



**The Extended Family Makeover - Part 5**  
**By Rev. Rose-Marie Litwin**  
**September 11, 2011**  
**1 & 2 Timothy**

We become an extended spiritual family when we model the Christian life.

*“10You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured . . . 14But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it.”*

(2 Timothy 3:10-14):

What Paul was saying here was: Timothy, you have spent considerable time with me. You know what living for Christ looks like because you have seen it firsthand in my life!

As a young person, I too saw firsthand what living for Christ looks like most memorably through Melba, my Youth Sunday School teacher. She also chaired the Christian Education Committee I was on, sang with me in the church choir, led the women’s small group that met in my mother’s home and was faithful in giving mom and I rides to church on Sundays and at other times during the week. I had ample opportunity to learn from Melba’s teachings and to observe her living out the Christian faith. I knew of the many struggles she had gone through, such as the infant son who had died of SIDS at six months and an unbelieving husband who was bitter towards God because of that loss. Yet, even with those struggles, her faith and dependence upon our Lord was evident, as it had been for Timothy as he observed and imitated the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul.



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George Barna: has said:

*“Our research suggests that behavioral modeling is the most powerful component in a parent’s efforts to influence a child. It appears that as our society becomes increasingly secular, our children are developing a hypocrisy detector—an internal sensitivity to actions, attitudes, values and beliefs that are inherently contradictory to words that have been uttered as instructions. When an inconsistency is identified, a child is prone to do two things: (1) ignore the instruction itself; and (2) conclude that there is no specific command that they must obey. . . If you are struggling with particular aspects of raising your child, especially in relation to the faith dimension, step back and evaluate your behavior. You may discover that while you are able to voice the appropriate concepts to your young ones, your behavior negates those words. The ‘do as I say, not as I do’ approach is increasingly incompatible with effective influence upon children.”* (George Barna, Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003, p. 85.)

If we really want to know what kind of spiritual champions we are raising up, we need to look in the mirror. Paul writes to the church in Corinth:

*“16Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.”*  
1 Corinthians 4:16-17

Paul was saying, If you to want see how I live my life for Christ, look at Timothy, his walk with Christ looks a lot like mine. The apple does not fall far from the tree! If the kids in our church were to follow our example, would we be pleased with what we see?

We become an extended spiritual family when we:

- A. Own the responsibility of mentoring kids spiritually
- B. Make prayer and Scripture foundational in our relationships
- C. Are authentic, vulnerable and humble
- D. Encourage and prepare kids to use their gifts
- E. Model the Christian life

Excerpts taken from Mark Holmen and David Tiexeira “Take it Home; Inspiration and Events to Help Parents Spiritually Transform their children” Gospel Light, 2008, pg. 240-241

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