with your children and your grandchildren throughout today the great stories of mom and grandma.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we thank you for this morning. I thank you for women. We honor women at this church at all stages and seasons of life. I think right now and pray a blessing over those who need to just rest today in the love of their heavenly Father as they think about a broken relationship with Mom, as they think about a mom who is no longer with them, as they hold their phone in their hand right now and wish they could call their mom to hear her voice one more time.

Today is a day of great longing for many. There are some in here that have been working through infertility treatments. They have such a longing right now as a couple. She has such a longing as a woman to be a mom. I pray today that she rests in the arms of her heavenly Father, that she will know the time and the season that she lives in. I think of all those today who are here, who are being fostered and those who have been adopted that now, this Mother's Day, they have a mom, they have someone that they call Mom.

We're grateful for the picture you give us in scripture today of a mom who gets up early and goes to bed late, who takes great joy in the work of her home. I pray that we, as sons and daughters and husbands and fathers, would come alongside Mom today and take an active role in the home to bring honor and blessing to her, not to give it to her, but to affirm it in all that she is before you.

We are grateful for this and it's in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen