

# Mother's Day

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7 & 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

This week's focus is largely on mothers but the principle of living for future generations applies to all of us.

*"When all is said, it is the mother, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls, who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she only would realize it, a more honourable as well as more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist".<sup>1</sup>*

## 1. Godly Mothers/People Live For Multi-Generational Impact

Paul makes mention of Timothy's mother and grandmother in his letter. Timothy received his faith from them. The way they lived their lives impacted Timothy, who became a significant player in the spread of the church. Whether we are parents or not, the way in which we live our lives significantly impacts future generations.

- This brings meaning to the mundane
- This brings significance to sacrifice
- This brings consequence to carelessness

Living for others is often found in the routine, done at great cost to your own needs and desires, and almost always without any thanks. But it also means that our poor decisions and selfishness will impact the next generation too.

- ❖ Q: Have you been exposed to good mothering (be it your own mother or someone you knew well growing up)? What things do you remember that impacted you about the way that mother interacted with her children? What were the benefits to those children?
- ❖ Q: What are some of the good things you picked up from the way you were raised that you would want to pass on to the next generation?
- ❖ Q: Are there things that others have sacrificed in order for you to be where you are now? What did it cost them?
- ❖ Q: Are you consciously living for the next generation (whether you are a parent or not) or are you living for yourself without thought for the next generation?
- ❖ Q: In what ways is it possible to impact the next generation if you are not a mother/parent?

## 2. Godly Moms Give Faith As A First Gift

The important legacy that Timothy's mother and grandmother left for him was that of faith in Jesus Christ. It is the most significant thing that you can pass on to the next generation.

- ❖ Q: If you are a parent, is your first goal to leave a legacy of faith in your children? What is number one on your priority list and why?
- ❖ Q: If you are not a parent, are there kids in your world or a kid's ministry that you could serve in order to help to build their faith? Could you be a support to single moms who need that support and encouragement as they try and do that huge job on their own?

## 3. Godly Moms Ensure Suffering And Hardship Faithfully

Timothy did not have an easy childhood. His father was not a believer and Timothy was ill a lot. It must have been incredibly hard for his mom Eunice, wondering what God was doing in her little family. Despite the hardships, she still remained faithful to God. Little did she know that in years to come God was going to do something remarkable with her sickly boy.

- ❖ Q: Are there struggles in your life that you just cannot understand and you sometimes just want to give up on God because of them?
- ❖ Q: Have you considered what it means to remain faithful to God in that difficulty, because of the generations to come? Do you believe that God is faithful, despite the circumstances?

## 4. Godly Moms Start Fires By Living For The Spark In Another

Godly mothers centre their lives around their children, but they entrust their lives to God and don't play that role for him. All of us should live our lives for others because of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:14-15) and that has the potential to impact generations to come.

<sup>1</sup> Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 845.