

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you...

Isaiah 66:13a ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship & Communion Service

Sunday, May 1, 2022

SERVICES & CONTACTS


Sunday Worship Services in-person & live stream - 10:40am & 6pm

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

Join us for Sunday School in-person - 9:30am

There is a class for ALL ages

Midweek Service in-person & online (Wednesday)

 **ZOOM Noon** and repeated **7:30pm** | link provided

Youth Service in-person - 7pm (Friday)

 **WhatsApp**  **Signal**  **Telegram 845-5752** or Tel: **426-4707**

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org

Do I Love My Kids Too Much?

Jen Wilkin

Back-to-school time is always a tough transition, not just for kids but for moms. And I'm no exception. I've certainly been happy-sad sending them off, though, if I'm honest, the sad is currently winning the tug-of-war by a mile.

For the third time in three years, I left a piece of my heart in a dorm room at a giant university hours from home. There's only one chickie left in the nest that used to hold four, and his traitorously giant feet are dangling over the side of it. In a short time our nest will be empty entirely.

I walked through last week with a tape in my head chanting, "I miss them I miss them I miss them." I thought of life after that last baby leaves and could conjure up no vision for what would come next. Meaningless, meaningless. I did the only reasonable thing: I attempted to fill the hole in my heart with cookies—a lot of cookies. I overreacted to things that normally wouldn't have bothered me. The internal ache hurt so deeply and caused so much distraction that I once again had to face the ultimate Christian mommy-guilt question: *Do I love my kids too much?*

Cookies for Jesus

This love I feel for my children is arguably the strongest human emotion I've encountered, other than marital love. Its strength still surprises me. Though perhaps equal in intensity, its nature is different than the love I feel for my husband. My love for my children includes an instinct to nurture and protect them in their vulnerability, an element my love for my husband, Jeff, does not. Nor does my love for Jesus. And this is where the ultimate Christian mommy-guilt question morphs into an even more guilt-inducing one: *Do I love Jesus as much as I love my kids?*

Or more precisely, *shouldn't* I love Jesus more than I love my kids? It's a common admonition offered to Christian moms: *Don't find your identity in being a mom. Find it in Christ.* The admonition itself is needed, but I've noticed we tend to misapply it. Christian mommy guilt can cause us to see our love for our children as competing for our love for Christ. We only have so much love to give. How much will we give to family and how much will we give to Jesus? It's as if our love is a cosmic batch of heart-shaped cookies we must divvy up. Give anyone more cookies than Jesus and your identity is misplaced.

But shouldn't there be a way to give Jesus all the cookies without depriving our families as well?

Chasing Identity

Unsurprisingly, the question of where we find our identity is one of motive. A mom whose love of her kids is motivated by their achievements or behavior

has identity issues. If she has to raise the perfect child in order to feel at peace about her worth, her identity is misplaced. By asking motherhood to be her savior, she reveals not that she loves her kids too much, but too little.

By contrast, the mom who keeps her identity rooted in Christ does not set her love for (and service to) her kids in opposition to her love for (and service to) Christ. She understands that she doesn't have to love her kids less to love Jesus more. Her love for her kids expresses her love for him. The two loves, intertwined, should be ever-deepening and ever-expanding. She doesn't need to feel less love for her kids in order to feel more love for Jesus. Her motive for loving them is her love for Christ.

Earnest Christian mom, practice your love for your kids as an expression of your love for your Savior. Jesus taught that providing shelter for the shelterless, food for the hungry, and clothing for the naked are sacred acts. They're also the hallmark activities of mothering. When we do them from the right motive for those in our homes, it's as if we've done them for Christ himself (Matt. 25:31-45). Put another way, we don't divide our cookies between Jesus and our kids. We take a plate of cookies Jesus has given to us and we give them to our kids. By giving them to our kids, ultimately, we give them back to him. We love because he first loved us.

Sacred Task

The Christian mom doesn't love Jesus *instead* of loving her children; she loves Jesus by loving her children. Our love for him should be displayed through our love for them. Though not the sole mechanism of expressing and displaying our love for Christ, it's an important one, bearing compelling witness to the gospel. God's tender care and fiercely protective love for his children is frequently illustrated through the metaphor of motherhood (Hosea 11:3-4; Deut. 32:11-12; Isa. 49:15; 66:13; Ps. 131:2; Matt. 23:37).

good, disciple-making work God has ordained for you in this season, it should feel exactly so. I suspect Noah felt rather consumed with the work of building the ark. I suspect the apostle Paul felt rather consumed with the work of building the early church. When we work at any task as unto the Lord, it's bound to define us during the season it inhabits. Motherhood is no exception. As a mom with an empty nest in sight, I anticipate the sorrow to come when this season ends, but I won't bear shame for it. To transition painlessly and effortlessly to life after kids would be to diminish the significance of the sacred task I've undertaken for the past two decades of my life. I plan to grieve the season as it deserves, even as I trust that the next will be every bit as fruitful.

And if my grieving involves a few cookies, so be it.

Order of Service

COMMUNION SUNDAY

May 1, 2022 at 10:40am

THEME: "Walk By The Spirit"

1. Welcome/Announcements
2. One Minute Meditation
3. Invocation
4. Hymn 320 - In the Garden
5. Scripture Reading St. Luke 4:1-13
6. Hymn 463 - O for a Closer Walk
7. Hymn 793 - Master, the Tempest is Raging
8. Prayer
9. Tithe & Offering/ Offertory Chorus - I am Determined
10. Hymn 274 - Full Salvation
11. Sermon - Deacon Tyrone Lowe
12. Hymn 273 - Fill My Cup, Lord
13. **DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS**
14. Hymn 1 - My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
15. Benediction

ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- For our mothers as they care, nurture and sacrifice for our children.
- For the reopening of Berean Bible Church (Grazettes).
- Those preparing for exams
- To stop the spread of COVID and for healing for those ill from the virus.
- For comfort for families who have recently lost loved ones.
- For the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the many Berean Churches in the DR Congo.
- For the friends of Berean - The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For entrepreneurs and those seeking employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.

May Birthdays



3rd - Rachel Gibbs

5th - Joel Ellis

7th - Michael Aimey

8th - Julia Licorish

9th - Julianne Johnson

10th - Alfred Drayton

- Angela Ward

13th - Pamela Kellman

16th - Rachel Williams

19th - Harold Codrington

23rd - Jennifer Thompson

28th - Heather Payne