

## **"The Value of a Godly Home"**

### **2 Timothy 1:3-5**

#### **Introduction**

The man in the supermarket was pushing a cart which contained, among other things, a screaming baby. As the man proceeded along the aisles, he kept repeating softly, "Keep calm, George. Don't get excited, George. Don't get excited, George. Don't yell, George."

A lady watching with admiration said to the man, "You are certainly to be commended for your patience in trying to quiet little George."

"Lady," he declared, "I'm George."

No one doubts the difficulty of raising children. But many parents can testify to the incredible joy of having the responsibility of raising up the next generation of godly men and women. Many parents can testify to the happiness and pride they have in their hearts as their children demonstrate a godly heart and then, eventually, leave home and start a family of their own and continue to pass on the legacy of faith.

So, let's talk about "The Value of a Godly Home" this morning. We see some very important principles in the verses before us.

#### **READ 2 Timothy 1:3-5**

#### **1. Let Your Children Know That You Love Them**

- a. Paul, it appears, was not only Timothy's mentor. He might have taken on the responsibility of being a dad to him since Timothy's dad was an unbeliever.
  - 1) Acts 16:1-2 "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium."
  - 2) Look at 2 Timothy 1:4 - "As I remember your tears, I long to see you." This tearful good-bye probably happened when Paul visited Ephesus, where Timothy was the pastor, and shortly before Paul's final imprisonment in Rome. The tears seem to signify that Timothy saw Paul as much, much more than a mentor/protégé relationship. I wonder if Timothy saw Paul as a sort of "dad."
- b. Parent, do your children have this sort of affection for you? It typically happens only if they know you dearly love them. Here are some ways you can express your love:
- c. **Let them see how you value them.**
  - 1) Psalm 127:3 "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward."
  - 2) Kim and I have failed so many times in being good parents to our boys but one of the things we wanted to get right was to be in the stands or in the auditorium every time they were on the ballfield, or in a concert, or were receiving an award. We wanted them to be able to give a quick glance out to the crowd ... and see their parents smiling and applauding in affirmation.
  - 3) If it is important to them, then it needs to be important to you.

**d. Listen to them.**

- 1) There have been plenty of times when I went to bed early and then Kim told me that she had stayed up and talking with one of our boys. She shared something that demonstrated that they knew they were talking to someone who loved them dearly so they were completely honest and transparent. I think they valued her spending time with them, just to talk and listen.
- 2) One way to spell “love” to a child is: “T – I – M – E.”

**e. Apologize when necessary**

- 1) If you, as the parent, never apologize, your child will come to think that you are simply a proud bully.
- 2) But, when you mess up and sincerely apologize to them, they will realize that they matter to you.

**f. Show signs of affection**

- 1) Hugs, a kiss on the cheek, words of affection (“I love you”), or any other sign of appropriate affection.

**2. Let Your Children See You Value God’s Word**

- a. Paul had a legacy of faith, family members who took their walk with the Lord seriously.
  - 1) V. 3 “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience,”
  - 2) Clearly, Paul realized that his Jewish ancestors took God’s Word seriously.
  - 3) He knew that when the faith was being passed down to him, it was being passed down by those who were serious about following the Lord. That’s called credibility.
- b. Timothy had a mom and grandma that took their faith seriously.
  - 1) V. 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.”
  - 2) His mom and grandma must have taught him. But, even more importantly, they lived it. That’s credibility.
- c. Parents, grandparents, before you can ever expect your child or grandchild to listen to what you say, you had better make sure you have the credibility to say it.
  - 1) Listen to what Jesus once said to His disciples:
  - 2) Matthew 23:1-3 (NLT): “Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ‘The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach.’”
  - 3) That is incredibly difficult for adult Jesus-followers.
  - 4) It’s virtually impossible for children. Why? Because children will hear what you say and see what you do ... and will eventually get angry and maybe, eventually, leave the faith.
  - 5) I am convinced that while the best of parents have no guarantee that their children will turn out well, it is also true that an overwhelming majority of kids who leave the faith are products of homes where Jesus was never taken seriously.
  - 6) Imagine (and this is not true; it’s completely hypothetical) if I demanded that my children abstain from cursing ... but they observed that I had a dirty mouth. Imagine that I punished them severely every time a bad word came out of their mouth ... but they heard me using dirty words all the time.

- a) My children would see through the hypocrisy and become filled with anger at the injustice. Eventually, they might rebel against me and develop a dirty mouth.
  - b) Or, they may continue to abstain from cursing ... because they don't want to be like me.
  - c) Regardless of their choice, it isn't completely about morality. It has become personal.
- 7) Friend, "... do not provoke your children to anger, ..." (Ephesians 6:4).
- a) Hypocrisy and injustice will most certainly cause them to get angry.
  - b) So, lead by example!
- 8) Let me share some things we do in the Ellis home:
- a) If our boys get up early enough, every single morning of the week, they will see Kim and me sitting in the recliners in our living room reading our Bibles and spending time in prayer. Let your kids see you DAILY valuing God's Word by reading it and praying.
  - b) It's not unusual for our boys to observe that we are listening to Christian music or listening to Christian media or sermons (Adrian Rogers, John MacArthur, and Al Mohler are some of our favorites).
  - c) It is not unusual at all for our boys to hear us talking about the Lord or something we observed in God's Word or heard in a recent sermon. The Lord is very much a real part of our home life ... and our boys see that.
  - d) Kim has decorated our home so that virtually every room has Scripture on the walls.
  - e) Kim and I apologize to our boys periodically (I need to do it more) ... because they know we value godliness and we own it when we fall short of it.

*Why is it so important to take Jesus home with you? Because it gives you credibility when you speak the Word of God to your children and grandchildren.*

### **3. Let Your Children Hear You Teach God's Word**

- a. Someone once said the following quote. I wish they had kept their mouth shut: "Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words."
  - 1) One of the problems in the era in which we live is that Christians often quote other supposed Christians ... but often don't quote the Bible.
  - 2) They spend more time reading and reflecting on what someone claims to be true ... while their Bibles collect dust.
  - 3) We see this on social media so often ... people quoting other supposed Christians while Scripture, the final and ultimate authority, rarely gets air time.
  - 4) So, we need to measure this quote against Scripture. Is it biblical?
  - 5) Romans 10:14 "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching (lit. someone proclaiming – not necessarily from a pulpit)?"
  - 6) Simply put, the Gospel MUST be proclaimed. The Gospel ALWAYS requires words. Sure, we are called to live it out but the Gospel MUST be taught.
- b. Parent, you can't just live out the Gospel in your life and expect your kids to get it. You MUST teach them – use words.
  - 1) And this is the example that we see from Timothy's mom and grandma.

- 2) 2 Timothy 3:14-15 “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.”
  - 3) It seems clear that Paul is referring back to 2 Timothy 1. Timothy’s mom and grandmother are presumed to be the ones who taught Timothy the Scriptures.
  - 4) Someone may say: “Well, I’ve got my kids in Sunday School and other children’s programs at the church.” That’s good ... but you can’t delegate your responsibility.
  - 5) Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline (training/correction) and instruction (teaching) of the Lord.”
  - 6) We can SHARE the responsibility of teaching God’s Word to our children but we can’t delegate it. It is ultimately YOUR responsibility to teach your kids about the Lord, parents.
- c. Once again, let me share some things we do around the Ellis house:
- 1) We’ve tried family devotions before. We’ve tried to kick start it a bunch of times. But, trying to keep boys still during a Bible study and prayer time at home is like herding cats. But we observed that Jesus didn’t just teach people when they were sitting down in the synagogues. He often taught His manly disciples while they were walking through fields, or on a mountaintop, or in a boat. So, we are always looking for teaching moments – times when we speak God’s Word into a situation.
  - 2) Sure, we have had our boys in church ever since they were born. We are so grateful for the teachers they have had that have helped them to grow in their understanding and application of God’s Word. But we realize that the ultimate responsibility ... is ours.

#### 4. Pray for Your Children

- a. Parent, if you train up your children in the way that they should go and they remain in the faith, you can point to your parenting ... but, if you are like us, you will point to the Lord and His grace. God’s grace covers a multitude of parenting mess-ups!
- b. That’s why we pray. We are expressing our dependence upon God to produce godly adults.
- c. And pray for your child’s future spouse. We have been doing that for almost 2 decades.
- d. V. 3 “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.”
- e. Whatever your kids are going through, let that be a reason to offer up a prayer yet again.
  - 1) I pray for my kids every single morning.
  - 2) If the Lord brings a concern to mind, I pray for it.
  - 3) Just pray!!!

#### Conclusion

Friend, you could be completely apathetic about raising your kids. There is no shortage of parents today who are delegating EVERYTHING to others. But, those parents are fools because they are entrusting their most prized possessions to someone who might not value them nearly as much as you do ... and may do a poor job of developing your children.

Don't be like that. Take your responsibility and privilege seriously. Train up your child in the way that he or she should go. And, in doing so, you actually increase your own personal happiness.

**3 John 4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."**

Parent. Grandparent. We need men and women who will stand up for Jesus as it gets harder and harder to do so in our ever-increasing immoral, secular culture. The world needs Jesus. And God is looking for courageous, sold-out followers of Jesus to use. Will you be the ones to raise that generation? I pray that you will.