

A Mother's Influence

This Sunday we will celebrate Mother's Day. This is a great time to show our appreciation to our mothers. Mothers do so much for us, and so we want them to know how special they are and how much we love them. Now though I am neither a parent nor a mother, I have been blessed with a wonderful mother and her influence on my life has been significant. I sometimes wonder if mothers realize how important their influence really is on their children. In light of this I would like to share a few thoughts about how a mother can influence her child in a positive way.

A mother can influence her children by how she lives. It saddens me when I hear women curse or see them smoke or intoxicated with alcohol especially when they are mothers. I couldn't imagine ever seeing my mom do things like this. A mother should set a godly example before her children. She should be a paragon of virtue. That's not to say that a father should not do the same thing. Both parents should set a godly example. But when a mother falls prey to evil, it can be devastating to the children.

A mother can influence her children by what she teaches them. Proverbs 22.6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Mothers can influence their children by teaching them the truths of God's word, and you don't have to be a Bible scholar to do this. You simply need to read them the Scriptures, tell them about who Jesus is, and admonish them to live according to the standards found in the Bible. My mother was my Sunday School teacher and also my Junior Church leader. Yet, she also taught me at home particularly how to pray. I can remember my mom sitting by my bedside praying with me before I went to sleep. I am so thankful for the teaching I received in my early years.

Finally, a mother can influence her children by her prayers. If you have children still at home, I think you should pray for them and with them. Your children should hear you pray for them; it conveys your love for them and strengthens their faith in God. Unfortunately, some of you reading this devotion may have children who are lost. You tried to influence them to live for Jesus, but they went their own way. Don't give up on them. Pray for them daily that God would draw them to himself. God can answer your prayers and save them. Saint Augustine was one of the greatest theologians in church history, yet before coming to Christ he lived a pagan life. It was

his mother, Monica, who kept praying for him and reaching out to him for Christ. Finally, her prayers prevailed and Augustine was saved. Your prayers can make a difference as well.

Pastor Mark