

## Mother's Day "Opposite Day"

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa/ May 12, 2024

**Romans 12:9-21** "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

### I. "Living life together" means we lean into one another's joys and sorrows.

**Romans 12:15** "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

A. Jesus found joy in the success of His disciples and rejoiced with them.

**Luke 10:21** "In that same hour He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will.'"

B. Jesus wept with Mary over Lazarus' death, despite the fact He would raise Lazarus from the grave.

**John 11:32-35** "Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup> And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup> **Jesus wept.**"

**Hebrews 4:15** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

"We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin."

Peterson, E. H. *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Languages*. (Heb. 4:15)

C. One of the greatest joys of "living life together" in Community Groups is experiencing the joys and sorrows of church family members.

**1 Peter 3:8** “Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”

**II. Mother’s Day is a time to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.**

**1 Corinthians 12:26** “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

- A. Mother’s Day is a chance to celebrate those who have been blessed with a new child in their family!
- B. Mother’s Day is a chance to weep with those who are grieving the loss of a child, born or unborn.
- C. Mother’s Day is a chance to honor mothers who are visiting with us today!
- D. Mother’s Day is a chance to weep with those whose mothers are no longer with them.
- E. Mother’s Day is a chance to celebrate mothers and mother-figures!
- F. Mother’s Day is a chance to weep with those estranged from their mothers or children.
- G. Mother’s Day is a chance to celebrate those who are overjoyed to be mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers!
- H. Mother’s Day is a chance to weep with those who are not experiencing joy in being a mother.
- I. Mother’s Day is a chance to celebrate with mothers who are watching their children reach new milestones!
- J. Mother’s Day is a chance to weep with those who are dealing with infertility.

**III. Mother’s Day is a unique time to consider someone in a different emotional place from you.**

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. When have you experienced someone else “leaning in” to your joy? When have you experienced someone else “leaning in” to your sorrow?
2. In what way(s) do you “live life together” with other members of the family of God?
3. When have you experienced the joy or sorrow of your brother or sister in Christ?
4. What prayer card did you receive? Who did it bring to mind? How did it recall a season of your life to mind? How did the Holy Spirit lead you to pray?
5. Pastor Peter said “Mother’s Day gives us a unique opportunity to consider our thoughts & emotions, as well as those who may be thinking and feeling something very different from us.” How do you lean into that tension? What emotions accompany Mother’s Day for you? Who is experiencing something very different from you that you can pray for today?