

May 12, 2013
Mother's Day

THE POWER OF A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE
Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

Read: A Tribute to our Mother, "An Ordinary Woman"

2 Timothy 1:5 I am calling up memories of your sincere and unqualified faith (the leaning of your entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness), [a faith] that first lived permanently in [the heart of] your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am [fully] persuaded, [dwells] in you also.

What is on the inside of you will be deposited in others—especially your children.

Your influence is either positive or negative—never neutral. (Henrietta Mears)

"A man leaves all kinds of footprints when he walks through life. Some you can see, like his children and his house. Others are invisible, like the prints he leaves across other people's lives: the help he gives them and what he has said – his jokes, gossip that has hurt others, or encouragement. A man doesn't think about it, but everywhere he passes, he leaves some kind of mark." (Margaret Lee Runbeck)

(Example of my cousin Carol: "My life has never influenced anyone.")

Example of what Brandon said about the girl he was looking for: He said he was looking for someone like his mother or twin sister.

(Information from Caroline Leaf about generational curses)

Compare Mary and Eve. They both are still influencing our lives today. Eve was created to be a help – to influence the life of mankind. She was beautiful, had the best this world could offer but she listened to the lies of the devil and disobeyed God. She brought problems to the whole human race. Her decision is still affecting us today.

Mary was just an ordinary woman but her obedience and submission to God birthed the answer to the whole human race. Her decision is still affecting us today.

Three ways a parent influences the next generation:

- 1. What you believe. Your belief system. How it plays out in your conduct and everyday behavior. (Read Code for Parents)**

2. Love. *“Whom you would change, you must first love.”* (Martin Luther King Jr.)
“Our lives are shaped by those who love us—and by those who refuse to love us.”
(John Powell)

LOVE

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper—not a homemaker.

If I have time for waxing, polishing and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn of cleanliness—not godliness.

Love leaves the dust in search of a child’s laugh; Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window.

Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk; Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys.

Love is present through the trials; Love reprimands, reproves and is responsive.

Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, and then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation’s message to a child’s heart.

Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God’s perfection of my child.

As a mother there is much I must teach a child, but the greatest of all is love.

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1Co 8:1 ...but love (affection and goodwill and benevolence) edifies and builds up and encourages one to grow [*to his full stature*].

Description of love – Taken from *Driven by Eternity* by John Bevere

When we love, we will be patient and kind with others. We’ll not envy others’ success because it will be our passion to see them win. We’ll never boast of ourselves, and refrain from all haughtiness and pride. We’ll not demand our own way. We will not be irritable because of an impatient attitude. We’ll keep no record of when we’ve been wronged but choose to forgive and release any debts. We’ll never smile upon injustice, but our passion will be for mercy and truth. We’ll never give up on people or lose faith, and we will always hope and believe the best. We’ll always see others innocent unless proven guilty, and even then we will remain hopeful for repentance and restoration. We will be full of hope and endure any hardship for the benefit of the kingdom or another’s well-being. Bottom line: We will live for the godly edification of others, which is only found in their conformity to Christ and fulfilling His will in their lives.

When you walk in love in your home it affects your attitude and will affect the attitude of others.

No thought is harmless and no attitude can be hidden. (Caroline Leaf)

Luke 6:31& 32 Even sinners love those who love them

3. The highest act of love: Discipline

Parents have been given the authority and responsibility to train their children.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go [*and in keeping with his individual gift or bent*], and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Train: Drill, prepare for contest, instruct by exercise, mold character, make obedient to orders, point in an exact direction, discipline for use.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left undisciplined brings his mother to shame.

Proverbs 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your heart.

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son while there is hope, but do not [*indulge your angry resentments by undue chastisements and*] set yourself to his ruin.

Susan Wesley's Diary:

I insist upon conquering the will of children early, because this is the only strong and rational foundation of a religious education, without which both precept and example will be ineffectual. When this is thoroughly done then the child is capable of being governed by the reason and piety of its parents, until his own understanding comes to maturity and the principles of religion have taken root in his mind. I cannot yet dismiss the subject because self-will is the root of all sin and misery. So what ever cherishes this in children assures their wretchedness and irreligion. And what ever checks and mortifies self-will promotes their future happiness and piety. Religion is nothing more than the doing of the will of God and not our own. The one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness is this self-will. No indulgence of it can be trivial and no denial unprofitable. Heaven or hell depends on this alone. So the parents that study to subdue self-will in their child works together with God in the renewing and saving of a soul. The parent who indulges it is doing the devil's work, making religion impractical and salvation unattainable and damns the child's soul and body forever.

Train your child to obey your voice in a conversational tone, not when your voice reaches a feverish pitch. Talk to your child like you talk to your best friend.

When you discipline your child with the rod, let them know you are doing this for them not to them.

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently and punishes him early.

Proverbs 23:13 & 14 Withhold not discipline from the child; for if you strike and punish him with the [reedlike] rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 23:14 You shall whip him with the rod and deliver his life from Sheol (Hades, the place of the dead).

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

ATTITUDES OF FOOLISHNESS IN THE HEART THAT MUST BE DRIVEN OUT –

Prov. 22:15

I am the center of my world; I deserve to be pampered.

Bitterness

Self-pity

Manipulation (whining, crying, pouting)

Rebellion - contempt for authority

1Samuel 15: For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images). Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.

Definition of rebellion: resisting control, defies authority.

Stubbornness – headstrong, adheres to ones own opinion or purpose, a proud and insolent defiance of authority, unyielding conduct, self-will.

ATTITUDES THAT NEED TO BE DEVELOPED IN A CHILD'S LIFE IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL:

Respect for authority

Cheerfulness

Ability to carry out responsibilities

A loving, forgiving, and sharing nature

Self-discipline – crucify the flesh

Pro 13:18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses instruction and correction, but he who heeds reproof is honored.

Pro 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your heart.

Pro 5:11 And you groan and mourn when your end comes, when your flesh and body are consumed,

Pro 5:12 And you say, How I hated instruction and discipline, and my heart despised reproof!

Pro 5:13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers nor submitted and consented to those who instructed me.

Pro 5:23 He will die for lack of discipline and instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray and be lost.

INSERT GUIDELINES FOR USING THE ROD ETC.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live