

A Godly MOTHER

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Text: 1 Timothy 1:5, various others

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Series: Family

Introduction: The American family is broken. Moms, Dads, and children are hurting. The breakdown of the family is the cause of most of what is wrong in our society today. It is why you lock your doors at night. It is why you feel unsafe when you send your child to school. It is a major reason for crime of all kinds.

What is the answer for the family? It is the same answer for every individual in the world. It is what we Christians call the “Gospel”. It is the good news! Any home can be changed by the Gospel. A godly mother is truly the hope of our country. Moms, do you know the Lord? Do you walk with Him? Then there is hope! Why? I’m going to give you six reasons. Each reason will come from the acronym “M-O-T-H-E-R.” Mother starts with the letter “M”. Turn to **2 Timothy 1:5**.

I. A godly mother is a **Molder** of the Home. M- stands for **Molder** of the home.

The impact and influence that a Mom has on her children is amazing. It is a true saying that “the one who rocks the cradle rules the world.” If you are a godly mother, you are the only hope for the crumbling American family. One godly mother can truly turn the world upside down. Let me show you this from the Bible.

We come to a hopeful story of the influence of a mother and a grandmother who are still having an impact today. We read of their lives in **2 Timothy 1:5**. Paul writes to his faithful co-worker, Timothy. What was the secret to Timothy’s strong faith? Paul says, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

Now we do not know where Timothy’s father was. We know he was Greek. It is probable that he traveled a lot and was away from the home much. But Grandma Lois and his mother Eunice had an amazing impact and influence on Timothy. So much so that he became a companion with the Apostle Paul. Day in and day out Grandma Lois and mother Eunice lived out their faith before Timothy. He saw that it was real! He was molded into a man of God. You have that same chance in your home. What kind of mold do you have for your children?

1. Every Moment Mom is molding! Everything you do is being watched!

Application: You and I often don’t realize the power of simply living for the Lord in front of our children. You see, they watch. They listen. They’re not taking notes literally, but they are taking note of every action, and every moment they are applying it to their own hearts. Every decision we make, we are helping form our children to either excuse their behavior since Mom and Dad did it, or to make the hard choice to do right

since they saw Mom and Dad do right. Molding takes place every moment you are with your children, so make sure YOU are molding your children.

2. You need TIME with your children to mold your children. Mothers (and fathers) here today, take the *time* to break the mold of the world for your child. If you do not break it, then your child will come home with things you never intended for them to know—and they may or may not tell you what they learned from others.

If you don't take the time to teach your children the *right* principles, then the TV, the local school, and your children's peers will be glad to teach your children the *wrong* principles. Mom, you are a molder of hearts and lives and generations. Take your God-given role seriously. You deserve a break but you will rarely get one. You have only one chance to mold this child's life. Take the TIME!! Spend time with your child. Use that time to mold them. You are molding your child's heart.

3. Moments turn into years, and years turn into Generations!
Personal Testimony: I am a first generation Christian. I know of no one before me in my family that is a Christian. My wife on the other hand is the eighth generation in her family to come to a radical relationship with Jesus Christ. Our children are the ninth generation.

4. You are not simply molding a child but truly a Generation!
When parents bring a child into the world, they are bringing in a free moral agent before God that will be making decision and affecting hundreds and thousands of the lives of others long after we are dead and gone. Each child brought into the world will quite likely have children. In a hundred years that child will likely have 300 or more descendents. Dear mother, please listen this morning. You are molding more than a child. You are molding a generation of children through that child. You are molding hundreds of families through that child. That one child may have as many as 300-500 descendents over the next hundred years! You have the most important occupation in all the world.

Illustration: There is a large picture at Jill's parent's house. It is a four foot by four foot family tree with over a thousand people on it dating back to the early 1800s. The vast majority of the people on that family tree are sincere and truly transformed Christians. There is almost no divorce in her family.

5. Your influence and impact in your home will live on long after you are gone. Being a Christian mother is about passing on an understanding of intimacy with God. You have a great influence over your children if you take it. But listen to this—if you don't take the TIME to influence your children, those who have NO love for God or your children will be glad to shape your child's heart.
6. It takes more than your influence to mold your child. Your child needs God. Turn over to **Romans 12:2**. The Lord tells us not to “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will

of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect..” In order to do this, the verse before says you must give yourself as a “living sacrifice” to God. Your child needs more than you can give them. So let me challenge you to give yourself to God!

- II. A godly mother is an **Organizer** of the Home. O- stands for **Organizer**. God designed mothers to be Organizers of the Home.

Look at **Titus 2:3-5**, “Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the **young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, **working at home**, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.**”.

Mothers of children are called by God to be “**working at home**”. This should be no surprise. It is actually becoming popular again for Mom’s to be at home. This has been the key to the family’s survival for thousands of years, and some thought we could change it.

Paul said many years ago in **1 Timothy 5:14**, Paul says, “So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, **manage their households**, and give the adversary no occasion for **slander.**”.”

The safest place for your **children** is in the home with their mother. A mother whose primary responsibility is in the home and would hardly be free to pursue outside employment. Any wife who fulfills God's priorities in her life and home will be a very busy lady.

Moms, you might be home with your children, but it the last place you want to be. What ever time you have with your children, be all there.

It is a full time job to raise a child. It takes all the influence you have.

It's not uncommon in our day for children to be dispatched to a babysitter, day-care center, or school so Mom and Dad can do their thing without cramping their style.

A recent *Newsweek* article related the following:

“Parents' lives are so hectic that schools often can't find them when problems arise; one mother informed a Chicago school that she didn't give her unlisted telephone number to anyone. With so many parents working, one third of all elementary students return to empty homes.... Some kids reach kindergarten without having been read to or even talked to, and can interact with other children only by hitting them” (“Where Are the Parents?” September 1990, p. 55).

The same article quoted these alarming findings from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics: “73% of mothers with school-age children work outside the home. Nearly one fourth of all children under age 18 live with a single parent, and only 7% of school-age children live in a two-parent household where there is only one wage earner” (p. 56).

Raising a child is a fulltime responsibility. There is no substitute for spending time with your child. You are responsible to organize your child's life according to godliness. You will give an account.

III. A godly mother is a **Teacher** in the Home. T- stands for **Teacher**.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Training a child in godly principles includes character training. Here are a few things to teach and develop in your children.

Your child has an amazing capacity to learn deep life forming habits in his first 10 years.

A mother has the most important job in the entire world, and it cannot be accomplished by anyone else! Dads should also be at home as much as possible. Look at **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

You don't need a Ph.D. in Psychology to know how to deal with the deepest of your child's sins and problems. You need to know the Word of God.

We want our children to be godly. But godliness does not come naturally. The Minnesota Crime Commission acknowledged that when it issued this report appointed by the governor back in 1926:

"Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it: his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toys, his uncle's watch, or whatever. Deny him these and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness which would be murderous were he not so helpless. He's dirty, he has no morals, no knowledge, no developed skills. This means that all children, not just certain children but all children, are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in their self-centered world of infancy, given free rein to their impulsive actions to satisfy each want, every child would grow up a criminal, a thief, a killer, a rapist."

Children need to be called out of this world. Adam, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Paul...

We need to break out of the mold of the world. We need to stand up for our children and our families and say NO. TV will not educate me or my children. Mother, you are called to educate your children!

2 Timothy 3:14-15, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been

acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus..” Where did he learn the Scriptures? We find out in **2 Timothy 1:5**, that it was from “grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice”.

Without the Word of God, all you’re going to get are temporary solutions. All the world can offer is behavior modification either based on invasive accountability which runs on fear of falling and guilt. The world also has a religious option that says if you are good enough you can go to Heaven. That leads to more guilt and seeing God as an impossible God. Behavior modification will never give you the joy and hope and exhilarating freedom that every human being longs for.

IV. A godly mother is a **Helper** in the Home. H- **Helper**. A Mom is a helper!

We read in **Genesis 2:18**, “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him””. Eve was made to help and compliment Adam. A Mom is not to be the head of the home. She’s got an even more important job than being the head of the home. She is to be the HEART and HELP of the home!

A mother is always helping isn’t she? Who is it that always saves the day? Who is it that is there at 2 o’clock in the morning when everyone is sick including herself? Mothers are always giving and helping. She’s helping her husband. She’s helping the children. And when the children are gone, she’s there for the grandchildren. Her help never ends. It’s hard work to be a mother. Everyone needs your help. But it is so very important.

I’m glad for the Bible verse in **Mark 10:14**, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

A mom that knows Christ is a help! She is a help to her husband and to her children. And she can only help others as she depends on God for help.

V. A godly mother is an **Evangelist** in the Home. E- stands for **Evangelist**. Mother is the most important preacher in the world!

A. Every mother’s **call** is evangelism. It’s the only way. You *can* raise your children for the Lord. You *can* do it, but you must have the Gospel. You must yourself must be changed and molded by the Lord in order to mold your children. The Gospel can change your children, but first it must change you!

- **2 Timothy 1:5**. “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”
- **2 Timothy 3:15**, “and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

No one can believe for your children. No child ever became a follower of Christ just because Dad and Mom were. Your child has to believe for him or herself. But you can pass on an

understanding of sincere faith and a pattern of godly living and love for Christ. You *can* do that!

Before you can give your child the Gospel, you must know it yourself. Mother, are you saved here today? You cannot give your children to God until you yourself have come to God.

B. Every mother's **curse** is sin. You got kids with a problem greater than dyslexia or some difficult disease. Every child is sinful. Your children have to be taught to share, but they don't have to be taught to lie.

- Do you have a child with an anger problem?
- Are you as a parent angry or bitter or full of resentment?
- What about depression?
- What about anxiety attacks?
- What if you sometimes want to harm yourself?
- Do you ever have uncontrollable fear grip you?
- Do you take out your hurt and anxiety and pain on your family or on others?

Have you ever asked yourself some hard questions like...

- Why does my child rebel?
- Why can't I control my children?
- Why won't my child listen to me?

C. Every mother's comfort is the Gospel. If you preach the Gospel, God will raise your children through you. Every time your child sins, it is an opportunity to evangelize them.

Galatians 3:24, "the law was our *guardian* until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

Romans 5:19-20, "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

Every time your children break God's law, you must be an evangelist to point them to Christ.

Look at **Romans 3:23**, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith..." Look at **verse 26**, "It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Mother, if you are an Evangelist, then there is HOPE for your family!

VI. A godly mother is a **Refuge** in the Home. R- stands for **Refuge**.

Mom and Dad's protection overhangs over all of our lives.

Throughout the book of Proverbs we hear commands like the one in **Proverbs 1:8-19**, "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say, 'Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; 12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; 13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; 14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse'— 15 my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, 16 for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. 17 For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, 18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. 19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors."

The refuge and protector of the home is mom and dad. You are their safety. You are going to be their voice of reason in the storm.

Let me say this clearly. Mom and Dad, you are responsible to bring the godly influences over your children's life. You are to shelter and to overhang and protect them from ungodly influences until they are out of your house.

There's an old Chinese proverb that says, "One generation plants the trees, and another gets the shade." God designed the family to bring a shade of godly values and refreshing, relieving shelter to children to protect them from the raging, blistering sun of immorality and directionless living that will destroy their lives. Children are exposed to this blistering sun many times because the parents don't care. It's not uncommon in our day for children to be sent off to a babysitter, a day-care center, or school so Mom and Dad can do their thing without cramping their style.

Instead of the loving shade of Mom and Dad, they get the blistering sun of godless TV, immoral friends, and innocence destroying worldly influences. Mom and Dad in many ways have checked out, yet they wonder why their child is so blistered and broken.

- If you allow garbage into your child, then garbage will come out of him. If you don't protect him or her from the blistering rays of ungodly influences, then don't be surprised when your child is burned and hardened by the ungodly world.
- When Mom and Dad can't get along, the shelter is further removed, and children get angry and confused.
- When the home is torn apart, the children have a rage inside of them.
- When they are exposed to the sex and sensuality that is reserved for marriage and should be holy and they see it trampled on, they don't know what to do.
- When their parents instead of protecting them, tell their children, "Just do whatever you want", it's like the parents giving their children permission to go into a forest filled with landmines. Parts of their innocence are blown away forever. They bring this baggage

into their marriages and instead of shelter and shade, the blistering goes on to another generation.

Both Mom and Dad are to give a constant overhang of shelter and protection throughout the storms of life. Mom and Dad are to demonstrate the POWER of the Christian life for their children and grandchildren. There can be no compromise. You may fall and fail, but a child knows if you are genuine or not. It is the power of the Gospel in your own life that will shelter and guide not only your children, but the generations to come.

Conclusion: Let me tell you right now. There is hope. This morning I want to give you the ultimate hope not only for the family but for every individual on earth. This is the Gospel. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!