

Influence of a Godly Mother

2 Tim 1:5; 3:15

Proposition: Moms through your sincere faith in Christ Jesus and through your devotion to the Word of God, you can influence and equip your children to impact their generation.

Application: Apologize to your children for messing up your testimony as a parent. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction of sin to your wayward son or daughter. Pray that the Lord will bring Christians into the lives of your wayward son or daughter to build on the foundation you have put in place. Know that your sincere faith in Christ Jesus and devotion to the Word of God will equip your children to be world changers.

Introduction

There was a young man, who graduated from high school and had to give a speech. He began by reading from his prepared text. "*I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she has had on my life,*" he told the audience. "*She is a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words could ever do justice.*" At this point he seemed to struggle for words. After a pause, looked up with a slight grin and said, "*It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting.*" Life affords mother's no greater privilege, no greater responsibility, no greater honour than raising children to impact their generation. It has been said that "*behind every great man is his mother.*" This morning, I would like to exhort the mothers here by highlighting the influence you can have on your children.

Mom's, through your sincere faith through your devotion to the Word of God, you can influence, and equip your children to have an impact in their generation (2 Tim 1:5).

I. A Godly Mother Has a Contagious Faith in the Lord Jesus (1:5)

Timothy did not grow up in an ideal home. His dad was an unbeliever (Acts 16:1). That did not stop his mother, Eunice and his grandmother, Lois, from teaching him the things of the Lord. Timothy gives hope to Christian mother's married to non-Christian fathers. If Eunice's son Timothy could grow up following the Lord, then God can do the same for your children, even if your husband does not walk with the Lord. This verse tells us that Eunice had a sincere faith.

It is pure a faith (sincere) –It has only One object: A sincere faith is not acting like we have faith. It is not playing the part. The opposite of a sincere faith is a hypocritical faith. Eunice did not have a faith that she put on in public, or on Sunday (in the case of a Jewish believer on the Sabbath), only to take it off at home. Sincere faith is genuine. It is a faith lived out because

of an inner reality. It is a faith that has the Lord Jesus as its sole object and lives out the reality of that relationship with the Lord at home and outside the home.

I still recall the day my Jewish mother came back home after taking a two-week trip to Edmonton to visit my two sisters who had recently become Christians. We were living in Sherbrooke, Quebec at the time, and my mother wanted to find out what had happened to her two daughters. Had they gone mad? Jews don't believe in Jesus. She was worried they had been brainwashed. During that fateful two-week visit in 1978 my mom came to faith in the Lord Jesus. She returned home a new woman. The inner reality of her faith in the Lord came forth – as it had done in Lois as it had done in Eunice – and it got my attention. Soon after I too came to faith in the Lord Jesus. The testimony of a godly mother whose faith in the Lord is lived out has a powerful influence on her children.

A sincere faith has only one object, the Lord Jesus. A sincere faith is also an influential faith.

It influences the way we live: Through your sincere faith and through your devotion to the Word of God, mother's can influence and equip their children to have an impact in their generation. Not only did Eunice have a sincere faith in the Lord Jesus that was both contagious and influential she also transmitted her faith to her son Timothy. How do we transmit our faith to the next generation? Through the Word of God (2 Tim 3:14 – 17).

I heard of *four scholars* who were arguing over *Bible translations*. *One* said he preferred the *King James Version* because of its beautiful, eloquent old English. *Another* said he preferred the *New American Standard Bible* for its literalism, the way it moves the reader from passage to passage with a confident sense of accuracy from the original text. A *third* man preferred the *NIV* because of its quaint, penetrating use of words, the turn of a phrase that captures the attention of the reader. After giving the issue further thought, the *fourth* scholar admitted, "*I have personally preferred my mother's translation.*" When the other scholars chuckled, he responded, "*Yes, she translated it. She translated each page of Scripture into life. It is the most convincing translation I ever witnessed.*"

We adorn the doctrine of God, we beautify our faith in Christ Jesus, we make Scripture very attractive and pass it on to the next generation through our godly living (Titus 2:10).

A godly mother has a contagious faith in the Lord Jesus.

II. A Godly Mother Is Committed to Living Out the Word of God (3:14 – 15)

Of course, mothers are not perfect. But as a mother you want your children to know that while you are not perfect, you do walk with the Lord. And by living out the Word of God you can transmit your faith to your children. If the Word of God is not important to us, neither will it be

deemed important to our children. We cannot impart what we do not possess. But if the Word of God is important to us it can become important to our children.

A sincere faith and a devotion to the Word of God does not guarantee our children will follow our example. It does not guarantee they will walk with the Lord. But your sincere faith in the Lord Jesus and your devotion to the Word of God will be used by the Holy Spirit in the lives of your children. He will take what you have imparted to your children and will bring conviction that may one day lead to repentance.

If you have adult children who are not walking with the Lord, you can still have an influence in their lives through your prayers. You can pray that the Holy Spirit will take what you have imparted, your sincere faith, your devotion to the Word of God, to bring about conviction unto repentance and faith. You can also pray that the Lord would bring other Christians, who also have a sincere faith and who are also devoted to the Word of God, to speak into their lives and build on the foundation you have laid down. God used the apostle Paul in the life of Timothy. Paul built on the foundation that Lois and Eunice had already put in place.

The best influence you can have on your children is to live out a sincere faith in the Lord Jesus and be devoted to the Word of God. Because through your sincere faith, through your devotion to Scripture through your prayers, you can influence and equip your children to impact their generation. A godly mother has a contagious faith in the Lord Jesus. A godly mother is committed to living out the Word of God.

III. A Godly Mother Raises Children Who Are Equipped to Impact their Generation

(3:15).

I want to speak to the young people among us this morning. Timothy had the privilege of being under the influence of a godly mother and a godly grandmother. You too have that same privilege. Be thankful that you have the blessing of a godly mom. Her influence can thrust you into greatness. God used two generations of godly women to prepare Timothy for the incredible ministry the Lord had for him. He can use the godly influence of your mother and your grandmother to prepare you for greater things. Let's look at how God used Timothy and how he may use you (2 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:19; 1 Thess 3:1, 2; Phil 2:19 – 23; 1 and 2 Tim).

Timothy was a church planter with Paul and he was a pastor of the Ephesian church (1 Tim 1:3). Because he was raised up by a mother who had a contagious faith and a love for the Word of God, Timothy's legacy lives on to this day.

Conclusion

It has been said that “*one godly mother achieves more than 100 teachers*”. World history is shaped in the homes where godly mothers’ dwell. It is not possible for any person to estimate what he or she owes to a godly mother. Children who have been raised on the Word of God are equipped to meet the rigours of adulthood. Maybe you feel like you have failed as a mom. Maybe this message does not describe your reality. Perhaps your son or daughter is not walking with the Lord. How can I still have an influence on their lives now that they are out of the house and have moved on with their life? You can still have an influence. Here are three things you can do:

1. Talk to your son or daughter who is not walking with the Lord and confess your failures to him or her. Admit that you made some mistakes; admit that at times you did not live out your sincere faith in the Lord Jesus. At times your faith appeared hypocritical. Admit it to them and apologize to them.
2. Pray for your wayward son or daughter. Pray that the Holy Spirit would take what you have imparted to them over the years and that the Holy Spirit would bring conviction of sin unto repentance.
3. Ask the Lord to bring other Christians into their lives, Christians who also have a sincere faith in Christ Jesus and who are devoted to the Word of God to speak into their lives and build on the foundation you have put in place.

Your sincere faith, your devotion to the Word of God, your prayers for your children can influence and equip them to have an impact in their generation.