



**The Extended Family Makeover - Part 3**  
**By Rev. Rose-Marie Litwin**  
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**1 & 2 Timothy**

In order to begin the process of an extended family makeover we first must own our responsibility to speak into the lives of young people around us and make our commitment known to them. Then we must pray for them and with them and make sure that scripture plays a prominent role in our relationship with them. Sharing from the Bible, encouraging their study of it and even sharing what God has been teaching us through his word. This at times may mean being vulnerable and humble in front of them. It will always mean being authentic in our relationship with them.

We become an extended spiritual family when we are authentic, vulnerable and humble. We see these qualities very clearly in the writings of Paul to Timothy.

1 Timothy 1:12-16: <sup>12</sup>*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.* <sup>13</sup>*Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.* <sup>14</sup>*The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.* <sup>15</sup>*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners— of whom I am the worst.* <sup>16</sup>*But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.”*

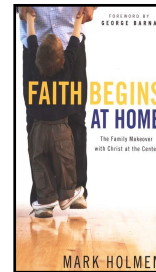
That kind of a statement may be easy for us to make in general as we recognize that we are sinners, but remember this is a personal letter between a spiritual leader and his disciple. For Paul to be able to say *“I am the worst of all sinners”* to his spiritual son, the young man who he is trying to raise up to be a spiritual champion, that takes some real authentic humility. That’s taking the relationship from “I’m the leader; you’re the follower” and “I’m the teacher; you’re the learner” To “I’m learning just like

you are and I need the grace of God just like you.” I think that was powerful to Timothy.

In my later teens and early twenties I attended a small Baptist church in Portage La Prairie, MB. The sole pastor there, Pastor Myron was a very humble and authentic man. In many ways I attribute my staying with the church through my difficult teen years directly to this man’s discipleship of me. He listened, he showed he cared, he shared from his own life experiences and probably most importantly, he was not afraid to say the words *“I don’t know”* Then he’d work with me to find the answers I needed. Myron lived his life before his congregation. I knew the pain he went through when his son was diagnosed with cancer, I knew of his struggle with depression and anxiety and I learned along with him what it means to be a Christian leader even through difficult times. Myron was and still is huge in my life because he is willing to be vulnerable, humble and authentic with me. We don’t always agree on everything spiritually or otherwise, but I respect him for being willing to agree to disagree.

Researcher, George Barna has said: “Another teaching tool that helps many parents is their willingness to tell personal stories and integrate some degree of personal vulnerability into their narrative in order to capture attention and drive home a point. When parents effectively describe a compelling life event that resulted in personal transformation, children are more likely to glean valuable wisdom from the story.” (George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003, p. 86.)

Do kids see us as humble, learning, growing Christians who need God’s grace just as much as they do?



Learn more about how to be authentically humble and vulnerable with the kids in your life through Mark Holmen’s book [“Faith Begins At Home.”](#)

Join us today in the Fireside Room after the service, to learn more about how Banwell Community Church is dedicated to helping us speak faith into our kids’ lives. (lunch and childcare provided).

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. 238-239