

2 Timothy 1:5 - “The Generational Impact of a Godly Mother”

Introduction

- **Opening Prayer**
- Good morning, brothers and sisters.
- My name is Steven Schouten, and I have the privilege of serving as a Pastoral Intern here at Cornerstone.

- I have been given the opportunity to fill in this morning and I count it a precious blessing, privilege, and responsibility to lead us in the worship of God through the preaching of His Word.

- And if you are a 1st-time visitor, we always like to tell our guests 3 things:
 - *1st*, we are really grateful that you are here.
 - We consider you to be God’s gift to us in this time we have together.
 - So thankful for choosing to worship with us.

- *2nd*, you are in a place where the ground is level, which means that nobody is any higher, better, or more significant than anybody else.
 - The ground at the foot of the cross is level ground and we are all sinners who need a Savior, and Jesus Christ is that wonderful Savior.
 - And while your salvation may be a personal matter, God never designed for it to be a private matter.
 - He wants us to live as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

- This leads to the *3rd* thing we need to tell you, which is that we love you enough to tell you the Truth.
 - And that’s Truth with a capital T.
 - The Truth from God’s Word, the Truth about Jesus, His person, His works, and His words, and how He will change your life from the inside out.
 - He is the Cornerstone of our faith...

- **If you would, please start turning in your Bibles to the book of 2 Timothy...**

- Today we will be taking a break from our series in 1 Corinthians and instead be looking at [2 Timothy 1:5](#).
- And you know, here at Cornerstone, it isn't really our practice to normally teach theme-related sermons for all the different holidays throughout the year.
- But if we were to continue in our 1 Corinthians series, we would have been starting 1 Corinthians 5, and that would have been quite the passage for Mother's Day.
- And if you don't really know what's in that passage, then when we get into 1 Corinthians 5:1 next Sunday, you can thank me for not having that be our Mother's Day text.
- So, this year we have decided to have a Mother's Day message & go to another text.
- **And that text is 2 Timothy 1:5, so please start turning there in your Bible w/ me.**
- Our text this morning is 2 Timothy 1:5, but I'll start reading in v. 3 for context & we will also read 3:14-15 as well...
 - **"2 Timothy 1:3-5, 3:14-15"**

- **History only remembers a few great individuals...**
- You really have to be a world-changing figure to rise to the level of prominence that the history books will forever remember your name.
- And church history is no different.
- But, when it comes specifically to the history of the church, there has probably been one man & one theologian that has influenced Christian theology & the Christian church more than anybody else...
- And that man was Augustine of Hippo.
- See, Augustine of Hippo is your favorite theologian's favorite theologian.
- Out of the thousands of years of church history, if there were to be one man who rises above the rest who has most influenced the Church of Jesus Christ, it would be this man.
- History remembers Augustine...

- But what history can forget is a woman named Monica... Augustine's mother.
- See, Augustine was the youngest of three boys from his mother Monica & father Patricius.
- Augustine's father, Patricius, was a pagan with a raging temper.
- He was God-hating, violent, and an adulterer.
- However, Augustine's mother, Monica, was a Christian, and beyond that, a Christian known for her virtue.
- Despite living under the heavy hand of her unbelieving husband, Monica faithfully brought up her three boys in the discipline and instruction of the Lord without any help.
- One biographer wrote: "As soon as he could speak, she taught him to lisp a prayer. As soon as he could understand, she taught him, in language suited to his childish sense, the great truths of the Christian Faith."
- However, despite Monica's best efforts, Augustine lived in rebellion & immorality for many years...
- But Monica remained faithful.
- She tearfully prayed for the soul of her youngest boy, year after year after year.
- And one day, in his thirties, Augustine bowed the knee to Christ & was radically converted.
- And the rest is history. He would eventually go on to become perhaps *the* preeminent theologian in the history of the Christian church.
- But I share all of that to share this: there would be no Augustine without Monica.
- There would be no Augustine, the great theologian of the Christian church, the one who influenced the great Reformers, without a godly & faithful mother.
- A mother who suffered violence and heartbreak under the heavy hand of an angry and adulterous pagan husband, but still nevertheless faithfully prayed for her children and instructed them in the great truths of the Christian faith.

- See, Monica's godly mothering impacted her children & her children would go on to greatly impact the world for Christ...
- **But, before there was a Monica, there was a Eunice.**
- In [2 Timothy 1:5](#), we see that in the same way that there wouldn't be an Augustine without a Monica, there wouldn't be a Timothy without a Eunice.
- In this verse, Paul is considering the genuine faith that resides in his protégé in the ministry, Timothy.
- And when thinking of Timothy's faith, Paul can't help but remember the genuine faith that first dwelt in Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois.
- These women were shining examples of Christian faith and showered Timothy with the Scriptures from the youngest of ages, which prepared him for his future as a fellow gospel-worker alongside the Apostle Paul.
- So, as we focus our attention on this one verse this morning, we are going to see a couple of things.
- In [2 Timothy 1:5](#), we are going to see two characteristics of a godly mother that demonstrate the high calling of motherhood.
 - I. A Godly Mother Has a Genuine Faith (1:5a)
 - II. A Godly Mother Has a Generational Impact (1:5b)
- And it is my prayer this morning that as we consider this verse, we will all leave here having a heightened view of the high calling of motherhood, knowing that it is nearly impossible to express the impact that a godly mother can have on following generations.
- And additionally & specifically, I hope that the mothers and future mothers here today would leave here encouraged by the example of these women and you would press on, by God's grace, to be women of genuine faith and deeply invest in the next generation so that the next generation can carry on the torch the light up the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **So, let's begin with the first characteristic of a godly mother that we find in this verse.**
- **First, A Godly Mother Has a Genuine Faith.**

- Paul writes, “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice...”

I. A Godly Mother Has a Genuine Faith (1:5a)

- As the title of this book of the Bible clearly demonstrates, this is a letter written to Timothy.
- And here in the beginning portion of this letter, Paul is reminded and recalls the “sincere faith” that Timothy has.
- But as he thinks about this fact, the apostle cannot help but remember Timothy’s mother and grandmother.
- The apostle cannot help but be reminded of the “sincere faith... that first dwelt in [Timothy’s] grandmother Lois and [his] mother Eunice.”
- So, what exactly does Paul mean when he says in verse 5 that these women have a “sincere faith?”
- Well, let’s first start by examining this word “faith” before looking at the adjective that goes along with it.
- The word “faith” here speaks of the firm and true belief that one has in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Lois and Eunice had a firm, true, and resolved belief in the Gospel.
- We actually see this same truth said about Timothy’s mother in Acts 16:1.
- Acts 16:1 is speaking of the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys and specifically how he came to locations called Derbe and Lystra says when Paul arrived there, there was “a disciple there named Timothy” and that he was “the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.”
- Once again, when Eunice is mentioned in Scripture, it is highlighted that this woman was a believer.
- But this verse also gives a little more detail.
- It tells us that Eunice was a Jewish believer.
- To put it in modern terminology, Eunice was a Messianic Jew.

- Meaning, she was a Jewish woman who came to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was in fact Israel's Messiah.
- So, from these verses we see that both Eunice and her mother Lois have the legacy of being believers.
- **But in 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul goes further than just saying they have "faith" & that they are believers, but he praises these ladies for their "sincere faith."**
- The word in the Greek is a compound word that takes the Greek word *hupokritēs* (Q: Which sounds like what English word? A: Hypocrite) & then adds the negative prefix *a*.
- So you combine the negative *a* with *hupokritēs*, and you get a compound word that means to be: not a hypocrite or without hypocrisy.
- Or to put it positively, it means to be genuine, true, or real...
- **And there is an interesting history behind this Greek word.**
- **Historically, it was used to refer to those who were inexperienced in acting or bad at acting.**
- **It was a word to describe bad actors.**
- **And we have all seen this before.**
- **We have all turned on the TV & been watching a game or something & it goes to commercial break, and then... those local commercials come on.**
- **Some commercial for some local business comes on & you'll not only see some bad acting, but you'll also feel it.**
- **You know what I'm saying? When you watch something so cringy that you feel it?**
- **Well, historically, this word in Greek was used to describe those people who are really just bad actors.**
- So, in the NT, this word & all the imagery behind it were taken & used to describe those who were unhypocritical.
- To call somebody "**sincere**" meant to call them unhypocritical or to be genuine, true, & real. There is no acting/fakeness with them.

- And this is the word that Paul uses to describe the faith of Eunice and Lois.
- These women had a sincere/genuine/real/true Christian faith & walk.

- And this is the first mark and characteristic of a godly mother.
- A godly mother has this type of genuine faith.

- She has a firm/true belief in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- And thus she has been born-again/regenerated/received spiritual life.

- And furthermore, a godly mother doesn't have a hypocritical faith, but instead has a sincere faith.

- This means that a godly mother isn't an actor.
- A mother of sincere faith doesn't show up to church on Sundays & put on the Christian mask & pretend, and then go & live like the world the rest of the week.
- A faithful mother has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ indwelling & residing inside her & this internal faith permeates externally into how she lives.
- B/c the gospel has taken root in her life, she will then begin to bear fruit in her life.

- Now, obviously, even the godliest of moms are not perfect. No one is.
- But while a godly mother isn't a perfect Christian, she is a real Christian.
- She's not fake. She's not an actor. She is the real deal.

- **So, this begs the question that all of us must ask here today: Do I have a genuine internal faith or is it all just external & false?**
- In your heart of hearts, are you truly a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, or are you just going through the motions of external Christianity?...

- ... At a previous church that Naomi & I attended, we came to community group one night & the wife of one of the people on staff at the church opened up & said: "I haven't been a true Christian..."

- She had been reading through *What Is the Gospel* by Greg Gilbert with the purpose of sharing the gospel with somebody else & when reading it, she realized that she herself was not born-again.
- She grew up & been in the church her whole life & was now in her thirties with multiple kids & married to somebody employed by the church.
- But she came to the realization that she did not have a sincere faith.
- She realized that she had never really recognized her true sinfulness before a holy God.
- She never really understood that she was worthy of eternal condemnation for her sin.
- But upon reading this book about the gospel, she realized that she was a sinner in need of a Savior.
- But, upon this realization, by God's grace, she ran to the cross of Christ.
- She repented of her sins & empty religion & placed her faith in the completed work of Christ alone for salvation.
- For the first time, she actually placed her trust in Jesus' perfect life/death/resurrection on her behalf as her only hope of salvation...

- This is what she told us at community group.
- And you know what our response was?
- We rejoiced!
- We didn't scowl & think: "Oh my, I can't believe she was pretending this entire time."
- No! We praised God for the salvation of our newfound sister in Christ!

- So, friend, I want you to know that today you can leave behind dead religion & experience eternal life!
- Maybe you've been here for years & haven't been a true believer, but today you can receive gospel grace!
- And I want you to know that you will be embraced by this church with open arms.
- We will rejoice over you!
- Jesus in Luke 15:7 says: "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who [think they] need no repentance."

- If you repent of your dead religiosity & come to Christ, both this church & heaven itself will rejoice over your newfound salvation which comes by grace through faith alone...
- **But, I want to say a word for those in here that are true believers as well.**
- To all of us who have a true saving faith, and especially to all the mothers, let this example of the *sincere* faith of Eunice and Lois serve as a motivation to press on to grow in producing spiritual fruit that comes from the root of faith.
- B/c, to be honest, there are all areas of our lives that do not match our calling in Christ.
- All of us have areas in which we do fall into some level of hypocrisy...
- But, let us resolve today to forsake any ways in which we have recognized hypocrisy slipping into our life.
- Take inventory & see if there are any areas of your life that are disjointed.
- If you haven't been abiding in Christ by spending time in the Word & prayer so that you can be spiritually nourished, then resolve to change that today.
- If you have been wasting your time on meaningless & worldly things, then change that today.
- If you have been harboring a secret sin that people don't know about, then change that today.
- If you have been neglecting to love your spouse properly, then change that today.
- If you have been failing to disciple your children & be involved in the discipleship of this church, then change that today...
- Let us evaluate our lives & resolve today to strive to have a sincere & genuine faith.
- This is not perfection, but direction as we keep our eyes on Jesus & follow Him, abide in Him, obey Him.
- So, here in [2 Timothy 1:5](#), we have seen the first characteristic that defines a godly mother, and all Christian really, is that they have a genuine faith.

- But, there is a second characteristic we find in this verse as well.
- We see that a Godly Woman Also Has a Generational Impact...
- Paul writes, “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which *first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and [then] your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*”

II. A Godly Woman Has a Generational Impact (1:5b)

- In this one verse, we see three generations mentioned.
- 1) Lois, 2) Eunice, & 3) Timothy.
- We see here that starting with Lois, the grandmother, the faith was passed down from one generation to the next.
- Lois had a sincere faith & faithfully disciplined her daughter Eunice & eventually Eunice would go on to possess a sincere faith herself.
- And then Eunice faithfully disciplined her son Timothy & eventually Timothy would go on to possess a sincere Christian faith himself.
- The faith was being passed down from one generation to the next through faithful discipleship & the blessing of the Lord...
- Now, with that said, before I go any further, I do state some caveats & clarifications about this concept of multigenerational faith...
- While we do very much see in this verse the passing down of the faith from one generation to the next, this doesn't mean that a parent can somehow guarantee their child's salvation.
- There isn't some perfect formula that you can follow that guarantees a saved child on the other side.
- If you would turn a couple of pages over to 2 Timothy 3...
- In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, Paul writes this: “But realize this, that *in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents...*”

- Obviously, this has always been a phenomenon in a fallen world, but especially in these days in which we live, there will be disobedient children.
- Furthermore, we see that the Lord Himself has had rebellious children.
- In [Isaiah 1:2](#), the Lord says this when speaking about the people of Israel: “Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me” (ESV).
- In [Isaiah 30:9](#), the Lord says of Israel again: “For they [Israel] are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord” (ESV).
- Now, God is the one perfect parent.
- But even God had a people that rebelled against him & disobeyed & were unbelieving...
- So, this means that even if you did everything perfectly right as a parent (which you won't), your child could *still* rebel & reject it.
- This demonstrates then that generational faith is not automatic & your child's salvation cannot be guaranteed.
- I share all of this simply to state that while we are going to be looking at the generational faith of Timothy's family, I don't want anybody to think that somehow this is guaranteed.
- **Rather, when it comes to parenting (and all areas of life really), you have to distinguish between what is in your circle of responsibility & what is outside of it.**
- You can think of this as two circles, one smaller & one larger.
- The smaller circle is your circle of responsibility as an individual/parent.
- This is the realm of things that God has entrusted to you & the things that you need to be faithful to obey & honor God with.
- But the larger circle contains those things that are outside of your circle of responsibility.
- These are things that you do not have control over. And therefore, these are the things that you need to trust the Lord with.

- So, when it comes to the salvation of your children, which circle does that belong in?
- That belongs in the larger circle b/c that is outside of the parents' circle of responsibility.
- A parent cannot make their child be saved. Salvation is an issue between each person & God.
- Therefore, this is something outside of a parent's circle of responsibility & ultimately an issue that a parent needs to trust the Lord with...

- However, when it comes to parenting, there are real & tangible things that *are* in one's circle of responsibility.
- There are things that parents should be faithfully doing.
- And God does generally bless faithful parenting.

- So, what are the things that parents should be faithfully endeavoring to do in order to encourage the faith being passed down from one generation to the next?
- Let's again learn from the faithful example of Timothy's mother, Eunice.

- Turn to [2 Timothy 3:14](#) with me...
- ["2 Timothy 3:14-15"](#)

- Here we have a shining example of faithful parenting.
- See, Eunice knew that the best way to make a God-honoring impact upon her children was to shower them with the Word of God.
- [3:15](#) states that ["from childhood,"](#) or even more literally, from infancy, Timothy learned the Holy Scriptures as faithfully taught by his mother Eunice.

- A staple a Christian parenting is instruction in the Word of God.
- Going all the way back to the OT, the people of God were told this in [Deuteronomy 6:6-7](#): ["These words, which I am commanding you today \[the commandments of God\], shall be on your heart. 'You shall teach them](#)

diligently to your sons 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 up.”

- Instructing children in the Bible & the truths of God is something that is in the realm of the parents' circle of responsibility.
- Parents are responsible for diligently teaching their children the commandments of God.
- And Deuteronomy says this is to be done all the time.
- Inside the house, outside the house, when you lie down, & when you rise up, which basically means: Anywhere & at anytime parents are to be discipling their children.
- Parents are to live a lifestyle of discipleship with their family.

- Now, spending time in Scripture may sound like the cliché Sunday School answer, but I want to emphasize why this is so vitally important.

- First, in v.15, we saw that the Holy Scriptures are able to “are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
- It is the Scriptures that can lead one to salvation b/c they speak of Jesus & if one unites the knowledge of what the Scriptures teach with a personal faith in the Lord Jesus, then they will be saved.
- So, parents: You can't save your children, you can bring them to that which can save them, the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the pages of Holy Scripture.
- Now, I'd say that is a reason to emphasize the Bible.

- But also notice what is said about Scripture in [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).
- It is coming off this statement about Eunice's instruction of Timothy as a child that we get these famous verses: [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).
- “[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)”
- Brothers & sisters, these verses proclaim that Scripture is the very Word of God Himself.
- The Creator & King of the universe speaks through this book.

- And this book is totally sufficient in providing God's people with what they need to live a God-honoring life.
- And since this is true, this is what our children need!
- I pray that God would help all of our families to follow in the example we see from Eunice & Lois!

- From the youngest of ages, day after day, Eunice disciplined her son.
- She taught the Christian faith through the Scriptures.
- And she taught him the Christian faith through modeling a genuine walk w/ Christ.
- **And her investment in her child would pay dividends.**

- **See, we tend to think too little of the impact that investing in one person can make.**
- Little did Eunice know that one day her baby boy that she was pouring into would one day be a minister of the gospel & co-laborer alongside the Apostle Paul!
- Eunice invested into her son & Timothy became a Christian of genuine faith that was fruitful in the work of the.

- In [2 Timothy 1:5](#), Paul says he was “mindful of the sincere faith that was within [Timothy].”
- And last week in [1 Corinthians 4](#), Paul says this about Timothy in [1 Corinthians 4:17](#): “For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, *who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.*”
- Likewise, [Phillipians 2:19-22](#), Paul writes to the Phillipian church:

[19](#) But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

[20](#) *For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.*

[21](#) For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

[22](#) *But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.*

- All of these verses show that Timothy was a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus!
- The Apostle Paul considered him absolutely trustworthy.
- He knew Timothy had a real & genuine Christian faith & walk.
- In fact, he called Timothy a beloved & faithful son in the faith.
- He didn't know anyone else of such kindred spirit that would actually care for the souls of others.
- Timothy had proven himself useful in the Lord's work.

- Therefore, it is safe to say, Timothy was mightily used by God to make a huge impact on the world through the furtherance of the gospel of Christ!

- And what was perhaps the primary way Timothy was prepared for this impactful work?!
- It was in the home, with his mother Eunice, faithfully discipling his little boy.

- Brothers & sisters, when a parent pairs the faithful teaching of God's Word w/ modeling a sincere Christian faith/walk, the impact that can have on the next generation is almost incomprehensible.

- Not only are you impacting that child, but through that child you will be impacting to many as that
- By investing in one life, you could actually be impacting hundreds, if not thousands, of other lives as well!

- So, I pray that we would catch this vision of multigenerational discipleship!

Conclusion

- So, how is it that the next generation is going to receive the faith & be equipped to walk in faithfulness to Christ?..
- In large part, it is going to happen through the home.

- And more specifically, it going to happen through the influence of a godly mother.
- If there are going to be Thomases in the next generation, we are going to need some Eunices.
- And if there are going to be Augustines in the next generation, we are going to need some Monicas.
- There is such a need for women & mothers of sincere & genuine faith.
- Women & mothers who having a real, abiding, saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- And women & mothers who live out that faith.
- Eunice & Monica were both women who faithfully raised up children despite severe difficulties.
- They both had unbelieving husbands. They were the only Christian in the home. They were the only ones investing into their children in the home.
- But day after day, they persevered.
- Day after day they faithfully instructed their children in God's Word.
- Day after day they prayed for the souls of their children.
- And in Monica's case, she continued for years after Augustine left the house before he finally came to the Lord.
- But, all these mothers we have discussed today (Lois, Eunice, & Monica), all of them had a sincere walk with Christ & they did their best to invest into the next generation.
- And while it would have been hard for them to know in the midst of all of the mundane things of day to day mothering, these women greatly impacted the world & following generations for years to come through their faithful obedience to Christ.
- And I pray & trust that, by God's grace, there are some Lois, Eunices, and Monicas here in this room today.
- Women & mothers who will abide in Christ & remain faithful in the things that the Lord has entrusted will disciple the next generation & impact the world for the glory of God...

- So, sisters: remain faithful.
- The Lord sees your work & He will reward you for it on the last Day...
- *Closing Prayer*

Benediction

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved [brothers and sisters], [I pray that you’d] be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. [Amen.]”
- Happy Mother’s Day & may God bless your Lord’s Day & upcoming week.