

# Mother's Day 2018

05/13/2018

Ephesians 6:2-3 *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

Of course, the implication is that if you don't honor your parents it isn't going to go well for you and you will not enjoy long life on earth. This is particularly true regarding mothers, as all children and fathers will agree: if Momma's not happy, ain't nobody happy.

As we've grown up over the years, and depending upon our cultural and individual preferences, we've referred to our mothers by various names: Mother, Mom, Mum, Momma, Mummy, Mommy, or as our daughter would say when she was young 'biological female parental unit'.

Like many people, my view of my mother has changed somewhat over the years. I saw my mother differently as a child than as a teenager, and now as an adult. Boy, did she get a lot smarter between my teenage years and my 20's when I had my own child.

Since our perceptions and perspectives change over the years, sometimes it is nice to revisit what it was like to see our mother through young eyes. I was sent this seven-year-old perspective and thought I would share some of their answers to some very important questions. [Read the Mom jokes.]

Have you ever noticed that there is a difference between moms and dads? To really point out the specialness of a mother, perhaps it's best to point out some differences between men and women.

The things I am about to share have come from research and apply to about 80%, four out of five men and women. There are no absolutes; you'll easily recognize what applies to you. These facts are not intended to devalue one gender or the other, but to point out that we are different – not better, just different from the other.

First off, our brains are simply wired differently; they are physically different. From brain scans it has been determined that men's brains are more compartmentalized than women's. Men's brains allow them to do singular functions extremely well in isolation from another. Women's brains are more homogenous in arrangement, tending for functions to be spread over both sides of the brain. They are more connected right and left, front and back. Even the female corpus callosum, the connecting bridge between the two hemispheres is generally 10% thicker than a man's and 30% more effective in transferring information. This allows for greater simultaneous functioning; in other words, women can multitask - they can do two to four things at a time.

I've heard it said this way: women's brains are like Microsoft Windows, men's are like DOS. Men can do one thing, and one thing only at a time. And what men can do, they can do pretty well.

First of all, men have a greater visual-spatial awareness than women. We men are built to establish a target and hit it. Since prehistoric times, because of this ability men have been the

primary hunters. Not that we necessarily wanted the job, but we were suited for it. We are able to visualize and mentally assess the speed of a target in relation to our own speed, whether it was a zebra or a deer, then compute the correct speed and angle to approach our fleeing target, and then calculate the correct force at which to hurl a stone or spear to intersect our target. By the way, 92% of the men will throw the stone or spear with their right hand. It's just the way we are wired.

Visual-spatial skills; it is man's greatest ability. Males are wired for this. That is why boys and men love video games.

Women do not have much use for this particular skill. As the historic nest protector, their ancient responsibility was to care for the young and provide food. So, they would pick berries and gather other edible items while caring for the young. Being able to pick fruit with two hands was a definite advantage. Rather than be constrained by one predominant hand, women are more often ambidextrous; right and left has little significance. Because of this, they can move and be aware of their surroundings in ways that men cannot imagine.

Another useful skill many men have developed is in finding north. Since ancient men often ventured far away from the nest or cave, once they captured their tiger, they had to get back home. This inner compass came in handy for the long distance navigational activity. Women didn't need this ability since they did not wander far from their den.

Men would come home from a long day hunting and want to relax in an activity called “fire-gazing”. They would turn off their minds and stare into the flames of the fire, disconnecting from the day’s stresses. Today we see this activity translated into reading the newspaper or flipping mindlessly through channels with the remote.

Women, it is important to note that while men are fire-gazing, this is an activity, and therefore they cannot do anything else, include listen. When your man is flipping a channel or your son is playing a video game, they are technically deaf. They cannot hear you.

I know this from personal experience. Just last night Mary and I were watching television when I suddenly realized that she had been talking to me. I heard nothing that she had said.

Men can do only one thing at a time: they can either talk or they can listen. Therefore, when men speak to each other; they take turns.

Women on the other hand are quite capable of speaking and listening simultaneously, plus be able to listen in on another conversation at the same table while reading the menu. Listen to women in a large group setting and you will hear them talking to each other at the same time – from a male perspective no one is listening to anyone. The magic of the multifunctional female brain.

To complicate the matter, women speak in five different tones of voice. Men can only identify three voice tones. So, when a woman is speaking with a man, she may change topics and voice tones and the man is thinking she is still on the first topic, so becomes lost. She may switch to a third entirely unidentified tone, and now the

man is utterly frustrated and finally, with great subtlety asks, “What are you talking about?”

In order to help the male identify and capture his target, Creation has blessed men with a very narrow range of visual focus. The periphery, although it is there, provides little information to a man. He can spot a small target far away but must look directly at what he intends to see.

Women have a quite extraordinary useful range of vision up to and exceeding 190 degrees. In other words, while she is looking directly into your eyes, she is also seeing everyone else at the table and can later tell you what they were wearing – and can listen to their conversations at the same time. Again, this is a genetic carry over from earlier times. It enabled the female to most effectively protect their young from harm. To a man, these are like super powers. This is beyond our comprehension.

Men, you may have noticed this at some point: you and your wife walk into a room of people. Within seconds she has determined the relationship between everyone in the room. She will turn to you and say, “Did you notice that couple by the flowers?”

In the meanwhile, you will have determined which way was north and spotted all the exits in the building. When she asks you this, you turn your head in the direction of the couple and she admonishes you, “Don’t look at them. You are so embarrassing.”

Ladies, if I may be so bold – for a man to see something, he must look directly at it. Men may be quite adept at finding a tiger hiding

in a distant bush, but he is quite incapable of finding anything in the fridge, a cupboard or drawer. On occasion Mary has asked me to find something in her purse. I have learned that the solution is to bring the purse to Mary and she finds it instantly.

Where visual-spatial awareness is the male's greatest skill, the female's greatest ability is in speech and language. Studies vary, and the workplace skews the numbers, but outside of work women can easily speak 20-24 thousand words a day, using 6-7 thousand vocal inflections, comprised of 5 different tones – of which a man can only identify 3. She will then use 6-7 thousand expressions, gestures, and movements. Much more when needed.

Although a male can speak up to 16,000 words a day in a business or work environment, it is typically seven thousand a day. This is evident at the end of the day during dinner. He often comes home from work entirely devoid of the ability to communicate and turns immediately to fire-gazing. The loving wife will ask sweetly, "How was your day," to which he responds, "Good." Inside he is counting...7,001. "Are you already for church Sunday? Do you know what you're going to wear? Do you know how to get there?" "Yep." 7,002.

From experience many men have learned that for their evening to go well for them and for them to enjoy a long life on earth, he had better honor his wife and ask, "Howzeurday," which is really just one word.

Now some women have verbally intensive jobs, so may go through 10-15 thousand communication signals in a day before dinner.

Other wives are full time mothers and never have anyone to talk to. Either way men, when you get home your beloved has somewhere between 9 thousand and 20 thousand things to say!

Some men can start to feel overwhelmed by all of the verbiage that is coming at them. And since their minds are geared toward fixing, correcting, and making better, they start interrupting their wife with, “Honey, you shouldn’t climb escalators with high heels to begin with. Wear your flat heeled shoes from now on and you won’t break your heel.” There. Problem solved.

In the meanwhile, she is miffed that he has interrupted her and is not listening. So, she continues, and the cycle repeats itself. Men, if I can give a bit of advice. Based upon my own experience and books I’ve read, women don’t want solutions, they want to talk, and they want your attention. Proverbs 18:13 teaches: *He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.*

And ladies, don’t get upset if your man isn’t in the talking mood. He’s never in the talking mood. And for the most part the best a man can do in response to your flow of words is to throw in an occasional grunt. This is how men communicate and show interest...by grunting. When it is my turn to talk, I stop grunting and talk. Talking, grunting; grunting, talking. It’s how men communicate.

By the way, men and women speak for two entirely different purposes. Men talk to communicate facts and data, to impart information. There is a recognizable beginning and end. In the

middle there is at least one relevant chunk of information or fact. And when men listen, they are listening for facts and data.

Women, on the other hand, speak to bond, build relationships, and reward. If a woman likes you, loves you, wants to encourage you or go along with you, and supports you, she talks to you. Words are a reward: I love you...have some words. Men, just grunt.

So, in general, women are all about relationships, bonding, compassion, love, giving, and creation. These are typically feminine qualities that are part of our human culture, part of the Collective Unconscious. Where men are about rightness, autonomy, competition, excellence, and justice, women are interested in togetherness, communion, care, and responsibility. Men tend to shy away from relationships and stress autonomy; women tend to shy away from autonomy and stress relationships.

All these characteristics are present in Spirit. That is why from my perspective, God is both Father, the Divine Masculine – just, right, strong, striving for excellence and doing right – as well as the Divine Feminine, the Mother – loving, compassionate, forgiving, caring, and unifying.

In no way do I offer these differences between men and women as excuses for either gender. These aspects have been given to each of us, as Children of God, in greater and lesser amounts, not necessarily by gender. In other words, men can be compassionate and caring, and they can strive to be more so. Women can be just and strong and can strive to be more so. Although the feminine and masculine characteristics tend to follow the gender of our bodies,



we are each imbued with all of God's qualities and therefore are expected by God to express all of these characteristics. We are more than our bodies and minds.

So, back to Mother's. Jesus loved and honored his mother. He also identified the spiritual mother characteristics within himself and others. In John 12:48-50 when told that his mother and brothers were outside wanting to speak with him, he replied, "*Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?*" <sup>49</sup> *Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

This is not an insult to his physical mother, but rather an acknowledgement of the intimate inner relationship with Spirit.

So, today we give thanks to our own Mother who brought us into this world and mothers everywhere who continue to love us, no matter what our age, whether we are even their child or not, and whether they are in bodies or in spirit. We give thanks for the Divine Mother within us that whispers words of support and love to our hearts; that nurtures us, and expresses through us as giving, sharing, compassion, and love. Thank You God, for the love of Mothers. Happy biological female parental unit day! Happy Mother's Day!

Let us pray....

### **Why were mothers made?**

1. She's the only one who knows where the sticky tape is.
2. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

### **How are mothers made?**

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

### **Why were you given to your mother and not some other Mum?**

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's Mums like me.

### **Why did your Mum marry your Dad?**

1. My Dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My Grandma says that Mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

### **What's the difference between Mums & Dads?**

1. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
2. Mums have magic; they make you feel better without medicine.

### **What would it take to make your Mum perfect?**

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. You know, her hair. I'd die it, maybe blue.

### **If you could change one thing about your Mum, what would it be?**

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my Mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.