

UNITY
CHURCH OF BAKERSFIELD
"A POSITIVE PLACE TO GROW!"

Today's Lesson
A Matter of Divine Love
PowerPoint notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

A Matter of Divine Love

Did you know that Mother's Day dates back to the Greek and Roman spring festivals? In the beginning the celebration was to honor their female gods. The Greeks dedicated their festival to Rhea, the mother of many deities; while the Romans honored the Great Mother of Gods, Cybele.

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Later the early Christian Church chose the 4th Sunday in Lent to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. Then centuries later England expanded the holiday to include all mothers and called it Mothering Sunday.

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Today in the United States the second Sunday of May is the day set aside to honor all mothers

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In 1908 Anna Jarvis organized a church service to celebrate her mother (of the same name) and her life long works. She handed out carnations, the first Mother's Day flower.

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For five long years Anna lobbied politicians to dedicate a national day of celebration for all mothers.

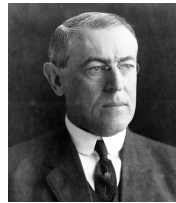
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On May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

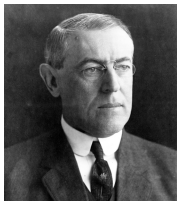
It read: "*Now, Therefore, I Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority ...*

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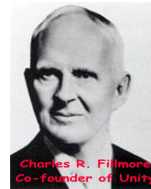
...vested in me by the said Joint Resolution, do hereby direct the government officials to display the United States flag on all government buildings and do invite the people of the United States to display the flag at their homes or other suitable places...

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...on the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

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In the matter of Divine love, Charles Fillmore wrote: Divine love is impersonal; it loves for the sake of loving. Like the sun, its joy is in the shining forth of its nature. Divine love is the great harmonizer and healer... making all things happy, harmonious, and free.

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The writer of Genesis 1:26-27 understood the divine nature of God being both masculine and feminine when he wrote:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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Today in Unity churches throughout the country we are not only celebrating our earthly mothers and what they represent to us on the physical plane, but also the divine feminine, the creative, loving, nurturing, forgiving presence of God in all of us and what it means to manifest these attributes in our lives.

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Matthew Fox in Creation Spirituality writes: Love, compassion, and tolerance are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive. When these are missing death and destruction soon follow.

Human beings need spiritual as well as material sustenance. Without spiritual sustenance, it is difficult to get and maintain peace of mind.

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By tapping into the Divine feminine and accessing Divine love, Buddha, Jesus, and all the other great teachers created their teachings with sincere tolerance, love, and compassion toward humanity. I do not think those great teachers created differences to make trouble.

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Thousands of books, seminars, workshops have been done to help us find and manifest our divine feminine nature through the attributes of love, forgiveness, and patience. The following story illustrates how love and patience can be put into practice:

A man observed a woman in the grocery store with a three year old girl in her basket.

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As they passed the cookie section, the child asked for cookies and her mother told her "no." The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss, and the mother said quietly, "Now Ellen, we just have half of the aisles left to go through; don't be upset. It won't be long."

He passed the mother again in the candy aisle. Of course, the little girl began to shout for candy.

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When she was told she couldn't have any, she began to cry. The mother said, "There, there, Ellen, don't cry. Only two more aisles to go, and then we'll be checking out."

The man again happened to be behind them at the checkout, where the little girl immediately began to clamor for gum and burst into a terrible tantrum upon discovering there would be no gum.

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The mother patiently said, "Ellen, we'll be through this checkout stand in five minutes, and then you can go home and have a nice nap."

The man followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the women to compliment her. "Ms, I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Ellen during your shopping."

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*“Thanks,” replied the mother,
“However, my daughter’s name is Tammy... I’m Ellen.”*

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We all know the story of the creation of Adam and Eve. Now I’d like to share what Paul Harvey would call, “the rest of the story” as told by Bill Cosby:

After creating Adam and Eve, God , the First Parent, said to his kids: “Don’t
“Don’t what?”, Adam replied.
“Don’t eat the forbidden fruit.”
“Forbidden fruit, Really? Where is it?”

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“It’s over there,” said God, wondering now why he didn’t stop after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw the kids playing in the apple tree stuffing themselves with the forbidden fruit.

“Didn’t I tell you not to eat the fruit?” The First Parent asked.

“Uh huh,” Adam replied.

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“Then why did you?”

“I don’t know,” Adam answered.

God’s punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children that acted just like them. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed. But there is reassurance in this story of the First Parent: If you persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven’t taken it, don’t be too hard on yourself.

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After all, if God had trouble handing the First Kids, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

So with this in mind is it any wonder we find ourselves repeating what our mother’s said to us. Here’s twelve all time favorites:

Why? Because I said so, that’s why; or

I’m going to give you to the count of three!; or

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Sure, it’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt; or

I don’t know is NOT an answer; or

If everyone jumped off the cliff would you do it too?; or

Stop it! Someday your face is going to freeze like that; or

It hurts me more than it hurts you; or

Were you born in a barn, close the door!;

or

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I'm not talking just to hear my own
voice!; or

Go ask your dad; or

Bob, Sue, Joe, Fido...whatever you
name is...; or

I love you!

Happy Mother's Day!