

Should Christians Observe Mother's Day?

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On a Sunday during the month of May, many people around the world observe a holiday referred to as Mother's Day. Various activities are involved from offering gifts to taking mothers out for a meal. This seems like a loving or noble activity, but is it something that Christians should be doing?

Although scripture is clear that parents are to be respected, it is also plain that there are right ways and wrong ways to show respect,

Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you (Ex. 20:12; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Christ made it clear that showing honor is not to be associated with the traditions of men; especially if those traditions are contrary to the word of God, which includes celebrations associated with pagan systems of worship,

But he (Christ) answered and said to them (the scribes and Pharisees), 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ⁴For God commanded saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' ⁵But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated to the temple' – ⁶is released from (his/her responsibility of) honoring his father or mother. ⁷Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ⁸'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, ⁹and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men (Mt. 15:3-9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In a short article entitled "Mothering Sunday," the author Barbara Walker writes the following regarding the history of Mother's Day,

English pagan Mother's Day (was) honored up to the 18th century A.D. On the 4th Sunday of Lent, each person visited his or her mother with an offering of simnel-cake (Latin simila, "fine flour"), to receive her blessing. This was (referred to as) "going a-mothering." Herrick mentioned the custom in his canzonet to the nymph Dianeme, probably Diana of Nemi. The simnel was a manikin, Gingerbread Man, similitude, or Host; a god ceremonially eaten (The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets, p. 695; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This Diana of Nemi, is a pagan goddess that has been worshipped in different cultures under various names,

"Queen of Heaven," (is the) Roman name for the triple Goddess as (1) Lunar Vigin, (2) Mother of creatures, and (3) the Huntress (Destroyer). Her Greek name was Artemis. Her major pilgrimage centers were Ephesus and Nemi.

Diana's cult was so widespread in the pagan world that early Christians viewed her as their major rival (cf. Ac. 19:27), which is why she later became (known as) "Queen of Witches." Roman towns all over Europe habitually called the local mother goddess Diana, as later Christian towns were to call her Madonna (The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets, p. 233; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So modern 'Mother's Day' has its origin in a pagan system that worshipped a female deity. Today, people will argue that they are not acknowledging any pagan deity when they bring gifts to their mother, or take her out for a meal. In reality however, they are still marching to the tune of a pagan system that they should have nothing to do with. God compares following any aspect of paganism, no matter what form it takes, as living in darkness,

For you (who claim to know God) were once (in) darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose (reprove) them (Eph. 5:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

There shall be no foreign god among you; nor shall you worship any foreign god (Ps. 81:9).

God's people are to come away from anything that is remotely associated with paganism,

And I (the apostle John) heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her (pagan system), my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues (Rev. 18:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

This scripture is not speaking about leaving society and becoming a hermit. Instead, it is showing that God's people are not to be participating in any activity that is associated with a false system of worship. Christ made this distinction quite clear in a prayer that he offered on behalf of his disciples,

I have given them (Christ's disciples) Your (Almighty God's) word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I (Christ) am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world (by physically removing them), but that You should keep them from the (influence of) evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world (Jn. 17:14-16; Ed. notes in parentheses).

... Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (Jas. 4:4b).

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1Jn. 2:15).

When God speaks about coming out of this world, He is referring to its practices that are influenced by the Adversary (cf. 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:12). Christ came to overcome this

influence and pave the way for others to follow based on their faith and obedience to the word of God,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father (Gal. 1:3-4).

Showing respect for one's mother does not have to be determined by doing a good deed only one day a year based on the dictates of this present evil system. Instead, respect towards one's parents is a lifetime commitment. Sometimes this act of giving something, one day out of the year, is based on assuaging feelings of guilt for the fact that one's parents are marginalized the other 364 days of the year. Also of note, any holiday in Satan's system is associated with trafficking. In other words, it's associated with buying, selling, and profiting in one way or another, which is entirely the wrong focus. Buying one's favor is not the same as verbally expressing thanks for the sacrifices made by one's parents to provide the needs of their children over the years,

By your (Satan's) great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches (Eze. 28:5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

You (Satan) were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity (sin) was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within... (Eze. 28:15-16a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Satan's holidays pay "lip service" to spiritual values, while encouraging the acquisition of physical goods. People are influenced to buy things as a means of expressing themselves to others, but it often ends up being competitive and sometimes destructive because the focus is on materialism.

As Almighty God is the Parent of all living beings, all His children should be concerned about how they conduct themselves based on His word - every day of the year. This is how we honor Him and fulfill the fifth commandment. There is nothing that any human being can give Him as an expression of their thanks,

If I (Almighty God) were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness (Ps. 50:12; cf. De. 10:14; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine (Job 41:11).

If we observe 'Mother's Day' based on a custom that originated in the pagan system of worship, we elevate another deity or a physical parent over the laws of God and do not truly honor our heavenly parent, God the Father. This causes us to not only break the fifth commandment, but the first three as well (cf. Lk. 14:26). If we think we can do this and still claim that we love God, we are liars and the truth is not in us (1Jn. 2:3-5).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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