

# “Teach Yours Kids to Teach!”

## 2 Timothy 1:5; 2:2; 3:14-17

**Intro.** – Years ago after a celebrated career on the international stage, world famous violinist Jascha Heifetz became a professor of music at UCLA. When asked why he had left the glamour of performing to become a teacher, Heifetz responded, “Violin-playing is a perishable art. It must be passed on; otherwise it is lost.” He then went on to say, “I remember my old violin professor in Russia. He said that if I worked hard enough someday I would be good enough to teach.”

Let me use this to illustrate the urgency behind parents teaching their kids to be teachers of their kids to be teachers of their kids etc. Training a child in the way of the Lord is a perishable art. It must be passed on; otherwise it too will be lost.

Bertoldo di Giovanni is a name even the most enthusiastic lover of art is unlikely to recognize. He was the teacher of Michelangelo, the greatest sculptor of all time. Michelangelo was only 14 years old when he came to Bertoldo, but it was already evident he was more than gifted. Bertoldo was wise enough to realize that gifted people are often tempted to coast rather than grow and develop. Because of this, Bertoldo pushed his young prodigy to work that much more seriously at his art. One day Bertoldo came into the studio and found Michelangelo toying with a piece of sculpture far beneath his abilities. Bertoldo grabbed a hammer, ran across the room and smashed the work into tiny pieces. He then shouted the unforgettable message, “Michelangelo, talent is cheap; dedication is costly!”

So is our challenge to teach our kids and to teach them well. Parents in the Bible who did this well are two obscure women about whom we know very little. They were mother and daughter (grandmother and mother) named Lois and Eunice. They did an outstanding job of raising and teaching their son and grandson, Timothy. Clearly, these two ladies had a Ph.D. from the university of parental teaching. They used the best parenting book ever penned – the Old Testament, which contained the book of Proverbs at the time of their instructing.

*Purpose: to better see our need as parents to teach our kids to be teachers of their kids*

We are going to look at several principles from Proverbs -- principles that Lois and Eunice no doubt used to train Timothy and to shape him into the man of God he became. Note our text makes clear that teaching others to teach others is a Biblical mandate. This certainly includes parents with their children!\

## I Teach Kids REVERENCE

Proverbs 1:7 – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

### A. Reverence for God

1. Teaching kids to “fear,” to be in awe, struck in wonder, to have a growing worshipful attitude toward God is training them to have a reverence for God, Creator and Savior.
2. Many parents consciously/unconsciously teach an *irreverence* for God:
  - a. the very use of God’s name illustrates this... “O, my God!” or “O Lord!” or “Jesus Christ!” certainly our kids need to hear from us a holy respect for the use of God’s name.
  - b. the misuse of the Lord’s Church – as if the church was a community club... simply a marrying and burying place... total disdain or lack of respect for the Lord’s Church...

### B. Reverence for One Another

1. Reverence for God carries over into the attitudes and actions of everyday lives.
2. Not a problem today we and our kids face that does not relate back to the loss of reverence:
  - a. abortion is nothing more than the total loss of reverence for God and human life...
  - b. drug, alcohol and tobacco additions are all related to a person’s loss of reverence for one’s self, based on the fact that all are created/made in the image of God...
  - c. adultery, premarital/extra-marital sex, rape, and all other forms of sexual abuse are the outcomes of failure to reverence human sexuality...

3. Point: raising a godly human being is like erecting a building. It all stands on the foundation of reverence – for God and each other! Lois and Eunice got this point. Very name of their grandson and son “Timothy” literally means “honoring or reverence to God”

Begin at this point, and you have laid a solid foundation for the building of godly lives through your kids!

## II Teach Kids OBEDIENCE

Proverbs 1:8 “*Hear, my son, your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.*”

### A. Dad by *Instruction*

1. Hebrew – word literally referred to the “authoritative teaching in the form of warnings.”
2. In other words, the dad of the home has the responsibility of teaching in a way that corrects the wrongs and points out the negative consequences of ignored principles and lessons...
3. In other words, the dad by divine design is suppose to be “the heavy” in teaching.

### B. Mom by *Teaching*

1. Hebrew – word literally referred to the “goading or coaxing” of someone into good behavior.
2. It pictures the mother prodding her kids unto love and good works – i.e. encouraging them with words of assurance and encouragement...
3. We know little to nothing as to Timothy’s father other than he was a Gentile (Acts 16:1). Possible Timothy grew up in a single parent home. Point being that God will enable single parents to fill both roles when and if necessary but the ideal would be to have both dad and mom...
4. Timothy learned more important teaching than the following parents taught their child: “Things My Parents Taught Me”
  - My Parents Taught Me Logic = “Because I said so, that’s why.”
  - My Parents Taught Me Humor = “When that lawn mower cuts off your foot, don’t come running to me.”
  - My Parents Taught Me About Receiving = “You are going to get it when we get home.”
  - My Parents Taught Me About Justice = “One day you’ll have kids and I hope they turn out just like you. Then you’ll see what it’s like.”
  - My Parents Taught Me the Value of a Job Well Done = “If you’re going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.”
5. There is a connection between principle and practice. Kids who learn parental respect early in life understand better the necessity behind obeying sound principles throughout life. Teach to obey...

## III Teach Kids PURITY

Proverbs 2:20 – after having dealt with being delivered from the adulteress who flatters with her words, “*So you will walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the righteous.*”

- the method of teaching kids moral principles such as modesty can be compared to climbing ladder:

### A. First Step: Boundaries

- parents must focus on saying “no” to their kids at a young age, (not capable understanding moral principles) helping them to learn there are godly limitations on behavior.

### B. Second Step: Consequences

- late childhood through adolescence kids can begin to *connect the dots*. This is when parents need to teach the principle of reaping what you sow... letting them *experience* consequences choices...

### C. Third Step: Principles

- as kids prepare to leave home, need to be taught and shown the eternal principles of Scripture...

Take them up this ladder, kids will be prepared for college, marriage, work and why pure life is essential!

## IV Teach Kids SPEECH

Proverbs 4:24 “*Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put devious lips far from you.*”

#### A. A Deceitful Mouth

1. “Deceitful” literally means “crooked or distorted.” We all know what being untruthful is; yet, we all are pretty good “spin doctors”
2. Kids learn how to “spin” the truth by our example as we exaggerate, lie, and spread rumors...
3. If we want our kids to communicate without distorting the facts, then we must set the example by saying what we mean and meaning what we say... James 5:12 *“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”*

#### B. Devious Lips

1. “Devious” literally means to “turn aside or depart” = picture of communicating with someone but having to whisper or speak outside the hearing of those being discussed.
2. Kids need to learn early that gossip, the spreading of rumors, half-truths or lies are wrong
3. Instead, kids need to hear from parents/adults positive and encouraging verbiage.
4. Speaking appropriately is also a valuable lesson to be taught – we parents learn that hard way:
  - Illus. – preacher visiting church family when little guy spoke up saying, “My mommy says she looks forward to your sermons so she can get a nap before going home.” Or when the boss came over for a meal, and your little girl said, “Can I feel your head? Daddy says you have the hardest head of anyone.”

Clean, truthful, appropriate, encouraging speech is something kids learn by being taught.

**Conclusion:** Certainly there are other areas we parents need to be sure to teach our kids so they can teach their kids etc. Money... Good work ethic... Choosing of godly friends... Lois and Eunice did an expert job in teaching Timothy in all these areas. Note with me they used the word of God – nothing more and nothing less!

Dad and a mom came home from the hospital with triplets. They were met at the door by their four-year-old son who took one look at his new siblings. After studying them for a moment he said, “We better start making calls. They’re going to be a lot harder to get rid of than the kittens.”

Kids are also a lot harder to raise than cats. Parenting is a tough and demanding job. Someone has said, “We all should have known anything that started with something called ‘labor’ was not going to be easy.

Is teaching kids an easy task? Not at all! But it is a necessary task – a task our Lord wants full participation. Teach your kids, so they can teach their kids, so they can teach their kids! Teach your Kids to Teach!