

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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### **The Role Of The Mother In The Home**

The mother has a special place of responsibility in the home. Aged women are to teach "the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discrete, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4, 5). This one passage does a wonderful job of outlining the role of the mother in the home.

Let us think of that mature woman who still has a responsibility to her daughters even though they may also be homemakers. The training should have started early while the daughters were young, but the teaching may continue because there are many important lessons that need to be deeply implanted in these young women. One way the older women may teach the young is by their own example of chastity, modesty, and good judgment in clothing, and in behavior. If there were more mothers with strong convictions, there would be more daughters with strong characters.

Who will turn our immoral and unchaste generation back to purity and sobriety? It is very evident that comparatively few older women have been training the young women in the way they should go. Divorce, unfaithfulness to the marriage partner, drunkenness, and a complete lack of spirituality have come to many young women in America. Such people are in no position to be the mothers of the next generation. Many do not want children because they are so in love with money and with worldliness. Are there those who can get to these young women with the Bible to instill the principles their mothers should have taught them? It will not be easy. Most of the ungodly will continue to sow to the flesh and to reap of the same (Galatians 6:7, 8).

To "guide the house" as a "keeper at home" is a special assignment to young women (1 Timothy 5:14). Eunice and Lois must have done their work well at home because Timothy was given the "unfeigned faith" and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures that helped make him the great servant of the Lord that he was (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14, 15; Philippians 2:19-23). Is there a more important and satisfying work than guiding and training such excellent

people to be the salt of the earth? The work of a good mother is so important that nothing should hinder or turn her aside from this glorious task.

It may seem to some that young mothers will naturally love their children, but very many young children are at home by themselves in summer. Some mothers forsake their husbands and children to live with companions to whom they have no legal right. The Lord knows that young women need to be taught to love their children, and to have a proper discretion and soberness of mind to be guides for these children. Mothers and fathers are accountable to God for what they make of their homes. It would be impossible to over emphasize the importance of the role of the father and of the mother in the home. The failures that are made in this realm could hardly be more evident. Worthy and successful parents are blessed, and they deserve our congratulations.

Many children are now growing up in the homes where there is only one parent. In some cases they are with one parent a while and then with the other. It is next to impossible for a good man alone to give his children all they need in the way of guidance and training. If the mother still sleeps at home but is hardly with the child this is only one degree better than her being gone into another state. She who bears children should guide the house. Money cannot replace a mother's love, example, and companionship. Are there not many women in the labor market in the very period of life when they are so much needed at home?

The word mother was once considered to be a word with very great significance. As more women began using vulgar and blasphemous language, drinking alcohol, forsaking the home in search of money and notoriety, and becoming immodest and immoral, the special respect for women in general was lost. There are still some of the very best mothers, and their children love and honor them. We should all thank God for these virtuous women because it is the influence of His word that causes them to be so worthy of respect.

- Irven Lee, via Guardian of Truth, 01/20/1983

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## INTEGRITY

### *Required Under the Law*

- Deuteronomy 16:19: Thou shalt not wrest judgement; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.
- Deuteronomy 16:20: That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherhit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

### *The Just Man Described*

- Proverbs 20:7: The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

### *Job's Resolve*

- Job 27:4: My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.
- Job 27:5: God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.

### *Is Open to Inspection*

- John 3:21: But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

HOW IS YOURS?

- George Leath

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## **The Christian's Fight**

Someone said, "The Christian is called to the battleground, not the playground!" Every follower of Jesus Christ knows of this great struggle between light and darkness. It is the greatest of battles! Paul declared, in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Certainly, every Christian is called by the Lord to be a fighting soldier in the spiritual realm of life. We are reminded of such admonitions as the following: "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier." (2 Timothy 2:3-4). "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12). Recall that Paul had "fought the good fight" (2 Timothy 4:7) as he pursued "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:11). Every Christian must fight the GOOD fight!

Our struggle, our fight, our contention, our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; it is not against any man, nor any group of men. (We are not to be quarrelsome, but kind, patient, and gentle, "correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil," 2 Timothy 2:24-26). The Christian's fight is against wickedness in the spiritual realm.

As the doctrine of Christ leads us, we notice that the spiritual Adversary of man, the devil, uses "schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11 [devices for taking advantage of us]; Ephesians 6:11 [wiles of the devil, stratagem intended to ensnare or deceive (Merriam-Webster)]) and "snares" (1 Timothy 3:7; 6:9; 2 Timothy 2:26) to imprison us by the use of our own rejection of light and choice of darkness in life's many presentations to our hearts. He is our Adversary who "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8). We are commanded to "resist him" (1 Peter 5:9). He desires to hold us in captivity "to do his will" instead of the will of God (2 Timothy 2:26). He appeals to man through three avenues: "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" (1 John 2:16).

This evil enemy has great power and must be fought so that we do not walk according to "the course of this world" (Ephesians 2:2). We must not love the world nor the things in the world (1 John 2:15). They are passing away. We fight so that we can live forever with our heavenly Father. The devil's realm is called "the domain of darkness" (Colossians 1:13), from which Christians have been rescued by Christ.

Just as the devil will use all available tools at his disposal to capture us (false ministers, deceptive doctrines, counterfeit worship; 2 Corinthians 11:13-14; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Revelation 2:9), Christians must use all of the divinely appointed items that are designed to insure victory in the good fight: "the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-20). Thus, with God's help, our mission is as Paul's mission: to turn people "from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18).

The encouraging news is that Christ has defeated the devil by His death and resurrection (Hebrews 2:14-15; cf. Revelation 20:10). Thankfully, the Lord has given us a divine strategy for victory over all the forces of darkness. But we must not turn from the fight, and we must not neglect arming ourselves with the entire outfit of armor. God enables all believers to stand firm!

- Gary Smalley

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\* "If the Lord intended for us to live in a permissive society, wouldn't the Ten Commandments have been the Ten Suggestions?"

\* "Gossip and anger are like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die!"

\* "Love for enemies is overflowing good will toward unfriendly people!"

\* "Why worry when you can pray?"

\* "Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it every day, and at last, we cannot break it!"

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# ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

## **HEAR THE GOSPEL**

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

## **BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST**

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

## **REPENT OF PAST SINS**

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

## **CONFESS CHRIST**

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

## **BE BAPTIZED**

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

## **LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE**

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)