Valuing Parental Influence

Brent Moody · 2 Timothy 1:3–5

INTRODUCTION

- I like to kind of take an opportunity to spend a little time talking about parenting, talking about the home.
- 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.
- 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.

1 The Numbers: Teens Follow Their Parents

- So here's what's found 82% of Protestant parents had teens who also were Protestant.
- In a home where you have two Protestant parents and they talk about religion a lot, 89% of their children are still Protestant. They don't talk about religion very much. Now it's 67%.
- My point here is that there are things that matter. There are things that make a difference in the decisions and the choices that are made and how we are influenced in a home.
- Statistics, numbers, they don't tell stories. They don't tell your story specifically. They kind of tell a big picture story of how culture or society works, but they are not deterministic in your life.

2 Interpreting the Data

- The worldview of your child is heavily influenced by you, and there's just no way around it.
- Who we marry significantly influences how faith is passed to our children. There's just no denying it. It makes a huge difference.
- We have to be willing to challenge our biases to actually come to truth.
- I think this should give us an idea of how important it is that we work on shaping their hearts, not just their outward actions.

3 Making Healthy Religious Discussion Normal in Our Home

Deuteronomy 6; Deuteronomy 11

- The place that we have to start here as parents is making healthy religious discussion normal in our home.
- When you're sitting down and when you rise up, and when you're in the field and all these different situations, you're bringing God into that and you're talking about God.
- Getting into some deeper discussions and allowing opinions to be shared and thought through and vetted.
- If you can never please mom and dad with your answers or with your opinions or with your thoughts or your ideas, you start not giving them.

- One thing I do know is that not talking about things is not the right way.

4 Live in a Way That Prioritizes Faith

2 Timothy 1:3–5

- I think if we're going to shape hearts, it's going to be that we live in a way that prioritizes faith.
- I'm reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first with your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. This is a sincere faith. It's honest, it's vulnerable, it's the real thing.
- Prioritizing worship and Bible class. But not just that, but also prioritizing time with brethren.
- Community is a huge part of the entire story of Scripture. God chose a people. Salvation came through the Jews. He forms us in congregations. He wants us to be together.
- We casually miss worship when it's just inconvenient. Those certainly give a message to our kids. And they learn what really matters, and here's what happens. They follow us.

5 Seeking Truth and Sincere Faith

- What we need to be doing is seeking truth and sincere faith.
- Our actual motivation and desire should be to seek Christ, to diligently seek God, as the Hebrew writer says in chapter 11 and verse 6.
- You honor me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me. And they're teaching as commandments of God the traditions of men.
- The goal is truth, not ritual, not just going through the right motions.
- The truth has nothing to fear. Absolutely nothing. And so if they ask a question about predestination or election or the Holy Spirit or whatever, the truth has nothing to fear.

THE CHALLENGE

And we would love for you to start there this morning to make that choice, to make that decision and begin working through Scripture to better understand what God wants from you. Can we help you?

MY NOTES