

May 13, 2012
Mother's Day

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

2Ti 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.

"Your influence is negative or positive, never neutral." (Henrietta Cornelia 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)

GOD CREATED WOMEN TO HAVE INFLUENCE

Women can create an atmosphere of warmth in their homes that will foster growth and fruitfulness

Their obedience or disobedience affects their seed for generations. It's not just about you!

This is about an atheist named Max Jukes and a godly man named Jonathan Edwards: Max Jukes, the atheist, lived a godless life. He married an ungodly girl, and from the union there were descendants of whom 310 died as paupers, 150 were criminals, 7 were murderers, 100 were drunkards, and more than half of the women were prostitutes. His 540 descendants cost the state one and a quarter million dollars.

Jonathan Edwards, who lived at the same time as Max Jukes, on the other hand married a godly girl. An investigation was made of 1,394 of his known descendants, of which 13 became college presidents, 65 college professors, 3 United States senators, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 army and navy officers, 100 preachers and missionaries, 60 authors of prominence, one a vice-president of the United States, 80 became public officials in other capacities, 295 college graduates, among whom were governors of states and ministers to foreign countries. His descendants did not cost the state a single penny.

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.

Women who followed God's plan and influenced history:

Rahab

Ruth

Esther

WHAT IS INFLUENCE?

Meaning: to flow in; referring to substances, spiritual or too subtle to be visible, like inspiration

Moved, excited, affected, persuaded, induced, influencing characters

HOW WE CAN MULTIPLY OUR INFLUENCE

One of the main principles of influence:

***"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)**

Vashti was unsubmitive and lost her positive influence and became a negative one instead. Vashti's rebellion created a problem in the kingdom. The King's advisors were afraid that wives everywhere would be *influenced* to hold their husbands in contempt, which would then cause wrath. Esther 1:18

Esther 2:17 is the key to the whole book. If this verse was not true, the story would have been vastly different.

Esther 2:17(AMP)

¹⁷ And the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the maidens, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

How was Esther able to get this kind of man to love her?

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

And as you would like and desire that men would do to you, do exactly so to them.

If you [merely] love those who love you, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? For even the [very] sinners love their lovers (those who love them).

She resolved in her heart that it was *all about the King*; she was determined to focus on him and not her own wishes, desires, and needs. Esther was determined to learn to love the King.

(Excerpt taken from Hadassah by Tommy Tenney)

“God spoke to me about my challenges ahead. The first words of wisdom that came to me had to do with my upcoming night with the King. ‘It is not about you. It is about the King. Focus of him.’ And I resolved, in the months ahead, to do just that.”

She made a decision that it was going to be “all about the King”! As a result, the King fell in love with her, so she was able to influence him to such a degree that laws were changed, a whole race of people was saved from destruction, and in the end Esther gained influence over the whole realm, as a result of her decision to love the King in spite of all his faults.

The King wanted someone *better* than Vasthi and someone who pleased him, but instead he found someone whom he loved.

As a result of Esther’s influence, many heathen began to serve God.

Esther 8:17: *And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.*

Biggest lies Satan sells women: Selfishness wins! What about me; It’s all about me; There is some merit in criticizing, faultfinding, nagging, and bitterness; If we can be mean enough they will love us; Point out their faults and they will change.

Example: Are you a Porcupine or a skunk?

(My experience with the skunk) A stinking rotten attitude repels people!

Sometimes when we have had an encounter with a porcupine, we leave so many of their quills in us through unforgiveness that we in turn become a self-made porcupine. When we are around porcupines, what we need is an *armor of light*.

There are two Themes of the heart: Love or selfishness. Out of the theme of our heart our attitudes are created.

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.

We have the love of God in us: Romans 5:5 “...for God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.”

IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!

A PERSON WHO IS SELFISH:

- ...is irritable and grouchy; impatient and unkind; (has bad moods)*
 - ...is envious and possessive; jealous and indifferent to the needs others*
 - ...is aloof and arrogant; exalts self; thinks they are better than others; has to always be right; is defensive when challenged*
 - ...is rude and flares up easily (has a bad temper)*
 - ...always insists on his/her own rights and his/her own way*
 - ...thinks only of his/her own needs or wants (insensitive to others feelings)*
 - ...is easily upset or hurt*
 - ...frets when circumstances are not going as he/she wishes*
 - ...allows resentment to remain in his/her heart*
 - ...keeps count of suffered wrongs and nourishes them*
 - ...takes secret satisfaction when misfortune comes to the disobedient (says, "It serves them right!")*
 - ...is skeptical when right and truth prevails (says, "It won't last!")*
 - ...can't cope with life's ups and downs*
 - ...believes every bad thing that he/she hears about others*
 - ...assigns the worst motives to others instead of believing the best*
 - ...majors on the faults of others*
 - ...acts and reacts as circumstances dictate*
- SELFISHNESS NEVER WINS; IT ALWAYS FAILS!**

PORCUPINES AND SKUNKS

How to get along with porcupines: Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to one's neighbor [*it never hurts anybody*]. Therefore love meets all the requirements and is the fulfilling of the Law. Romans 13 :12 The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [*full*] armor of light.

How to get along with a skunk: (Someone who has a stinking, rotten attitude)

(Word from the Lord about attitudes)

THE AROMA OF LIFE

“The problem with many relationships is not behavior, it is attitude. Attitudes are the aroma of a person’s life. An aroma is not visible to the eye, but it will certainly affect the atmosphere! You can’t control someone else’s attitude, but you can manage your own.

Attitudes make or break a relationship. Attitudes proceed out of the theme of a person’s heart. (Psa. 45:1) The theme of your heart determines the story of your life! If there is a selfish theme, the attitude will reflect it. (Matthew 12:34); if a person has a gracious heart, filled with compassion and love for others, that too will be reflected in the atmosphere of the relationship.

That is why it is so important to forgive. When you do not forgive, bitterness, resentment and a victim mentality becomes the theme of your heart and you will act accordingly.

Pride is a condition that forms a hardened shield around a heart and prevents it from changing its theme. Until pride crumbles, the heart will never change. It has the tendency to amplify the voice of the father of lies, whose whole mission is to distort truth. Pride masquerades as an angel of light, feeding into a person’s mind a constant stream of negative information, which in turn enforces a spirit of offense and strife, thus aiding in a person’s downfall and destruction.

You can never change the theme of your heart without humility. A humble person is one who easily hears my instructions and readily changes. That person will never have an attitude problem.

When others evaluate you, they never just observe your outward appearance; they always detect the attitudes of your heart. What they sense there will determine whether they are drawn to you or repelled. When love is emanating out of your heart, there will be a sweet smelling fragrance that will influence the atmosphere when you walk into a room. As a result, others will be drawn to you and they will enjoy the pleasure of your company.

What does love look like in a Mother?

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.

Train up your child

Children (You have been given the authority to train your child)

Prov 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.

Prov. 29:15 & 17 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left undisciplined brings his mother to shame. Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your heart.

You must discipline your child if you want to influence them properly:

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.

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

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.

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

(Read How to raise a delinquent)

HOW TO RAISE A DELIQUENT:

- 1. Let him have his own way.**
- 2. Give him what he whines for.**
- 3. Never teach him responsibility.**
- 4. Laugh when they are disrespectful.**
- 5. Let them be selfish, ill-mannered, and ill-tempered.**
- 6. Overlook little deceits and lies.**
- 7. Let them interrupt adults.**
- 8. Let them decide whether to go to church or not.**

Code for parents from boys in a correctional institution:

Nutrition: Influencing the health of your family

Pray for your family:

Nehemiah 4:14 & 15

I looked [them over] and rose up and said to the nobles and officials and the other people, Do not be afraid of the enemy; [earnestly] remember the Lord and imprint Him [on your minds], great and terrible, and [take from Him courage to] fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.

And when our enemies heard that their plot was known to us and that God had frustrated their purpose, we all returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

Mat 5:13 – 16 Message Bible:

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand.

Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand--shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

CODE FOR PARENTS

Compiled from boys in a correctional center

- 1. Keep cool. Don't fly off the handle. Keep the lid on when things go wrong. Kids need to see how much better things turn out when people keep their tempers under control.**
- 2. Don't get strung out from too much booze or too many pills. When we see our parents reaching for those crutches we get the idea that nobody goes out there alone and that it's perfectly OK to reach for a bottle or a capsule when things get heavy. Remember, children are great imitators. We lose respect for parents who tell us to behave one way while they behave another.**
- 3. Bug us a little. Be strict. Show us who's boss. We need to know we've got some strong supports under us. When you cave in we get scared.**
- 4. Don't blow your class. Stay on that pedestal. Don't try to dress, dance, or talk like your kids. You embarrass us and you look ridiculous.**
- 5. Light a candle. Show us the way. Tell us God is not dead, or sleeping, or on vacation. We need to believe in something bigger and stronger than ourselves.**
- 6. Scare the hell out of us if you catch us lying, stealing or being cruel; get tough. Let us know WHY what we did was wrong. Impress on us the importance of not repeating such behavior.**
- 7. When we need punishment, dish it out. But let us know you still love us, even though we have let you down. It will make us think twice before we make that same move again.**
- 8. Call our bluff. Make it clear you mean what you say. Don't compromise. And don't be intimidated by our threats to drop out of school or leave home. Stand up to us and we'll respect you. Kids don't want everything they ask for.**
- 9. Be honest. Tell us the truth no matter what. And be straight-arrow about everything. We can take it. Lukewarm answers make us uneasy. We can smell uncertainty a mile away.**
- 10. Praise us when we deserve it. If you give us kids a few compliments once in a while, we will be able to accept criticism a lot easier. The bottom line is: we want you to tell it like it is.**