

Did You Ever Have a Mother Like That?

By Pastor Greg
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Proverbs 1:8

Bunkertown COB

Sermon Begins with Video

Mother's can be quite interesting at times. Take, for instance, my mother who constantly complained about my dirty face, then would clean it with her spit. And I'm like, "Eww, germs! Hello, there are germs here!" Did you ever have a mother like that? Did you ever have a mother wash your mouth out with soap? What's up with that? She holds open your mouth and shoves in some Irish Spring. Talk about making you gag! One day my mother held open my mouth and shoved in some Sauerkraut, and I couldn't for the life of me think what bad thing I had just said. I told her next time use the soap, it tasted better.

For those of you who may not know this yet, your mother will take you shopping. She will complain about the way you are dressed. She will make you eat things fit for a king (yea, I'll say. Here King! Here boy!). A mother will take her 14 year old boy shopping for new underwear, and she will hold it up in the store and shout "what do you think about this kind of underwear?" Ever have a mother like that? Your mother will bake cupcakes on your birthday and she will bring them into school. And don't even think that she'll drop them off at the principal's office. She will bring them right into class yelling "Surprise!"

If you've ever had a mother like that, you should be thankful. You could have had a mother who did not care. You could have had a mother who neglected you, ignored you, didn't want you, or abused you. You could have had a mother who made you feel like you ruined her life.

According to the U.S. Department of Health, over 1,700 children died because of neglect in 2007, a number that has been increasing steadily over the years. That number only reflects the children who died. It does not mention those who had to live through emotional, physical, and psychological abuse or neglect. I can't imagine what it's like to grow up an unwanted child; to have parents who did not want you.

There seems to be a growing trend in this world where the things some of us have taken for granted (the love, attention, and nurturing care of a godly mother) are

becoming less and less common. And I suspect it's because we are seeing fewer godly mothers. Most importantly, there are fewer godly grandmothers to teach their daughters the character traits of a godly mother. And so those mothers, who have been given no godly instruction, follow their instincts or look to society for help. Oh they may be a mother, but their instructions come from a fallen world with a fallen perspective on life.

King Solomon has said, *"My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction."*¹ (Proverbs 1:8) Sure, a Mother's Instruction can be beneficial as long as that instruction is grounded in the Lord and not human wisdom or human understanding. After all, without God's Word to instruct us and the Holy Spirit to guide us, we humans tend to be quite selfish and arrogant. We tend to look at things with an earthly bent. We tend to neglect the most important aspect in raising a child, and that is to nurture their faith in God.

I often hear about the Mother Instinct. I've even said it myself to young couples who have not had children. "Oh, you'll do fine. When you hold that baby for the first time, you'll know what to do". But is that true? Based upon what we see today, the answer is no. And even if we look to the past, the answer is obvious.

According to the early church leader Tertullian, parents throughout the Roman Empire had a habit of exposing their unwanted children, which literally means throwing them outside to die. It was acceptable in that culture. There are even instructions on how to induce an abortion dating back to the 4th century. In contrast to this you find Christian mothers, even though they grew up in that culture, spending their day wandering through the streets, rummaging through the trash, looking for those unwanted babies to raise as their own. Why the difference? These mothers received proper instruction from the Word and from the Lord. Do you see this? They did not receive proper instruction from their own mother, nor could they turn to society for help either. Their instruction came from the Lord.

A parent, a mother, needs some sort of instruction or guidance to raise a healthy child (not just physical, but psychological and spiritually healthy as well). Look at the effects a woman of faith had on Timothy. Paul says, *"I remember your*

¹Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

*genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.”*² (2

Timothy 1:5) To raise a child of faith, a mother needs to be a woman of faith; a woman who has first received the wisdom of the Word and the guiding of the Spirit.

I know society has been filling our minds with all sorts of advice, but even in my own short lifetime I've seen their counsel change. Does anyone even listen to the advice of Dr. Spock any more? "You know more than you think you do." He once said. Yea, well when he wrote that book in 1946 I guarantee you that there were more godly mothers who had received godly instruction from their mothers. Of course they knew what to do. They learned it from their mother, but not so today. To be a mother who can give proper instruction to her child, you need to first be surrendered to God's teaching yourself. You need to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ, for then you will receive the Holy Spirit to guide you. And you need to reject any worldly wisdom that contradicts God's wisdom. It is the mother who falls on her knees before God and pleads with Him for wisdom and understanding that we find giving proper instruction to her child. This is the mother who prays constantly for herself and her child.

Did you ever have a mother like that? You should count yourself fortunate, for in today's world this kind of mother is becoming harder to find. But if you did have a mother like that, God is asking you to do one more thing. I know raising a child is difficult enough, especially when they squirm and fuss during church. But God needs you to be the one to set an example in this world. *“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”*³ (Titus 2:3-5) God needs you, mothers, to show this world how it's done. We all need you to be a mother like that.

²Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

³*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update*. 1995 (Tit 2:3-5). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.