



LOIS AND EUNICE: WOMEN OF GODLY INFLUENCE

INTRODUCTION

Many women in the Bible strongly influenced the men placed around them for either good or bad. Behind every man there has been a mother, wife, or other woman who has influenced him. Many godly men in the Bible were built up, encouraged, and prayed for by women who stood by their side. Other women were bad influences who spiritually brought down men that God had chosen for His work.

In New Testament times, women were very involved in the ministry of Jesus and in the early church. Two such outstanding women were Lois and Eunice. Although only mentioned once, their influence on the life of Timothy was a great influence to the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul called to remembrance Timothy's . . . *genuine faith which dwelt first in [his] grandmother Lois and [his] mother Eunice* . . . (II Timothy 1:5, NKJV).

Today, their example is still one we can model and imitate in our Christian walk as women. We can strongly influence the children God has given to us, or surrounded us with, by instructing them in God's Word, praying continually for them, and encouraging their faith in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also (II Timothy 1:5).

Names Given to the Women in this Story

Lois Grandmother	<i>When I [Paul] call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee [Timothy], which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois . . . (II Timothy 1:5).</i> <i>Lois</i> means - agreeable, desirable, similar in meaning to Naomi. Lois was the grandmother of Timothy, a great helper to Paul in the early church. She is the only one referred to in the Bible as a grandmother.
Eunice Mother	<i>. . . and thy [Timothy] mother Eunice . . . (II Timothy 1:5).</i> <i>Eunice</i> implies - conquering well, a name she aspired to in an effort to bring up her son in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eunice was Timothy's mother. Together these two women instilled a great and lasting faith in Timothy.
Jewess	<i>. . . Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed . . . (Acts 16:1).</i>

SECTION 1 – Timothy's Godly Heritage

Paul took Silas on a missionary journey, together they were to strengthen the churches already begun on previous missionary trips.

READ Acts 16:1-5.

1. Who did Paul meet when he went to Derbe and Lystra (v. 1)? _____

What facts are stated concerning his mother? _____

What about his father? _____

LOOK DEEPER

As a Jewish mother, what godly heritage was to be passed down from one generation to another (Deuteronomy 6:1-5)?

What were God's commandments to parents, mother and father, in training their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)?

Despite the cultural differences which probably brought spiritual differences in the home, Timothy was faithfully taught the Scriptures. If the father is not the spiritual leader in the home, the responsibility then falls upon the mother to train the children in God's ways.

PERSONAL

In what simple ways can you instruct a child in the basic doctrines of Christ? _____

2. What did the people at Lystra and Iconium think about Timothy (Acts 16:2)? _____

PERSONAL

In what ways can you speak well of young ministers in the Church? _____

3. What did Paul do before Timothy could be accepted by the Jewish minister (Acts 16:3)?

_____ ¹

What was Timothy well equipped to do because of his early training in the Scriptures (vs. 4, 5)?

_____ ²

What affect did his ministry with Paul have on the churches? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Because of Timothy's earlier training by Lois and Eunice and the nurturing of Paul, what were some ways Timothy helped Paul?

Acts 19:21, 22 _____

¹ circumcision: a Jewish religious rite. Circumcision is not needed for salvation. Paul wanted Timothy to be accepted by the Jews so they could present the Gospel to them, he needed to circumcise him.

² decrees: a foreordained, eternal purpose of God. To order, adjudge, ordain, or appoint by law or edict.

I Corinthians 4:14-17 _____

I Corinthians 16:10, 11 _____

PERSONAL

Early training of a child will later equip him to be used by God. What daily steps are you making to ensure that a godly heritage continues to the next generation?

SECTION 2 – Timothy’s Godly Training

Paul, while in prison for his faith, wrote to Timothy letters of encouragement and exhortation.

READ II Timothy 1:1-5 and II Timothy Chapter 3.

1. SUMMARIZE the relationship that grew between Paul and Timothy (II Timothy 1:1-4).

2. How did Paul describe Timothy’s faith (v. 5a)? _____

3. To whom did Paul attribute this source of faith (v. 5b)? _____

4. How did Paul describe the last days (II Timothy 3:1-9)? _____

5. What did Paul exhort Timothy to do in the last days (v. 5)? _____

6. How had Timothy followed Paul (vv. 10-13)? _____

7. What did Paul want Timothy to continue in (v. 14)? _____

8. What were the things Timothy had learned from his childhood (v. 15)? _____

Paul, because of the deception in the church at that time (and even today) exhorted Timothy to continue in the faith he had learned from his grandmother, mother and even from Paul himself (II Timothy 3:10-13). Paul gets Timothy to observe those godly people who had influenced his life: their solid characters, their genuine faith, and their unwavering walk would encourage him to continue in the faith.

9. What does II Timothy 3:16 say about the origin of the Scriptures? _____

3

What is Scripture profitable for? _____

10. Why is it important to study (II Timothy 3:17)? _____

PERSONAL

What did you learn from Eunice and Lois about the importance of studying God's Word?

How will you apply it to your life? _____

³ inspiration: divinely breathed in; given by inspiration of God.

SECTION 3 – Our Godly Heritage

Timothy's godly heritage can be traced back to Lois and Eunice. By teaching Timothy God's Word, they both laid a foundation in his life. Paul was able to further build upon this firm foundation of faith. Our godly heritage may be traced back to a relative, friend, or acquaintance, who faithfully taught Christian precepts and prayed for us. They faithfully passed down their Christian faith by teaching their children and grandchildren from one generation to another.

Yet other people may just be beginning a godly heritage. Accepting Jesus by faith⁴, they become a first generation of Christians. They now seek to strongly influence their children in the Christian faith and begin the hard work of laying a firm foundation for future generations to come.

READ Psalm 127:1-5.

1. How does this Psalm instruct you in building a spiritual foundation for children (vv. 1, 2)?

2. What does God reveal about children (v. 3)? _____

3. As we faithfully train children in God's ways, what will they become (v. 4)? _____

4. What are the benefits of raising a godly heritage (v. 5)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Psalm 128. What promises are given to the man who fears the Lord? _____

⁴ faith: the NIV translation renders it: *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1). So *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:17).

PERSONAL

Even though you may be faithful in teaching children God's Word, some will often go their own way which can be heartbreaking. WRITE the great promises given to those who have faithfully sown God's Word into the hearts of children.

Psalms 126:5, 6 _____

Proverbs 22:6 _____

Proverbs 31:28 _____

Isaiah 54:13 _____

Isaiah 55:8-11 _____

Which verse comforted your heart the most? _____

Like Lois and Eunice, different women throughout the Bible were known as faithful in what God called them to do. They left the end result to the Lord.

LOOK DEEPER

How were Mary the mother of Jesus and Elisabeth the mother of John the Baptist ministered to by the LORD (Luke 1:1-58)?

How did these godly women minister to each other during their pregnancies? _____

PERSONAL

Susanna Wesley trained and influenced all her children to walk in God's ways. She was the mother of John and Charles Wesley who God used to spark revival in England in the 18th century. Was there a mother, father, or some other relative in your life that was faithful in teaching you about Christ? What about other godly influences?

Thank God for them! Now WRITE out II Timothy 3:14. _____

How are you obeying this exhortation in your own life? _____

SECTION 4 – Our Godly Influence

Children are great imitators! They learn by example as they watch parents and others who can influence them. Paul told the believers to be imitators of him because he was an imitator of Christ (I Corinthians 4:16, Philippians 3:17).

Our faithfulness to God should be reflected in the way we raise our children or how we influence the children God has placed in our lives.

READ Proverbs Chapter 31.

It is believed that the following prophecy⁵ is instruction that King Solomon received from his mother, Bathsheba.

LIST the godly characteristics she taught him. _____⁶

⁵ prophecy: proclamation of the divine Word, first in oral form and sometimes recorded in writing.

⁶ Lemuel: belonging to God; name of Solomon.

2. What instruction is given to children, parents, servants, and masters?

Proverbs 29:15, 17 _____

Ephesians 6:1-4 _____

Titus 2:1-10 _____

3. What promise does God give to those who help the *least* in His kingdom (Matthew 25:31-40)?

In Jewish history, as soon as a child was born, the mother would whisper in the ear of her newborn child, *Yahweh is LORD!* By the time a young Jewish child is the age of twelve, he has memorized the first five books of the Old Testament. Reading line upon line through the Bible gives the full counsel of God to a child.

PERSONAL

If you are single or have no children of your own, what are some ways you can encourage and help other people's children grow in God's ways?

What are you doing for a child today that will matter in his future? _____

REFLECT back on Timothy's spiritual training. What impressed you most? _____

How are you continuing to train your own children and those around you in the ways of the Lord?

MEMORY VERSE

_____ (II Timothy 1:5).

Lois and Eunice were women who took the time and effort to sacrificially pour themselves into a child. Timothy reaped the benefits of a godly heritage, so did Paul and the early church. Our children are the future of the Church: to continue the Christian faith and to spread the Gospel. They are our godly heritage. As their spiritual mothers, we must be diligent to teach them the Scriptures and the ways of the Lord. May we be encouraged by Lois and Eunice to strongly influence the next generation because *the coming of the Lord is at hand!*

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