

An Endangered Species

Intro: She cooks, cleans, comforts and corrects. She has six pairs of hands, and eyes in the back of her head.

A. Mother- For some, this word brings images June Cleaver, with apron and pearls, a baker of brownies, and able to kiss away a child's tears of woe.

B. Mother- For others is more like images from **Erma Bombeck**

Whatever the image, no one has more influence than a mother. For better or worse, she will forever impact the life of her child.

I. A Solid Foundation

A. Establishing a rock-solid home- **Prov. 24:3-4**

1. Solomon is suggesting that a home is built on

a. **Wisdom**- discernment

b. **Understanding**- respond w/insight

c. **Knowledge**- beyond the facts

2. These tools are relational--

The Best Translation-

B. Looking at a NT mother

1. She used the tools of wisdom, understanding and knowledge in raising Timothy

2. We know little about Timothy's mother & grandmother-- incredible investment in his spiritual life.

3. Paul was impressed-- **2 Tim. 1:1-4**

II. A Mother's Contributions (2 Tim. 4-7)

Five contributions mothers can make to the family:

A. Transparent Tenderness v. 4

1. Passed down from his mother

2. Most learned tenderness from moms

(your hugs, eager smile and soft reply will provide safety for your children)

B. Authentic Christianity v. 5 (illustrated from his mother)

1. The word sincere here means "unhypocritical"

2. Mamma Eunice e & Grandma Lois impacted Timothy greatly- **2 Tim 3:14-15**

3. Authentic Christianity is seen when God's truths are translated at home

C. Inner Confidence v. 6-7

1. It's amazing how our children sense our attitude toward ourselves-

a. Timidity- synonymous w/ insecurity

b. Power- "inherent strength" and "inner might"

2. Timothy stayed true to the Scriptures and stood strong because he learned inner confidence from mom

Made In His Own Image

D. Unselfish Love v. 7 (demonstrative)

1. Agape seeks the highest good of the other person-- Moms can illustrate this

2. Our love has a tendency to show in two ways:

a. A sense of humor-- not taking oneself too seriously

b. a sense of insight-- When you listen to hurts and hear what isn't said-- showing care & help

Mohandas Gandhi

E. Self-discipline v. 7

1. Moms balance tenderness and love with discipline

2. Set parameters-- say "That's it; that's enough..." etc...

Conclusion: The Foundation

- A. How does a mother build a home?
(they secure a foundation) **Prov. 23:3-4**
- B. These riches are:
 - 1. Transparent tenderness
 - 2. Authentic Christianity
 - 3. Inner confidence
 - 4. Unselfish love
 - 5. Self-discipline
- C. Children see what God's love is all about through their parents, especially their mothers

A mothers heart is the schoolroom where the child learns the ABC's of life-- where tenderness is translated into all its subtle nuances, where faith is multiplied, where confidence is read aloud, where love is conjugated into all its tenses, and where self-discipline stands as monitor. This is why it is said that "one good mother is worth a hundred school masters."

- D. God values moms...
 - 1. But He also values the rest of us as well.
 - 2. God feels the same way about us.
 - a. We are certainly not perfect, but God values each of us.
 - b. Every time we go before God with a heart of love for Him, He treasures our efforts and the heart behind our motivation.
 - 3. Mom's in their own way illustrate the love God has for us...

Prayer

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