

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

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The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

Sermon by Trent Thomas

May 14, 2017

Pastor Trent used Proverbs 31:1-9 to show that moms have a unique opportunity to influence their children. In this proverb, King Lemuel uses an "oracle" that his mother taught him. Another translation of oracle is "an inspired utterance." While most mothers will not have the chance to influence the life of a king, they do influence the lives of their children in a way that no one else can. The king valued the words of his mother – and they have tremendous value to us thousands of years later.

The first point that Trent made was that a mom should use her influence intentionally. Proverbs 31:1 states that King Lemuel's mother "taught" him. Teaching something to another person requires that we not only have a working knowledge of the topic, but also an active intention to impart that knowledge to another. This intentionality can be exercised in two ways. The first is a mom's ongoing heart attitude to teach through word and example as she does life with her children (i.e. Using observations from nature or the news to spontaneously speak/train on a principle such as mercy). A second way to teach intentionally is in specific pre-planned teaching/training experiences (i.e. a planned devotion or lesson on a specific topic, or a specific time of teaching a skill such as gardening).

Next, Trent pointed out that a mother should influence her children in the area of purity. The Scriptures are full of wisdom on the aspect of purity, so it is obvious that this is a pretty important concept to teach. Purity, in the context of this passage, is about the purity of heart required of an effective king. Lemuel's mom is not saying that he shouldn't have women in his life, but that he shouldn't spend his strength on women, but to manage his strength in such a way that he can lead well. A 21<sup>st</sup> Century mom can also influence her children to keep a proper perspective on the opposite sex by teaching them how to have a disciplined mind (another whole sermon topic!)

A third application of this passage illustrates how Lemuel's mother taught her son sobriety. Very similar to keeping his mind pure by not giving undue attention to women, Lemuel's mom is teaching him to keep his physical desires in check, by not giving in to the temptation of the physical excesses of wine. We are commanded in the New Testament to not be drunk with wine, but to be filled with the Spirit. In today's culture of indulgence and excess, it is imperative that moms teach their children to avoid those things that keep their brains and bodies from being the most effective, such as excessive drinking, eating, drugs, and other body-damaging practices.

Trent's final point was that a mom should use her influence in society. Again, the current culture requires that mothers influence their children to have an impact in this society whose focus tends to be on self-gratification. The truth of the gospel is that our lives must be continually growing LESS focused on self, and more filled with the pure love of Christ. It is this purity of His love that will ultimately make the greatest impact on the true needs of our society!

E-CHECK: Experiencing Christ-like Relationships AND Engaging Our Circle of Influence

**READING AND REFLECTION:**

Read and reflect on Proverbs 31:1-9.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

How do you approach difficult conversations with your children?

What are some of the ways in which you prepare your children for responsibilities of leadership?

How do you feel about your children not appreciating/understanding your godly parenting potentially for decades?

How do you discuss matters of sexual purity with your kids?

What have you told your children about the dangers of addiction (drugs and alcohol)?

When your children become adults, will they say that your views of social justice were informed more by the bible or by politics?

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

In your small group or with your family, review the contents of this message. Share a time when your mother influenced you in a specific way. For those with children, discuss ways that you can influence them based on Proverbs 31:1-9

**KEY POINT:**

In the message today, Pastor Trent mentioned his “13/35 Theory” which states, “people make the most important decisions with lifelong consequences for good or bad between the ages of 13 and 35.” A mother’s influence can be very powerful during this time. She has the ability to mold and shape future leaders for generations with her counsel. Moms, how will you use your influence?

**RESOURCES:**

Shepherding A Child’s Heart and Age of Opportunity. Both by Ted Tripp