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Evelyn Waite and Kathy Webber are collaborating on this project in an effort to encourage our Christian sisters and possibly to inspire other women to participate in this effort.



The Most Beautiful Babies
By Kathy Webber

The birth of a child is a special event in the life of a parent. I can vividly remember the birth of my firstborn. My heart sang out what my eyes drank in--he was beautiful. He had the most perfect little round face. I could no longer contain myself and said, "Isn't he the most beautiful baby you have ever seen!"

A visiting friend answered, "Yeah, and in a few days those blemishes will disappear." Blemishes! What blemishes? Not on my baby!! Pulled back into reality, I looked at my baby's face and for the first time saw the little impurities popping out on his face. Where had they come from? Yes, they had been there all along, but I had been looking at my baby through the eyes of a loving mother, and I just did not see them.

When we are washed in the blood of Christ and are walking a submissive and God-focused life, that is how God sees us. God looks at us through the eyes of a loving Father. He looks at us with the greatest love man has ever known and through the precious blood of His son...the blood that covers and washes away--as though they never happened--our blemishes and impurities. God sees us dressed in the holiness of His Son, and He says to His Son, "Aren't they the most beautiful babies that you have ever seen!"

Tears of joy stream down my face and gratitude floods my soul as I think about His love and what it means to be a child of God. And my heart sings, "We are children of the Heaven--we're strangers in this world because we know we're heaven bound." It puts a smile on my face and the skip in my walk.

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Although many Mother's Day celebrations worldwide have quite different origins and traditions, most have now been influenced by the more recent American tradition established by Anna Jarvis, who celebrated it for the first time in 1908, then campaigned to make it an official holiday. Previous attempts at establishing Mother's Day in the United States sought to promote peace by means of honoring mothers who had lost or were at risk of losing their sons to war.

In its present form, Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. But the first "official" service was on May 10, 1908 in the same church, accompanied by a larger ceremony in the Wanamaker Auditorium in the Wanamaker's store on Philadelphia. The next year the day was reported to be widely celebrated in New York.

Jarvis then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday and then later as an international holiday. The holiday was declared officially by the state of West Virginia in 1910, and the rest of states followed quickly. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war.

In 1934, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a stamp commemorating the holiday.

via Wikipedia

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***We don't change God's message.
His message changes us.***

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A Mother's Love

*There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.
There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.
There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.
For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above.
--Author Unknown*

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"...of such is the kingdom of God."

Luke 18:16

Jesus loved little children. More accurately, Jesus *loves* little children. The two small children shown above were born just days apart and have been in Bible class together since they were able to sit up by themselves. The day this photo was taken, they had not seen each other for a couple of weeks, and their joy at seeing one another was evident the moment they spotted each other in Cradle Roll that day. They had obviously missed each other, and moments later they reached across an empty seat and clasped hands.

John was described as the apostle whom Jesus loved. In his later years, he wrote three epistles to Christians strongly encouraging them to love one another. In fact, in 1 John 3:18 he wrote, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." No words were spoken between these two precious little ones, but their look and touch spoke volumes of their love for one another. John also wrote in 1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Likewise, the apostle Peter wrote in his later years, " Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart..." (1 Peter 1:22). Jesus himself said in Mark 10:14, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them.". The love between these two little ones is unconditional. That is the kind of love we are to have for one another in the Lord's church. Paul expressed the bond we are to share in Romans 12:15-17 when he wrote, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward

one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone."

The love Jesus has for us is incredible and virtually indescribable. The love we have for one another should be such that we are inseparably bonded together in Him. Jesus gave a new commandment, that we love one another as He has loved us (based on John 13:34). In the following verse He said, " By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." These two precious children certainly love each other, and they are both blessed with parents who love God and are bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Our love for God and for each other as Christians is a tremendous motivating factor. It allows us to love even when it is painful. It motivates us to serve one another (Galatians 5:13), and it causes us to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24). Paul urged the Christians at Rome to "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor," Romans 12:10.

The love God has for us was and is so powerful that He was willing to allow His precious Son to die on the cruel cross of Calvary--for each one of us. John said, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another," (1 John 4:11). Peter wrote to struggling Christians, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." The love of God and Jesus certainly has covered a multitude of sins for us, and our love for each other is a powerful force in allowing us to bear with the flaws we all have.

May we all become as loving and innocent toward one another as these two precious little ones. Truly, "of such is the kingdom of God!"

*Evelyn Waite
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"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Luke 18:17

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Right on Time

*When the time was right,
the sea parted,
the walls fell down,
the lions went hungry,
the sun stood still,
the waves were calm,
the stone was rolled away,
the clouds parted,
the Lord ascended...*

*And when the time is right,
The King of Kings will return.*

*God is never early, and He's never late--
He's always right on time, and His plan for you is good.*

Author Unknown

(Submitted by Kathy Webber - not her work
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