

The Ministry of Mom

Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15

East Berlin Community Church

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May 8, 2022

Introduction

- **WANTED: This job involves taste, fashion, interior decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, designing, literature, medicine, handicraft, art, horticulture, economics, government, community relations, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, direct mail, law, accounting, religion, energy, and management!**
- Changing trend to “Professional Mom”
- Elevation of motherhood from Profession to Ministry

The Ministry of Mom

A. Profile of a “Ministering Mom”-- Eunice

- Acts 16:1 -- *“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold a certain disciple was there named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.”*
1. **Two different cultures**
 - a. Jews were not to intermarry with Gentiles
 - Deuteronomy 7:2b-3-- *“You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them, nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters for your son.”*
 - b. Reasons for the prohibition
 - 1) Negative spiritual influence.
 - Deuteronomy 7:4-- *“They will turn their sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.”*
 - 2) Positive: The Jews were to be “holy people to the Lord”
 - Deuteronomy 7:6-- *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God: the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”*
 - c. Paul had Timothy circumcised *“because of the Jews who were in the region.”*
 - Acts 16:3-- *“wanted to have him (that is, Timothy) go on with him: that “he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in the region, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.”*
 2. **An “unequal yoke”**
 - a. No mention of Eunice’s Greek husband of being a believer in Christ.
 - b. Paul’s warning about an “unequal yoke”
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18-- *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with an idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be My people.’ Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and be separate,’ says the LORD. ‘Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”*
 3. **Not the ideal marriage: different cultures, different religious backgrounds**

B. Contribution of a “Ministering Mom”

1. A COMMUNICABLE, Authentic Faith

- 2 Timothy 1:3-5-- *“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”*
- a. Meaning of “genuine faith”: sincere, unhypocritical, transparent, no masks. *“What-you-see-is-what-you-get”*
- b. Living as models of real, authentic Christians in front of the children and grandchildren.
 - Dr. Marvin Powell, *The Psychology of Adolescence*, *“The home environment must be a living example of religious influences in operation and not one that simply pays lip service to religion. Attendance at church on Sunday followed by six days of no trace of religion is not likely to develop a good religious adjustment in the youngster.”*
- c. When it comes to faith, more is CAUGHT than TAUGHT!

2. A COMMUNICATED, Authentic Faith

- 2 Timothy 3:14-15 -- *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
- a. Christian education begins in the home, not in school or in church.
- b. **Three advantages of teaching God’s truth at home**
 - 1) **Trust is already built into the relationship.**
 - 2 Timothy 3:14-- *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.”*
 - a) Timothy learned from traveling with the Apostle Paul.
 - 2 Timothy 3:10-11-- *“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecution I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.”*
 - b) Timothy learned from his mother, Eunice.
 - 2 Timothy 3:15-- *“And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
 - 2) **Training can begin at a very young age.** 2 Timothy 3:15
 - a) Meaning of the word “childhood” — “infancy”
 - b) Timothy’s early childhood spiritual education laid the foundation for him later coming to faith in Christ. He did not automatically become a Christian because his mom and grandma had faith.
 - c) Personal experience of spiritually training our children, and now watching as our grandchildren are receiving spiritual training at home.
 - d) Church and Christian schools are no substitute for early childhood spiritual education at home.
 - e) The importance of beginning young. The fallacy of waiting until the child is older.

3) **Training can be related to life.**

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5-- *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-- *"And these words which I command today shall be in your heart."*
 - Deuteronomy 6:7-- *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*
- a) God never intended for spiritual education to be compartmentalized, but integrated in life.
- b) Seize those "teachable moments" to relate God's Word to their world

C. Challenge to ALL: An Authentic Faith