

“A Mother’s Greatest Gift”
1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2 Timothy 1:5
Sermon Notes ♦ May 10, 2015

A bad conscience is the mother of all heresies. – John Calvin

Introduction:

How Eunice and Lois Prepared Timothy for His Ministry

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

– 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Sincere Faith, Not Hypocrisy

Faith + A Good Conscience = Integrity

There is only one way to achieve happiness
on this terrestrial ball,
And that is to have either a clear conscience
or none at all.

– Ogden Nash

My conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God,
and to go against conscience or Scripture is neither right nor
safe.

– Martin Luther

A Mother’s Ability to Shape Her Child’s Spiritual Character

Not Perfection but Sincerity

Our culture is one of motherhood deferred due to later child-bearing, motherhood disrupted by divorce, motherhood lost by infant/child death and miscarriage, and motherhood unachieved due to infertility and undesired singleness. Of course, our culture also includes wonderful families with strong marriages and happy children.

The point is that there is not a one-size-fits-all journey of womanhood, and we hurt women in our churches by venerating one path over all others. ...

So let's be gentle with each other this Mother's Day.

Let's celebrate with the women who have happy families.

Let's remember the women, men, girls, and boys who are hurt by their mothers.

Let's remember the mothers who have lost their children.

Let's remember the women who long to be wives and mothers, but aren't.

- Jenell Williams Paris, "When Mother's Day Is Hard"

A Mother’s Greatest Gift

Wherever we are in life, whatever our experience of mothering or being mothered, the plea is that we go on in faith – with such faith as we actually have – and live lives consistent with *that* faith – lives of integrity – and trust God to impress that faith – that sincere faith – upon our children and our grandchildren.