

THE MOTHERHOOD OF GOD

Isaiah 66:13

Introduction: Mother's Day is a time for a trip home, cards sent, telephone calls, candy and flowers to be delivered, breakfast in bed, all sorts of things that say "I love you Mom..." It is a special time of the year when we recognize our mothers. God has never been pictured as a "mother," but always as a "father." The Heavenly Father, as the New Testament reveals, but the Old Testament pictures God being like a mother and no fuller or more charming revealing of God's nature than that of a devoted mother is shown in Isaiah 66:13. Think for a moment about how a mother cares for her children and family, and then think of how God cares for us. Is it not also like that of a "mother?"

I. GOD USES HUMAN TERMS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO US

1. People are limited in understanding Godly/spiritual things.
 - Thus God reveals Himself on human levels.
 - The hand of God, the ear of God, the arm of God, the voice of God, etc.
 - God is like our King, is like our Father.
 - God is also like a mother - one who tends to us in times of pain and sorrow, and comforts us.
 - The Jews said that "God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers..."
 - A loving mother is God's most tender image in human thinking.
 - Even in a mother's reflection, though, not all of God's big heart can be revealed.

II. EVERY VIRTUE OF PERFECT CHARACTER IS FOUND IN GOD

1. Find the best mother but she will still be lacking in one or more "graces."
2. Both the man and woman's characters are found in God's heart.
 - God possess in perfection the most noble man and the pure heartedness of woman.
 - Fused together in God's character is the strong, protective love of a man and the tender, comforting, sacrificial love of a mother.
3. Both man and woman can turn to God and find all that each may need.
4. The Old Testament pictures God as a comforting mother - comforting His children. What can surpass a mother's love?
 - It is the woman who suffers most and is able to hide her feelings better than a man as she struggles against heartache and sorrow.
 - How like God a mother is. How silently God suffers, bears pain of desertion and rejection of His children.

III. HOW GOD WORKS TO AVERT THE DOOM OF THE SINNER (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

1. God comforts by His presence:
 - What is a home without a mother? She is the queen, she brings comfort, joy, love, service.

- It is worse, yet, to be without God, although He is nearby, never too far away to sooth, to care, to lift up His children.
- God is treated as a tower of safety in storms and when the storms pass, we depart until another storm comes.
- When a son or daughter's life becomes shattered, they go back home, back to their mother.
- We, too, go back home to God after life has hit us hard, God is like a mother.

2. God comforts by His Words:

- Who is the child's first teacher? Mother!
- When discouraged, it is mother who comforts and inspires.
- When disobedient, it is mother who gently corrects.
- When in doubt, it is mother who leads to strength and affirmation.
- Think of all the lives that have been straightened out by a mother's words.
- Mothers, do your children ever really grow up? What does God call us? His CHILDREN!
- A mother always sees a child - never a grown son or daughter.
- Thus it is with God! We shall always be children. Weak, foolish, inexperienced, erring.
- God utters soothing "words" and is concerned over our waywardness, pleading with us, just like a mother.

3. God comforts by His silence:

- When a child gets into trouble, sometimes the mother does not scold for she already knows what is wrong and consoles the child first with questions later.
- God often asks no questions, has no reproach, asks for no explanation but simply says, *"...come unto me and I'll give you rest..."*
- Think of a mother's touch - when a child is hurt, the kisses, the hugs, the tears dried and the pain goes away. Mother's touch and presence brings relief.
- Thus it is with God. We carry to God our doubts, heartaches, disappointments, ruined lives, and He comforts in silence. We kneel but cannot see, we speak, but no audible words come from Him, YET we know He is there and we leave His presence calmed and happy.

4. God comforts by His sympathy:

- Children tell their mother little secrets, all the things that they did that day. Mothers react with interest and concern, visibly, audibly and by touching and hugging.
- Thus it is with God but sadly we seek comfort somewhere else - in a bottle, with pills, at work, a new marriage, worldly things and all ends in sin.

CONCLUSION:

1. Think for a moment about Mothers and about God. How they both are so much alike. We think of God as being like a man, a Father, strict, firm, unyielding, etc. But God is also like a mother.
2. How foolish to cut ourselves adrift from the God who made mothers after His own example and who can do more for us than any mother can for her children.
3. Mothers, you are wonderful and your got your wonderfulness from God.

