What Every Child NEEDS From a Mother

(Mother's Day 2003)
Selected Scriptures
5/11/03



Children Need…

1. **A Mother's <u>LOVE</u>** (Titus 2:4)

Children Need…

2. **A Mother's <u>COMMITTMENT</u>**

Children Need…

3. **A Mother's <u>TIME</u> and <u>ATTENTION</u>** (Prov. 29:15).

Children Need…

4. **A Mother's <u>PATIENCE</u>**

Children Need…

5. **A Mother's <u>ENCOURAGMENT</u>** (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)

Children Need…

6. **A Mother's <u>ADMONITION & DISCIPLINE</u>** (Proverbs 29:15)

Children Need…

7. **A Mother's <u>PRAYERS</u>** (I Samuel 1:27-28)

Children Need…

8. **A Mother's <u>RIGHT EXAMPLE</u>** (Acts 16:1; II Tim.1:5)

   a. She sets the right example by being <u>faithful to her faith</u> (Acts 16:1)

   b. She sets the right example by being <u>full of real faith</u> (II Tim.1:5)

Children Need…

9. **A Mother's <u>BIBLE INSTRUCTION</u>** (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

   a. She teaches her children God's Word <u>early</u> (when they are very young)

   b. She teaches her children God's Word <u>continually</u> (throughout all the time they are growing up)

What Every Child NEEDS From a Mother

(Mother's Day 2003)
5/11/03

"What Matters"

One hundred years from now,
It will not matter
What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much I had in my bank account,
Nor what my clothes looked like.

But the world may be a little
Better because
I was important in the life
Of a child.

Author unknown

The <u>Needs</u> of Children

Since all children have the same nature, they all have the same basic needs. Due to personality differences, some children require more attention in certain areas than others.

Children Need…

1. A Mother's <u>LOVE</u> (Titus 2:4)

a. *"Agape"* (αγαπε) love (I John 4:7)

1) This love is <u>unconditional</u> (Ro. 5:8; I Pet. 4:8)
2) This love is <u>volitional</u> (a decision or choice of the will)
3) This love is <u>sacrificial</u> (Eph. 5:25, 29)

b. *"Philia"* (φιλια) love (Titus 2:4)
This love is <u>affectionate</u>. Children need hugs and kisses; small children need to be held often.

Children Need…

2. A Mother's <u>COMMITMENT</u>

Children need the security of knowing that mom and dad are:

a. Committed to <u>God</u> through Jesus Christ
(they need to know that He is your ultimate priority)

b. Committed to the <u>Bible</u> and its principles of truth
(they need to know that you will never bend on a Biblical truth)

c. Committed to <u>each other</u> for life
(they need to know that divorce or separation is never an option in Mommy's or Daddy's mind)

d. Committed to <u>them</u>
(they need to know that nothing can sever the relationship and love you have for them)

Children Need…

3. A Mother's <u>TIME</u> and <u>ATTENTION</u>

". . .A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Prov. 29:15).

Because King David did not give Absalom the forgiveness and attention he needed, his son became bitter and rebellious (II Sam. 14:24; 15-17)

Children Need…

4. A Mother's <u>PATIENCE</u>

(Eccles. 7:8; Rom. 12:12; Ja. 1:3-4)

a. Realize how patient God is with you (Ps. 86:15)
b. Realize that your labors will be rewarded in God's time (Gal. 6:9)
c. Realize that nagging, yelling, and complaining accomplish nothing good (Ja. 3:16-18).

Children Need…

5. A Mother's ENCOURAGMENT

(Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)

a. Look for any area of positive character to praise.
   1) For initiative (when a child responds to needs without being told to)
   2) For achievement (when a child does his best, although the job may not be perfect)
   3) For obedience (When a child does what he is told with a good attitude)
      "A child should be rewarded for obedience, but should not be obedient for a reward" (Ezzo, p. 82).
   4) For skill (when a child displays giftedness, compliment him/her, but be careful to give the glory to God - I Cor. 4:7)

Children Need…

6. A Mother's ADMONITION & DISCIPLINE

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15)

1. "The Rod"

The PATTERN of Discipline is our HEAVENLY FATHER
"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."(Proverbs 3:11,12)

"He that spareth (withholds) his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24)

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare (hold back) for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18)

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15)

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15)

"Withhold not correction from the child: for is thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." (Proverbs 23:14)

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." (Proverbs 29:17)

"The rod, as used in a physical sense, came from a branch of a tree or the stem of a bush. The context rules as to which rod is implied. Just as the rod in "*Thy rod and thy staff*" is not a thin off-shoot of a bush, the rod in the "*Rod of correction*" is not a five pound branch. Context and common sense points to a rod of correction which has flex to it. We should not chastise our children with anything that is stiff and unbending. A wooden spoon could possibly break fingers that get in the way, cause vertebrae damage if struck too high and damage skin tissue. However, an instrument with flex will sting without inflicting bone or muscle damage since the flex itself absorbs much of the shock at contact." (Ezzo, p.74)

Some propose that if you use your hand, the child may so associate your hand with spanking that he/she may jump or flinch whenever you raise your hand (ex. To scratch your head).

Will spanking teach the child to hit others and be a violent person? No! But violent or hostile treatment of him will. Spanking that is in a controlled, Biblical manner will prevent the child from being violent; Reason: Each time he is violent toward a sibling or other person, if spanked he will know that such behavior will bring on him painful results (much like how a child learns to respect heat by feeling the consequences to touching the stove. (As a child learns through the school of hard knocks, "he accumulates bumps, bruises, scratches and burns, each one teaching him about life's boundaries. Do these experiences make him a violent person? No! The pain associated with these events teaches him to avoid making the same mistakes again." (Dobson)

2. "And Reproof"

Discipline is more than spanking.

There are two parts to discipline (Prov. 29:15): "The Rod and Reproof" --
physical chastisement (negative)
verbal instruction (positive)

Ephesians 6:4 - "Admonition" = lit. "to put into the mind" (not merely factual information, but right attitudes and principles of behavior)

The rod without reproof will not be effective to properly teach your children.

This is sure to "provoke them to wrath" (Eph.6:3)

The STEPS of the discipline process

1) Before spanking, make sure that the child knows what he is doing wrong.
(Explain how it is disobedience & rebellion)

2) Spank with a thin, flexible rod that will sting not damage.
(5-7 spanks usually enough; This depends on the age of the child)
Make sure you are <u>not</u> spanking out of anger; or in a violent manner.
[Note: A wooden or a plastic dowel (thin round stick) may be used in cases when you cannot obtain a good useful "rod")

Spank firm enough to outweigh the pleasure of sin.
Parents should not chastise through clothing that is too thick.

3) After spanking,

a) <u>Talk</u> to him about what he did wrong (explain it as sin against God; warn him not to repeat the offense)
b) <u>Pray</u> with him;
c) <u>Reaffirm</u> your love for him;
d) Have the child remain alone for a few minutes to <u>ponder</u> (think about) the lesson learned, and to talk to God about it.
e) Have the child review the lesson he/she learned with the parent who did the disciplining.
f) Then consider the issue <u>resolved</u> and <u>over</u> (providing the child's attitude and action conform to what you desired)

Discipline is over when the child:
(1) <u>admits</u> guilt
(2) Shows a <u>change</u> of attitude & action

4) The child should then willingly do what you asked; or not do what you prohibited (a

repentant attitude is your goal)

Children Need…

7. A Mother's <u>PRAYERS</u>

I Samuel 1:27-28 *"For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there."*

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S NEEDS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

By Mrs. John Marshall

1. That they will know Christ as Savior early in life. Ps. 63:1; 1 Tim. 3:15
2. That they will have a correct fear of God. Prov. 1:7
3. That they will not hate instruction but will heed rebuke. Prov. 15:32
4. That they will have hatred of sin (Ps. 97:10) and hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt. 5:6).
5. That they will be caught when guilty. Ps. 119:71
6. That they will be protected from the evil one in each area of their lives: spiritual, mental, emotional, physical. John 17:15
7. That they will have a responsible attitude in all their inter-personal relationships. Dan. 6:3
8. That they will respect those in authority over them. Rom. 13:1
9. That they will desire the right kind of friends and be protected from the wrong friends. Prov. 1:10-11
10. That they will be kept from the wrong mate and saved for the right one. 2 Cor. 6:14-17
11. That they, as well as those they marry, will be kept pure until marriage. 1 Cor. 6:18-20
12. That they will learn to totally submit to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances. James 4:7
13. That they will be single-hearted to be sold out to Christ. Rom. 12:1-2
14. That they will be hedged in so that they cannot find their way to wrong people or wrong places and that the wrong people cannot find their way to them. Hos. 2:6

Children Need…

8. A Mother's RIGHT EXAMPLE (Acts 16:1; II Tim.1:5) *(Her Life is worth copying)*

SEE: II Tim. 1:5

"When I call to remembrance" – "The occasion for this reminder is not indicated, but something had happened at Rome under Paul's eyes which strongly reminded him of Timothy's faith" (Hiebert, p. 32).

What is evident here is that Timothy caught on to a belief system that he saw in his mom and grandmother. What they had was so real, so attractive, so evident, that it influenced Timothy's faith. Paul evidently led Lois and Eunice to saving faith in Christ as Messiah, and therefore he could also claim a bit of responsibility for Timothy's faith. Hence, he identified Timothy as a "dearly beloved son" in the faith (II Tim. 1:2).

Due to the influence of a Godly mother and grandmother, Timothy would become saved, would become a mighty preacher, and would be so influential himself that two books of God's Holy Word would be named after him!

SEE: Acts 16:1

"Timotheus" – Eunice named her son *Timotheus* which means valuable to God, honored by God. She so named him because he was of great worth to her; he no doubt meant a lot to her. Timothy's life was of tremendous value to Eunice as is the life of any child who is the object of love by his/her mother.

A. She sets the right example by being faithful to her faith (Acts 16:1)

Eunice evidently believed the Old Testament Scriptures prior to meeting Paul, but became a believer in Christ when Paul preached in her city of Lystra during his first missionary journey (Acts 14).

1. Eunice faithfully overcame a religious obstacle
(She was Jewish, yet believed on Christ)

   Eunice believed God's Word, she trusted God's promise, she entrusted her life and destiny to the Lord Jesus; and she did so being Jewish.

   For a Jew in that day, as in ours, to profess faith in Jesus as Messiah was no small matter. Especially in the cities Eunice was from. It was in her country that Paul (on his first missionary journey) was stoned to death (Acts 14:1-19).

2. Eunice faithfully overcame a domestic obstacle
(An unbelieving husband)

   "But his father was a Greek" – The word "but" shows a contrast. Not only was Timothy's dad a Gentile, but he was evidently an unbelieving Gentile. It is emphasized that Timothy's mother believed, but nothing is said of Timothy's father believing. He obviously did not.

   Eunice is an example of a woman who would be faithful to imparting God's truth to her son even without the support of a husband.

   A mother of influence sets the right example even if it means doing it all alone without the support of a believing husband.

B. She sets the right example by being <u>full of real faith</u> (II Tim.1:5)

SEE: II Tim. 1:5

The one virtue that stood out to Paul about Eunice was her deep sincerity. He saw her as one who not merely professed faith, but undeniably possessed faith. Her faith was real.

"Unfeigned" – "A faith arising out of an inner reality of conviction and knowing no sham or pretense" (Hiebert, p. 32).

"Unfeigned faith" – *(anupokritou pisteos)* – unhypocritical faith, genuine, from the heart, not mere Sunday morning lip service.

Timothy's mom had a faith which didn't limit itself to her religious activity when in public.

Eunice, perhaps a second generation believe (who followed in the faith of her mother Lois), had a belief that was sincere, real, unpretentious, unhypocritical, etc.

"At Grandma's Knee"

"Perhaps God can use a grandmother to help mold a future minister. No greater meaning to life could be found than for a devout grandmother to pray for, encourage, and challenge grandchildren to keep the faith. She can begin by reading Bible stories and challenging grandchildren to read the Bible and memorize verses. Then she can encourage them to get involved in church summer activities or to attend Christian camps (maybe with her help). Grandparents need to be more than examples; they must encourage and teach whenever possible."

Life Application Bible Commentary, p. 159

Don't hide your light while at home; it is there that it must shine the brightest. Those closest to us are often the ones to see our dark side.

The example of sincerity on the part of a parent is vital to a child's life. Reason: "More is <u>caught</u> than taught" (Bob Jones III).

A child/teen can sense a hypocrite a mile away.

1Ti 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

All of us are an example to someone. All of us have influence either for good or bad.

"Be thou an example" (present, middle, imperative - *ginou* from *ginomai*) - Become thou. Regardless of your past, start setting a good example. Perhaps you have been a failure in your past; this word points to a new beginning.

The present tense implies a continual (lifelong) example.

The middle voice implies choice and determination (an act of the will) that you will decide to be exemplary.

The imperative mood implies that it is an obligation not an option for you to be the right example.

"Example" - *tupos* from which we translate "type."

Tupos primarily denoted "a blow" (from a root tup--, seen also in tupto, "to strike"), hence,
(a) an impression, the mark of a "blow," <John 20:25>;
(b) the "impress" of a seal, the stamp made by a die, a figure, image, <Acts 7:43>;
(c) a "form" or mold, <Rom. 6:17> (see RV);
(d) the sense or substance of a letter, <Acts 23:25>;
(e) "an ensample," pattern, <Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5>, "pattern"; in an ethical sense, <1 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thes. 1:7; 2 Thes. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:12>,
(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
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Moms & Dads, we need to be . . .

--a mold worth duplicating.
--a pattern worth copying
--a model worth imitating

"Of the believers" - God is not calling upon us to model the world (TV examples), but what a believer should be.

--He has unique standards for His children.

--He is not calling upon the lost to be an example (they cannot be).

Example . . .

1) Example plays an important part in the formation of character; and its influence is felt more than that of precept.

> "Children possess an imitative disposition. They look up to their parents as the pattern or model of their character, and conclude what they do is right and worthy of their imitation." (Rev. S. Phillips, 1858, The Christian Home, cited in Teaching and Learning America's Christian History, the Principle Approach, by Rosalie J. Slater).

2) Example may be good or bad (it is never neutral).

3) Example is teaching by <u>action</u>
Thus, the child is a living commentary upon his/her home and his/her parents. The child is the moral reproduction of the parent (whatever you sow will be reaped).

4) Example instructs a child before he/she can learn to speak and understand words (Phillips)

(Children from birth are like "walking camcorders" recording everything they see visually and audibly in your life and home)

Eunice had an exemplary faith:

What is a genuine faith?

1. A genuine faith is <u>sincere</u> in its <u>personal trust</u>

2. A genuine faith is <u>real</u> in its <u>private results</u>

3. A genuine faith is <u>unhypocritical</u> in its <u>public display</u>

9. A Mother's <u>BIBLE INSTRUCTION</u> (2 Tim. 3:14-15) *(Her <u>Lips</u> flow with God's Word)*

With the prospect of future apostasy (v. 1-13) on the horizon, Paul in this context gives Timothy some solid encouragement to remain faithful.

The discipleship (*mathetes)* training Timothy acquired as a boy would serve as a strong deterrent to his giving in to apostasy.

A. She teaches her children God's Word <u>early</u> (when they are very young)

"From a child" = lit. from a <u>babe</u>.

"Jewish children were taught to memorize passages from the Old Testament as soon as they could speak" (Hiebert, p. 97).

"Jewish families began their moral and religious training when children reached age five. The original teaching was given by mothers until about age ten, when fathers were expected to take over. The role of the family was essential in Jewish tradition and developed from God's own instruction (see Deut. 6:1-25). "God-designed parental roles cannot be easily replaced or eliminated. At home and in church, we should realize that teaching small children is both an opportunity and a responsibility. Jesus wanted little children to come to him (Mt. 19:13-15). Like Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, do your part in leading children to Christ." Life Applic. Bible Comm., p. 217

Many animals mature to adulthood in two years or less, but a child requires 18 years! Why the difference? Children, unlike animals, have a spiritual nature which requires the inculcation of moral truth. God intends for Christian parents not to just "raise" their children by feeding, clothing, and protecting them, but to "train the soul" of the child so as to produce an inner character that agrees with God's standards.

Prov. 22:6 - ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*** This is an axiomatic, eternal principle and promise from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to begin, or initiate a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

Same word as when Solomon initiated/dedicated the newly-constructed Temple (I Ki. 8:63; II Chron. 7:5)

The word originally meant to *"rub the palate"* of a child with chewed dates to get it to acquire a taste for food; EX: midwives would rub palate with oil before child began to suck. The word means to make experienced or accustomed to what you want (as a horse gets accustomed to being directed by a rope in its mouth) (BDB, p. 335)

If we get our children accustomed to what is right, they won't depart!

"The way" = the proper road
"Old" = mature
"It" = the way (road) we trained them on

"Parents are commanded by God to initiate or start their child in a certain direction. He is not to be allowed to follow the path his nature would take him, but he is to be set on a new path. Dedication is not just a one-time initiation, but incorporates the entire training process. The result of the training is for this new way to become the child's own way of life. When this training transpires, the child will not leave the path even as he grows older and becomes an adult. . . Parents are not to wait for a child to choose his own way of life, but are to place him on the right path in early childhood. . . Parents must act as the external control over a child while he is developing his own internal controls. The parents' role is not to remain as the child's control for the rest of his life, but gradually to work themselves out of this job as early as possible." (Fugate, p. 65-66)

Children are most moldable when they are young
(Prov. 22:6 - *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it")*

Our children are like arrows (Ps. 127:4) -- they must be pointed and launched in the right direction.

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal"
(Eadie, p. 262).

Through the proper parental example, training, and discipline of our children, we should desire that God develop their character by building in them the following traits:

1) Spiritual desire
2) A sensitive conscience
3) Sincere motives
4) Self-discipline or self-control
5) Personal initiative
6) Personal responsibility

B. She teaches her children God's Word <u>continually</u> (throughout all the time they are growing up)

Although Eunice did not know Christ as Messiah until she heard Paul, her heart was ready because she knew the Old Testament Scriptures, and she taught the Old Testament Scriptures to Timothy, which prepared him for the hearing of the gospel.

"From a child" – i.e. from the starting point of youth <u>onward</u>. Ever since Timothy was a child, from that point on, he was taught the sacred writings of God, the Book of Books. That set-apart Word inspired by God was imparted to Timothy by a mom who loved him enough to take the time and effort to instill God's truth into his heart. Eunice never stopped!

Believing parents are obligated to teach their children God's Word.

Deut. 6:7 - 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

This teaching should include:

1. Formal teaching in a structured situation (family devotions)

2. Informal training through normal life situations

3. Exemplary training through your life as a model