A GODLY MOTHER’S INFLUENCE

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8
2 Timothy 2

A recent survey was taken of 600 college students. They were asked to put down the single most beautiful word in the English language.

442 put down the word “mother”

A man named W. L. Caldwell wrote this back in 1928 about

MOTHER’S DAY

Well may we pause to pay honor to her who after Jesus Christ is God’s best gift to men, mother. It was she who shared her life with us when as yet our members were unformed, into the valley of the shadow of death she walked that we might have the light of life. In her arms was the garner of our food and the soft couch for our repose. There we nestled in the hour of pain; there was the playground of our infant glee.

Those same arms later became our refuge and stronghold. It was she who taught our baby feet to go and lifted us up over the rough places. Her blessed hands plied the needle by day and by night to make our clothes. She put the book under our arm and started us off for school. But best of all, she taught our baby lips to lisp the name of Jesus and told us first the wondrous story of a Savior’s love.

For better or worse, mothers are the makers of men; they are the architects of the next generation.

Being a mother is not a walk in the park…

By the time a child reaches 18, a mother has had to handle some extra 18,000 hours of child-generated work. In fact, women who never have children enjoy the equivalent of an extra three months a year in leisure time!
A Junior High science teacher lectured on the properties of magnets for an entire class. The next day he gave his students a quiz. The first question read like this: “My name begins with an “M,” has six letters, and I pick things up. What am I?” Half the kids in the class wrote, “Mother.”

An old Spanish proverb says, “An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.”

I’m aware that Mother’s Day is a difficult time for some of you.

Maybe you want to be a mother but you can’t be for some reason. Perhaps some of you have not had the best mother in the world. Some of you have had a mother who has died, OR some of you have lost your husband or child to death. Some of you mothers feel the pain of a wayward child this morning. And, some of you are flying solo as you work hard to nurture your child’s faith.

A mother can make a significant spiritual impact on her children with or without the help of a father.

ILLUS.
Four scholars were arguing over Bible translations. One said he preferred the King James Version because of its beauty and eloquent old English. Another said he liked the New American Standard Version for its literalism and how it moves the reader from passage to passage with confident feelings of accuracy from the original text. The third scholar was sold on the New Living Translation for its use of contemporary phrases and idioms that capture the meaning of difficult ideas. After being quiet for a moment, the fourth scholar admitted: “I have personally preferred
my mother’s translation.” When the other scholars started laughing, he said, “Yes, she translated the Scriptures. My mom translated each page of the Bible into life. It is the most convincing translation I have ever read.”

Mothers, what kind of Bible is your child reading when she or he observes your life? Are you looking for ways to instill a respect for the Word of God into the lives of your children?

Remember, you can make a significant spiritual impact on your children with or without the help of a father.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8
7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.
8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

I. INSTILL A RESPECT FOR SCRIPTURE

The first way a mother can do this is by instilling within her children a respect for Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:14
But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.

2 Timothy 3:12-13
12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
2 Timothy 3:14
2 Timothy 3:14
But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, Timothy didn’t just fill his head with truth but internalized it and then lived it out. I think Timothy did this because he saw it modeled in his mother, in his grandmother, and in Paul himself.

2 Timothy 3:15 shows us what this truth was:

2 Timothy 3:15
15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

As devout Israelites, grandmother Lois and mother Eunice taught the Holy Scriptures to Timothy from the very beginning. The word “childhood”/NIV - “infancy” - refers to a newborn baby or a toddler. Lois and Eunice teamed up to provide high-powered D.T. -- DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING classes for young Timothy even before he could crawl! They read to him, they talked about Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Ester, and Ruth. They did everything they could to provide Timothy with the opportunity to learn all he could about the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7
4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!*
5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
These two mothers had God’s Word in their hearts. Because they had internalized the truth into their own lives, they could impress it upon young Timothy by talking about it throughout the day, showing Tim how the Scriptures should impact every area of life.

**Mothers, it is never too early to start teaching the Bible to your children and, it’s never too late to start if you haven’t already.**

There is nothing that can replace your role in your child’s life. God wants to use you to instill within your children a respect for the Bible.

Thankfully, you do not have to do this all by yourself. We have a well thought-out, Bible-based Sunday School program for your children, an AWANA program that is based on Scripture memorization, and classes for single mothers.

### I. INSTILL A RESPECT FOR SCRIPTURE

### II. INSTILL AN AUTHENTIC FAITH

The second way to make an impact in the lives of your children is by instilling within them an authentic faith.

2 Timothy 1:5

5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Even though Lois and Eunice were believers, Timothy needed to come to a point in which he put his faith in Christ.
Faith is not hereditary. Nor is it learned by osmosis. When mothers model genuine faith, an environment is set up whereby children will be motivated to want that same kind of faith.

**2 Timothy 1:5**

5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you. . .

The word, “genuine” related to faith means “unhypocritical.” Notice the chain here: Lois to Eunice to Timothy. Again, we don’t read of a grandfather or a father anywhere in this equation. That’s not to say that a father is not important he is.

What I’m saying is this: a mother can make a significant spiritual impact on her children with or without the help of a father.

**2 Timothy 1:5**

5 That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith — and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you!

(from THE MESSAGE)

Moms, if you want to instill authentic faith in your children then you better take your own faith seriously.

If you’re just going through the motions spiritually your kids will eventually see it, and tragically, may do the same thing when they are older.

As you demonstrate your faith consistently by reading the Bible, praying, attending worship, bringing your kids to programs that help them grow spiritually, and by participating in the life and mission of the church, you will send a strong message to your
A GODLY MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

Her children's souls than in their bodies or in their clothes
Her children's eternal life than their success in this life
Her children's relationship with Jesus than their popularity in the world
Her children's standing before God than their social status
Her children's spirituality than their intellectual, musical, or athletic accomplishments

While it isn’t in the text, a mother who passes along a faith that is authentic is without a doubt a praying woman. Any home in which faith is passed on from generation to generation has to be a home of prayer. One cannot imagine Lois not praying for Eunice or Eunice not praying for Timothy.

We read in Acts 12:12 that the mother of John Mark opened her home for a prayer meeting while Peter was imprisoned.

Acts 12:12
12 So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.

In Acts 1:14, Mary, the mother of Jesus “joined together constantly in prayer” with the disciples. That’s the hallmark of a godly mother.

Acts 1:14
14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

III. INSTILL A DESIRE TO MINISTER

The third way to impact your children is to instill within them a desire to minister.

After Paul preached in Lystra, and Timothy was converted, he returned a short while later. Let’s pick up the story in Acts 16:1-3:

Acts 16:1-3a
Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.
2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.
3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him.

When Paul stopped in Lystra for this second time, he enlisted Timothy to be his special assistant to replace John Mark.

1 Corinthians 4:17 Paul refers to Timothy as his “beloved son”
1 Timothy 1:2 he calls him his “own son in the faith.”

Philippians 2:20 NASU
20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

Mothers, part of your job is to instill a respect for the Bible, another responsibility is to instill an authentic faith.

But these two elements are just the start.
DESIRE TO MINISTER.

Our kids are to learn the Bible and grow in their faith so that they can be CATALYST FOR CHANGE in their world.
    So they can share their faith with others.
    So they can minister in the church and in their school.
    So they can serve those who are hurting.
    So they can serve as missionaries.
    So they can identify their spiritual gifts and use them on a regular basis.

The truth of the matter is this: we are saved in order to serve.
    We are to be disciples so that we can disciple others.
    We are equipped so that we can evangelize.
    We are sanctified so that we can be sent to a lost and dying world.

Susannah Wesley, mother of 17, two of which were John and Charles Wesley, spent one hour each day praying for her children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour each week to discuss spiritual matters. No wonder her children were used of God to bring blessing to all of England and much of America. I came across some parenting guidelines that helped her as a mother:

Instill submission to God and denial of self-will in a child and thus work together with God to save his soul.
Teach the child to pray as soon as he can speak.
Give the child nothing he cries for and only what is good for him if he asks for it politely.
Never allow a rebellious, sinful act to go unnoticed.
Commend and reward good behavior.
Strictly observe all promises you have made to your child.
Summary
Let’s see if I can bring all this together.

Mother, you can make a significant spiritual impact in your family with or without the help of a father.

You can do that by instilling:

- A Respect for Scripture
- An Authentic Faith
- A Desire for Ministry

I want to close this morning by reading a poem entitled, “My Mother.”

My Mother
Your love, I know—I’ve seen your tears;
You’ve given to me my life.
You’ve walked through hours and days and years
Of heartache, toil and strife.

To see that I could have the best
That you could give to me,
You gave up needs and often rest—
You viewed eternity.

To do His will my highest call
And by your special care
I stood and walked and did not fall,
You held me up in prayer.

Though strands of gray may brush your hair,
And miles divide our way,
I know that by your quiet prayer
You’ve helped me day by day.

You’ve shown me how to give, to share
To put my own needs last.
You’ve helped me see and be aware
That life is so soon past.

To spite your love I would not dare,
For there’s not another
Who spreads her gentle love and care
Like you—My Loving Mother.

Closing
I want to applaud you mothers who take the task seriously of
making a spiritual impact in the lives of your children.

**Proverbs 31:28**
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;

We stand up this morning and call you blessed thanks for pouring
your lives into ours.

**WOULD EVERYONE BUT MOTHERS STAND**
Would you who are standing say, to the mothers seated around you,

“**You are blessed!”**

**Proverbs 31:30** says that, “a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

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