

The Role of a Godly Mother
1 Timothy 2:9-15

Mothers Day is not a biblical holiday, and a debate arises among pastors regarding Mother's Day sermons. Some decide not to preach on a Mothers Day theme for some of the following reasons:

- Preachers do not feel qualified to preach on motherhood
- Most Bible characters are men, not women
- Not all women are mothers, and we don't want to leave any feeling insecure (singles, widows, single parents, young people).
- We can get into a lot of trouble!

Take for example, pastor Joe McKeever. His 8-year-old granddaughter Abby had been learning about childbirth from their mother. Abby was not liking what she was learning. *"I'm not going to have children, Grandpa,"* she said. *"It hurts too bad."* *"You're right. It does hurt. But the pain goes away, and you're left with this beautiful child, and you decide that it was worth it."* The child looked me square in the eyes and said, *"You're a man. What do you know?"* (www.joemckeeper.com)

But even though I'm a man, I would like to talk about mothers today for the following reasons:

- God instituted motherhood
- We need a biblical view of motherhood
- Even **single moms, single dads**, Grandparents and young people need a reminder of God's principles about motherhood.

Let's begin by looking at Timothy's Godly Mother.

In 1 Timothy, Paul spoke about HIS spiritual heritage (1 Tim 1:12-13). In 2 Timothy, Paul thanks God for Timothy's heritage.

2 Timothy 1:5–6 *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."*

Paul met Timothy on the 2nd Miss Journey. He possibly led Timothy to Christ. But even if he did not, the relationship between Paul and Timothy quickly became very close. Concerning Timothy, Dr. Luke writes: *"He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. (Acts 16:1)*

Timothy had a Jewish mother and a gentile Father. His Mom and Grandmother became followers of Jesus, and they passed this heritage on to Timothy.

The faith of Eunice is described as “sincere.” The word comes from the same word where we get the word “critic.” It’s in a negative sense and means “without hypocrisy.” Eunice was a genuine believer, without pretense. Her faith was real and it made a great impact on her son.

It is interesting, that when this word is used in the NT, it almost always describes a **sincere love**. Note the following passages:

1 Peter 1:22 *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have **sincere love** for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”*

Romans 12:9 *“**Love must be sincere**. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”*

2 Corinthians 6:6 *“In purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in **sincere love**;”*

1 Peter 1:22 *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have **sincere love** for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”*

When Paul wrote to Timothy about instructing WOMEN in the CHURCH, he may have had Timothy’s mother, **EUNICE** in mind.

Let’s continue our study of the sincere love a mother by looking at Paul’s teaching about the role of women in 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Here we will find three key components about the sincere love of a godly woman.

The role of a godly MOTHER built on the foundation of the role of a godly woman.

The first characteristic is that a godly woman must LOVE GOD.

1 Timothy 2:9–10 *“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”*

Notice the word Adornment (KJV), or “dress modestly” (NIV). Is this about CLOTHING or GODLINESS?

“Dress modestly” comes from the word “cosmos” - to put in order. A woman’s adornment is the steps she takes to “put herself in order. So let me ask the question, *“How much time does it take for a woman to “put herself in order???”*

The US Dept of Labor and Statistics actually has a number for this...

The AVERAGE time spend on daily personal grooming for women = 57 mins! Don’t laugh men, you’re not far behind with 43.8 minutes! (US dept of Labor and Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/tus/current/personal.htm>)

If you are married, you know how important this time is for women! The emphasis here

is that what you put on the outside reflects what you have on the inside. In Ephesus, these styles were associated with temple prostitutes. In other words, *do not dress in a way that conveys the wrong message.*

Peter writes something almost identical. In 1 Peter 3:3–4 he writes “*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.*”

Notice the contrast between outward beauty and inward beauty. This is nothing new! Ladies, don’t use clothes to make a statement that draws attention away from the character of godliness. Sometimes we chose a style without realizing what it communicates.

This is not suggesting conformity to one style but avoiding extremes that draw attention to outward appearance and detract from our witness.

DADS, you have a special responsibility to your daughters. Give them security in their **inner beauty. Give them your attention and affection.** If you don’t, they will seek attention in immodest dress and flirtatious behavior.

What should be the FOCAL POINT of your LOVE: Mt. 22:37 “*Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and mind.*”

At last night’s Mother/daughter banquet, I saw my wife in a way I have never seen her before, and all I can say is I CAN’T WAIT ‘TILL WE GET OLD!

Kimmie Marchianno performed Stephanie Farrell’s skit and said these lines: “*I Love God with all my heart and my soul, but my I lost my MIND and my STRENGTH after my child was born!*” This brought us all a good laugh.

How can I love my husband and my kids? Psychology, glamor, and popular culture say first love yourself, take care of yourself. But the Bible says **first love God.**

What is the next task in the role of a godly mother? To Love your husband. 1

Timothy 2:11-14

“Learn in quietness.” This is the same word as 1 Timothy 2:12.

The word for complete silence is a different Greek word used in **1 Cor 14:34-35.** The context here is prophetic utterance. Women should not exercise authority over men through the teaching of the Word.

The meaning of this is that women cannot teach men in a church setting because the authority structure of the home would be overturned. The authority is **the Word.** Women can teach, but

not in an authority setting over the men in the congregation. They can teach other women (Titus 2:3-5, and the young (2 Tim 3:14-15 w/ 2 Tim 1:5, ie., Lois and Eunice).

The role of women in the NT Church was very significant, but they were NOT teachers in the sense of the Elders

- Phillip's daughters prophesies (Ac 21:9) NOT in church setting
- Eudicia and Syntyche "contended at my side" (Phil 4:1-3)
- Phoebe was a "Servant" in the church in Cenchrea (Rom 16:1)
- Priscilla and Aquilla helped Apollos (Acts 18:26)
- Church met at Nympha's house (Col 4:15)
- Women tended to the financial needs of the Savior (Matt 27:55)

Some object that this is cultural. But take a look at verses 13-14, which go all way back to creation! This is not cultural but a part of the manner in which God made us.

The husband's authority is part of God's created order. 1 Tim 2:13-14

illus - One day Adam and his boys were out for a walk and happened upon the Garden of Eden. One of the boys said, "Dad, what is that place?" Adam responded, "Guys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."...

God's plan is compromised when these roles are reversed. The following commentaries bear this thought.

"Men are more susceptible to mistake and error when they carelessly surrender leadership to the woman." NAC 101

"Paul is saying, 'look what happens when the creation order is reversed and the man abdicates the leadership role to the woman' BKC 736

The fall corrupted our relationships with one another. Culture has **consistently erred** on either **male dominance** or **male indifference**. Both are wrong! Men are to be **loving leaders**. Our **children's identity and security** is developed in the relationships they see between their parents.

There is strong Biblical evidence for the authority roles in Marriage:

1. The male/female leadership role was granted at CREATION.
 - a. The woman sinned FIRST. 1 Timothy 2:14 *And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*
 - b. But the MAN bears responsibility. Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—*
2. The PICTURE of male authority is the **ORDER in the TRINITY**. 1 Corinthians 11:3 *Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

Authority does not mean greater WORTH

Authority does not mean greater HONOR

Our final point today is that a godly mother Loves her children. 1 Tim 2:15

There is a “SAVING” through the bearing of Children. This is difficult passage of Scripture. There are four possible interpretations:

1. Spiritual salvation through having children
2. Physical safety in childbearing
3. Women (and men) saved through the seed of woman, Jesus.
4. Saved from the “Dominion desire”
 - a. Genesis 3:16 *“To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*
 - b. Women find the fulfillment of God’s purposes for them through developing godly character and through marriage and motherhood.
 - c. *“Paul was teaching that women prove the reality of their salvation when they become model wives and mothers whose good deeds include marriage and raising children.”* NAC 102

God’s plan for female nurturing of children and care for their home will lead to the greatest fulfillment for Christian women. **THIS IS NOT CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE.**

If you are not a mom, you be just as fulfilled by maintaining these godly characteristics, and appreciating the beauty of your femininity.

The role of a godly mother is not found in the pages of People magazine, or on the TV screen. It is found in the Bible. Godly mothers raise godly children.