

“You However”

2 Timothy 3:1-17

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ **You, however,**

These two words, this qualifying conjunction encapsulates the totality of a parents will toward their children.

ILLUSTRATION: When each of our children were born we bought them a special gift, a little treasure that they could keep. For my son, Elijah Cole, I bought a old fashion gold pocket watch - to remind him to redeem the time for the days are few. I had a single verse engraved on it. **Proverbs 31:4**, “It’s not for Kings on Lemuel” That means - there are some things that other boys will be able to do, but you won’t be able to do. There are some areas of foolishness that you do not partake in, why? Because you are to be a leader - so foolishness is not for you.

That is exactly what Paul is conveying to Timothy in those two words, “You however”

They reach back and draw a contrast over each of the previous adjectives that were used to describe the “last day’s people”.... Here is how it can be understood...

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive,

¹⁰ **You, however,**

They will be...2b. disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

¹⁰ **You, however,**

They will be...³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

¹⁰ **You, however,**

They will be...⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

¹⁰ **You, however,**

So “you however” is to be attached to each of the preceding adjectives... and it is to qualify each of the following adjectives.

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness.

¹⁰ You, however, have followed ...¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Then he uses our phrase again -

¹⁴ But as for you, - That is the exact same Greek construction as, “You however”

So notice this stark contrast Paul is drawing between the righteous and the ungodly. At times we can so focus on those things we all agree on that we can forget the profound difference that exist.

- Both the righteous and the unrighteous may pull for the same college team.
- Both the righteous and the unrighteous may fish in the same ocean.
- Both the righteous and the unrighteous may dine in the same restaurant.

But never, ever, forget - there is a profound distinction between the two. And the difference is found that the core of a person’s existence - their heart attitude.

This is reminiscent of the teachings of Jesus - do you remember that Jesus didn’t teach that SAVED people pray and LOST people don’t pray... NO.... Jesus taught - they both pray, they just pray differently.

Matthew 6:7 (ESV)

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Same with giving... Jesus didn’t teach that SAVED people give and LOST people don’t give... NO.... Jesus taught - they both give, they just give differently.

Matthew 6:2 (ESV)

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

So the essence of Christianity is not found in what you DO and DO NOT DO, it is found in the heart motive that drives you give, serve, pray, and the like.

How is Timothy to maintain and develop the proper heart attitude? Well the key is his relationship to the word of God. But in order to reinforce his admonition to stay in the scriptures... Paul calls on the name of his allies is discipleship.

He does this from time to time. For example in - **2 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV)**

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word...

You see? He calls on God the Father and God the Son, a DIVINE DUO to stand with him in commanding Timothy to preach faithfully.

But in chapter 3, he calls on another duo.

¹⁴ 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.**

Who had taught Timothy the sacred writings from childhood? Paul told us earlier in the letter.

2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

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.

We do not know if this was a Mother/Daughter or Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law team... it could have been either. But rather than criticize and tear down one another - they partnered together for a common goal, the salvation and discipleship of Timothy.

ILLUSTRATION: Around the year 1095, the Roman Empire defeated, the Holy Roman Empire fighting, different people arguing over who was Pope and who was Emperor... As things were falling apart at the seems, Pope Urban II had a brilliant idea. He shifted the entire focus of the Holy Roman Empire from the debates within, to the enemy without. He said, "Have any of you guys noticed those Muslim Turks that are occupying the Holy Land? Somebody ought to do something about that". Immediately, the attention of these political leaders was shifted and unified - and what followed we know as the Crusades.

The key to family solidarity is to unite around a common GOAL and a common FOE. If you don't share the same enemy, and you don't share the same goal... there will be no unity.

Lois and Eunice had that - now we no nothing of Dad and Grandad... maybe they weren't on board. But Mom and Grandma were... and they took care of business.

Four Principles I want to teach you from Lois and Eunice -

1. Have the right SOURCE -

2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

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.

***We live in a culture that loves to contract out responsibilities.**

- We don't want to clean house, so we contract that out.
- We don't want to mow our lawns, so we contract that out.
- We don't want to walk our dogs, so we contract that out.

So what do we do when it comes to teaching our kids the scriptures? We contract it out. We get a children's director and a student director and we expect them to get the job done.

Josh and Kristina are there to support you in your goals, but the goal and the responsibility MUST BE YOURS.

Pastor I didn't go to Seminary – How much Bible do you have to know to teach your children – About a week more than they know!

W.A. Criswell , *“Possibly the most theologically accurate, intellectually deep, morally inspiring song ever penned by the hands of men goes like this*

*Jesus loves me this I know,
For the bible tells me so”*

How can you believe that all of this was created in 6 days? The Bible tells me so.
How can you believe in a Flood that destroyed the old earth? The Bible tells me so.
How can you believe that forgiveness is possible and available? The Bible tells me so.
How can you believe that if you confess your sins, God will forgive? The Bible tells me so.

How can you believe that after you die, you will see God? The Bible tells me so.

Dear Mothers - may the Word of God be held in your home in the highest esteem.

- Turn to it in difficulties
- Celebrate it in victories
- Quote it often
- Stand on it's truth
- Trust its Author

2. Seek to **CONVINCE**

2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned **and have firmly believed**, knowing from whom you learned it

Firmly believed is the word - pistoo /pis·t U·o/] Means 1 to make faithful, render trustworthy. to make firm, establish. to be firmly persuaded, to be assured of.

Lois and Eunice did not just communicate facts, they persuaded Timothy to believe them. They became scriptural apologists.

They likely had struggles and doubts from time to time, but rather than give in to them, they sought answers, they dug deep, they talked to leaders, and in turn they CONVINCED Timothy.

This sort of child...is like those mentioned in **Colossians 1:23 (ESV)**

He or she... continues in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...

So mother, do as Peter said in **1 Peter 3:15**

¹⁵ ... always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.

How do I do that? Read C.S. Lewis, Listen to Ravi Zecharias, Become failure with Answers in Genesis. Buy good commentaries that anticipate objections and give you solid answers.

REMEMBER: For hours out of the day, many of our children will be under the influence of people that do not share our world view. You have to make the time you have with them count.

3. Be **PATIENT** -

3:15 and that **from childhood** you have known the sacred writings

Two mistakes I see parents make in teaching their children truth

1. Not starting early enough – from **childhood**
2. Stopping too soon – **from** childhood.

Later Paul would tell Timothy that he was to **2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)**

² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;

When is that - all the time, it's either IN or OUT of deer Season... so all the time...

2b. reprove, rebuke, and exhort, **with complete patience** and teaching.

LISTEN: One of the primary ministries of a Pastor is the ministry of repetition. I learned a long time ago, people will not remember what I say in a particular sermon... they will remember what comes up in practically every sermon.

Your kids will remember those things you harp on. Now listen, they may wander from the truth, but the truth will never wander from them.

When you can no longer be there for them - the things you championed will be.

LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN - When you can no longer be there for them - the things you championed will be.

Let me ask you sister - will the things you really champion save her soul?

4. Live the MESSAGE -

2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴But as for you, continue in **what** you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from **whom** you learned it

The "WHOM" qualifies and lend credibility to the "WHAT".

Lois and Eunice lived the message.

John Maxwell said it this way-

I teach what I know, I reproduce what I am.

Every true learner is asking the question verbally or intrinsically, "WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?"

You must be able to say with Paul, "Follow me as I follow Christ"

Suzanna Wesley was a great mother-

Suzanna Wesley was the mother of nineteen children; among them were John and Charles Wesley the founder of Methodism. It has been said that the Methodist faith was born on the lap of a mother, Suzanne Wesley.

One of Suzanna Wesley's prayers gives a glimpse of her faith:

"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Your

presence... May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity of exercising some goodness and daily learning and growing toward Your likeness."

Your life is the Gospel without parable
Your life is the Gospel without hyperbole

Last week we raised the question - if you had the cure for COVID19 would you share it with others? Of course you would... but this week let the ask from a different angle - if someone came to you saying they had the cure, but then coughed and died in front of you... would you trust that cure? No.

Mothers, and Grandmothers...
Have the right source
Convince your children of it's reliability
Be patient with them
And Live the message

Happy Mother's Day