

Eva Moore
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Freedom to be Christ-like Parents

The transformation to mother is often discussed casually and naturally in our culture. There is no ceremony to mark the occasion. Most ceremonies revolve around the baby. Motherhood as a biological process is the stuff of science non-fiction. It leaves a woman with what recent scientific discovery has confirmed (and what women who have experienced childbirth already knew), the cells of their children, both born and unborn, remaining in our bodies actively playing a role, perhaps until death.

A woman is physically and mentally not the same person when they transform into a mother. There is a death that occurs. A shift in priorities. A shift in what a woman is willing to accept and not accept; apologize for and not.

As Paul wrote in Romans 8:1-2 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)):

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

This freedom does not condone lawless behavior, but it does serve as the spiritual basis for freedom from “mom guilt”. For all that we are and all that we fail to be, both as Christ-like mothers and Christ-like humans, the gift of the Holy Spirit is meant to be used every day, all day. It is not meant to sit on a shelf for special occasions. It is not ‘the good China’. As precious and beautiful as it is, God intends for us to call on the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, from the mundane to the magnificent. To share with us in joys and pain. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to forgive ourselves and then ask God forgiveness.

Paul teaches us, reading ahead to verse 26:

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.

Freedom to be Children of God

Our lives as Christians and as mothers are a constant struggle to remember who and whose we are. That we are free to live in love, imperfection, and act in courage and justice. Most importantly, as children of God, we are free to ask for help. Help from friends, the family we were given and our chosen family, help from our community. We are free to pray with tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

There's a book Atlas and I read the other night, and the ending stuck with me. This is the end of The Man in the Moon by William Joyce.

I thought of this more universally, that we as SPC are not just the guardians of our children's childhood, but our collective inner child. We collectively want immigrants to have true due process and freedom from fear, we collectively want our family and friends who are identify as LGBTQIA+ to know they are accepted and loved; we collective want to eradicate violence, war and racism. We collectively want everyone to be free. Truly free.

I want to end with Romans 8:14-15

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"