

## God's Love is Like the Love of a Mother

*As for children, obey your parents in the Lord, because it is right. The commandment Honor your father and mother is the first one with a promise attached: so that things will go well for you, and you will live for a long time in the land. As for parents, don't provoke your children to anger, but raise them with discipline and instruction about the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4, CEB)*

One of the Ten Commandments given to Moses and the Hebrew people by God was to "honor your father and mother." In other words, we should give special recognition to our parents. Listen to them. Learn from them. Respect them. Treat them well, at all of the various stages of their lives. After all, it was our mothers and fathers (in most cases) who gave sacrificially of themselves to raise us and give shape to who we are today.

This weekend, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we are especially thankful for our mothers, who gave birth to us, worried about us, cooked for us and fed us, changed diapers and cleaned laundry, lost countless hours of sleep in the middle of the night comforting us, worked extra jobs to make ends meet, got us back and forth to school and other activities, encouraged us, and so the list continues. There is a special connection between mothers and their children that's hard to describe, but let's try anyway.

Even in a time when the people of Israel believed that God had forgotten them, the image of a mother's love was given to the prophet Isaiah to remind them of God's unending love for them, saying: *Can a woman forget her nursing child, fail to pity the child of her womb? Even these may forget, but I won't forget you. (Isaiah 49:15, CEB).* Yes, God's love for us is like that - like a mother who has experienced the growth of a child in her own womb. How could she ever forget that child? In the same way, God does not forget any of God's people, who are created in God's own image.

I wish a special blessing on all of you who love and serve as a mother. God celebrates the love and sacrifices which you have made to bless others in this special way.

Easter Joy!

*Pastor David Rittgers*