

## Mother's Day 2018 – Yo-Yo Mama

### Introduction:

1. Mother's Day is a secular holiday day between the resurrection and ascension
2. Many preach things like *"The greatest privilege and trust God ever gave women was motherhood ... Mother's love is the greatest love outside the love of God."*
3. I do recognize that no of us would be here with our mothers – good, bad or indifferent
4. Women are half the population and more than half the church
5. Mother's Day can be painful for many
6. Most moms wouldn't turn down a gift certificate to a spa, or a macaroni necklace,
7. My pet peeve – those stupid videos that get passed around or played in church
8. Besides being incredibly patronizing, that dude-in-distress, learned-helplessness act is so twentieth century.
9. The jig is up for the guys—we all know that you are perfectly capable of cooking a meal, and picking up Legos, and even braiding hair when the chips are down. There are tutorials on YouTube
10. Mother's Day tends to celebrate the Hallmark ideal of motherhood, not the complex, gritty, flesh-and-bone reality of the real women who have vested themselves in our lives, whether they're our mothers or not.
11. If we don't have perfectly behaved children, reading happily in a home that looks like something out of a Pottery Barn catalogue, there must be something wrong with us, right? – No – wrong – there is something wrong with our self-imposed expectations
12. *"I have the meanest mother in the whole world"*

### Not Conformed:

1. ***Romans 2:12 tells us that we're not supposed to conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds.***
2. But oftentimes, women are concerned about being conformed to this world's ideas about what women should do and be, good or bad, right or wrong, than about being transformed into the image of Christ.
3. Today we are going to dismantle a few Mother's Day myths that keep us conformed
4. I'm guessing this particular myth developed as a reaction against people who devalue the important work women have traditionally done in the home.
5. The idea that being a wife and mother is a woman's highest calling is not only a slap in the face to women who are not wives or mothers; it is a distortion of what the Bible has to say about humanity in general, and women in particular.
6. A woman's highest calling is to follow Jesus and be transformed in his image.
7. So why did God create us? What is our original mission statement?
8. The large scale, cosmic one we read in ***Genesis 1***, and the more focused account about the Garden of Eden that starts in ***Genesis 2, verse 4***.
9. it is important to understand that all of humankind, both male and female, are included in the mandate God gives in ***Genesis 1***.
10. It's not like God created Adam, told him to rule over creation, and decided he needed a junior secretary to wash his socks while he was busy establishing dominion.
11. Let's discuss ***Genesis 2:18***, where God says ***that it's not good for man to be alone, so he'll make him a suitable helper.***

12. Incorrect translation - *ezer kenegdo*, the original Hebrew words we translate as “*helper suitable*” or “*helpmeet*,” don’t imply subservience at all. Rather it has military overtones. *kenegdo*, which we translate as “*meet*” or “*suitable*,” is a complicated word that implies equality and counterbalance.
13. Technically, *ezer kenegdo* means “*the help that opposes*.”
14. **Genesis 1:26-28** – God’s mission statement for us: “***Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”***”
15. We are created in His image to be reflectors of who He is

### **Proverbs 31 – Epitome of Women?**

1. For women who grew up thinking of the domestic super-heroine of **Proverbs 31** as just another impossible standard
2. The knowledge of most Jewish rabbis, teachers, and sages who can read, write, and speak Hebrew fluently allows them to see many things in the original text that isn’t obvious in English – I will focus on two allegories:
3. Wisdom - is the primary character in the Book of Proverbs and is personified as a woman.
4. For women, the beginning of Genesis there are profound implications. God is described in both masculine and feminine imagery in the opening verses of Genesis.
5. In recent years many scholars are interpreting **Genesis 1:26-27** as humankind, male and female, as the image and likeness of God.
6. God is neither a man nor a woman, but He has attributes of both
7. The bible tells us these attributes are manifested in seven characteristics (Menorah)
8. The menorah often uses the symbolism of the menorah to describe the Holy Spirit
9. ***The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (Is. 11:2)***
10. ***He said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it” – Zech 4***

### **Holy Spirit:**

1. Do you know another helper in scripture? The Holy Spirit
2. Sometimes He is our aid, but sometimes He opposes us in order to ‘turn’ us A Godly woman can’t be measured by externals

### **Checklist:**

1. ***Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”***
2. The highest calling of every woman, and every man, is to be a follower of Jesus.