

FAMILY LIFE

“MOM, THE NURTURER”

OPEN: Nurture – to feed, to influence behavior, protect, encourage, support, train, care for...to create an environment conducive for growth.

- It is the nature of a child to sin, to be selfish...it is the nurture of a mom that teaches them to do what is right and to serve.
- What every Christian mom hopes to hear:

3 John 4 (NLT) – I could have no greater joy then to hear that my children are following the truth.

❖ The foundation of the Christian home is under attack. Families are crumbling. A godly mother is crucial; she is the glue that holds the family together.

- Like the mother bird that feeds her young (PICTURE ON SCREEN) God instills in a mom the intuitive knowledge of what her children need (at least this has been my experience with my mom and wife).
- Sometimes this task of raising godly, responsible children/young adults can feel overwhelming, especially if you are doing this single handedly (your husband has checked out or you are a single mom).

❖ There is hope...one of the strongest complements in the N.T. was given to a young man whose father was absent in his life.

- Paul said of Timothy: **Philippians 2:19-22 (NLT)** - ¹⁹ If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. ²⁰ I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. ²¹ All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. ²² But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News.

❖ Let's take a peek through the window of Timothy's house:

2 Timothy 1:3-7

- Here we meet Timothy's grandmother – Lois and his mother, Eunice.
 - ✓ It is likely that these ladies practiced the Jewish faith (Jewish believers under the Old Covenant) and they taught Timothy the O.T. scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:15 (NLT) - You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

- ✓ When Paul and Barnabas traveled through Galatia (**Acts 13:13-14:21**) on their first missionary journey, they lead these ladies to Christ...they connected the dots from the O.T. to...Jesus the Messiah.
- ✓ By the time Paul made his second trip through their town...those ladies had lead their grandson/son to the Lord. It was at this time Paul enlisted Timothy to join him in the work.
 - We read about this in Acts 16 which may also explain what happened to Timothy's dad:

Acts 16:1-3a (NLT) - Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium,³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey...

- We think Timothy to be a young man in his late teens or early twenties.
- He would become John Mark's replacement (remember how John Mark quit on the first trip)? Paul doesn't give up on young people.
- As for Timothy's dad – he was Greek. The grammar likely suggests his father was dead...we don't think he was a believer.
- Being part Jew and part Gentile, Timothy would have access to both cultures...this would prove valuable as they reached both Jew and Gentile.

- ❖ Point: Godly ladies can make a great impact on the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ Two noteworthy things about Timothy:
 - a) His faith was genuine (vs. 5) this also described his grandmother and mother's faith.
 - The word genuine or sincere is “hupokrites” from which we get our English word – hypocrite.
 - ✓ Timothy's faith was real, it was not “put on” or one of pretense or deceit.
 - ✓ He sincerely lived out what he believed...he wasn't a fake, a pretender (faith that doesn't work at home but only at church isn't real).
 - b) He needed a gentle nudge (vs. 6 & 7).
 - Fan the flame, exercise your spiritual gift...being a young man, he may have been a little timid (unsure of himself).
 - ✓ Paul was telling him...I believe in you...the Holy Spirit will enable you to do what God calls you to do.
- ❖ Young men (especially those who grow up in single mom homes) need godly men who will invest in them...pray for them (1 Timothy 3:4) and invite them to do ministry with them. (Men: would you like to know how you can help?...see our Family or Student Pastor and learn about opportunities to invest in boys/young men.

CLOSE: Practical tips.

- 1) Start early (when your child is in the crib).
 - The first six years are foundational. Imitate God.
 - Illustration: dog training.

(Panel of moms)

- 2) Cultivate the right home environment.
 - Describe for us what a Christian home might look like?
 - When it comes to teaching authority and responsibility, how do/did you do it?
 - How do/did you go about giving your child more independence?
- 3) Be consistent (inconsistency confuses your children and will frustrate you).
 - What are some rules or guidelines you had/have for their children?
 - When do you show grace and when do you let the hammer fall?
 - How do you handle those times when you are “worn out” and don’t feel like enforcing the rules?
- 4) Be their cheerleader.
 - Ways my mom encourages me.
- 5) Pray constantly.
 - Ask God to protect them; to create a hunger in their heart for them to know God.
 - Ask God to direct them and help them make wise choices.
 - As they grow up and leave home, entrust them to God’s care.
 - Do you have a mom that prays for you? You are blessed.

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Message Notes
May 13, 2018