

# **“HONOR GOD BY HONORING YOUR MOTHER”**

**Mr. Camron Hubble**

**Text: John 15:9-17 NLT**

**God's Word: 1 John 5:1-6 NLT**

*“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:9-17 NLT)*

Hi everyone. It's a pleasure to be here today, and Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, and Godmothers in the crowd today. I realize most of you don't recognize me so for a brief introduction, my name is Camron Hubble and I am proud to be Jim & Linda Leyda's grandson. A special thanks goes out to Pastor Mike and Pastor Becky for allowing me to give the sermon this morning.

Today's readings focus on two interwoven themes; the commandments and love, and there is no better day to celebrate these ideas than Mother's Day. John tells us that we show God our love for him by obeying his commandments. One of the commandments: Honor your mother and your father.

There is no better example for honoring one's parents than Jesus Christ himself. As Jesus died on the cross, showing his great love for us, he still honored his mother telling a disciple to treat Mary as if she were his own mother. He provides a wonderful example for us in this case: putting his mother's wellbeing before his own during the most difficult of times.

I have been blessed to have a mother that since the day I was born, has put my interests before her own. As you all reflect about your parents, or the children or grandchildren you have parented, you may come to a similar conclusion: parents putting the needs, wishes, and whims of their children ahead of their own. While I deeply appreciate the things that my parents have done for me, have I done enough to honor them and their sacrifices? What could I do better to honor them and show my appreciation? That answer is different for every person, but for those of us fortunate enough to still have our mothers with us today, I encourage you to reach out to them, show them your appreciation, and honor the things they have done for you. This commandment of honoring our mother and father does not apply only to those of us who still have our parents with us today. Through the way that you

live, love God, obey his commandments, and love his children, you can bring honor to your parents no matter if they are in Heaven or on Earth.

The Lord not only commands us to honor our parents, but to love each other as he has loved us. As he commands us to love each other, he makes an important distinction between friends and servants, saying, *"I do not call you servants any longer because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."* This distinction is important because the role of the disciples did not dramatically shift with their new title. It was simply perception. In our lives today whether it be in school, at work, in a club, or some other realm, there is likely a hierarchy within that world. Is that hierarchical structure reinforced in the way that people are treated? Do most of the relationships in your life fall under the master and servant description or the friend description?

Which type of relationship do you think provides the most benefit? So far throughout my 20 years, I have seen the most beneficial relationships sprout from people sharing a common mission, goal, or set of values. No matter what your title is, you are as much a child of God as your boss, your employee, your coach, or your professor. I encourage you to treat them as such. Bring the people in your life along with you on your mission to be a more loving child of God. Turn a servant or a master into a friend, and see how it can improve not only your relationship with each other, but also with God.

The last idea I'd like to touch on today is the impact a strong relationship with the Lord can have on your life. John writes that *"whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith."* Our faith in God could give us the world. This may come in any form, but our faith in God is the first and most important thing in realizing our Earthly wishes.

Jesus told his disciples to go bear fruit that would last *"so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for in return."* That seems like a good bargain. One at least I know I'd accept without hesitation. The challenge is bearing fruit that will last. How can I do that in my life today and moving forward? A few simple principles that can guide our day-to-day lives. Love God. Seems easy enough, but how often do we do it? Could we do it more? Do it better? Do we thank God for the little things that make our lives just 1% better? Better yet, do we show God how much we love him by loving one another? That is another way to bear fruit that will last a lifetime. Loving your neighbor. Admittedly this is a challenging one. At times, seemingly impossible, but to improve your love of God, love your neighbor.

Obeying all of God's commandments are ways of bearing lasting fruit, but if there's one specific one to focus on today it is to honor your mother and your father. On this Mother's Day and beyond, honor your mother and father in the way you love God, love your neighbor, and live out God's word. Nothing will make them prouder.

So, if you want to conquer the world, you first must love your mommy. Have a blessed Mother's Day everyone, and thank you for having me.