

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Be Strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus

Today is mothers' day –But being a mother is a special privilege – From the moment a woman becomes a Mother she becomes the center of attention in more ways than one.

DEAR ABBY: When did it become permissible for people to rub a pregnant woman's belly? I'm 31 weeks pregnant, and everywhere I go (**and I'm not exaggerating**) someone walks up to me and starts touching my stomach. A day doesn't go by that it doesn't happen.

I am at the point where I cringe when someone gets too close. Abby, these are people I know -- some good friends, some acquaintances -- like hairdressers or teachers at my daughter's school. **One woman touches me every time I see her.**

When my daughter made a comment to me about it, the friend responded, "Oh, it's OK if I rub mamma's belly. It's just me. She doesn't care if I rub her."

I thought, "Oh, really? I don't recall giving you permission!"

I'm a person who needs my personal space, and the fact that it is constantly invaded is about to push me over the edge. When did it become OK to touch someone like that? Am I unreasonable to regard this as invasive? Should I stand there and just allow it? --
PREGNANT AND PARANOID IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR P and P: You are not the first expectant mother to ask these questions. For some reason, people -- sometimes even strangers -- feel compelled to reach out and touch a pregnant woman's stomach.

Because you feel it's an invasion of your space, it is up to you to speak up and let them know it bothers you. They are **not mind-readers**, and because you have not objected, they think their touch is welcome.

It might be helpful to visit a T-shirt shop and have a few custom T-shirts made for yourself. On the front of one, the lettering might read, **"Don't Touch the Merchandise!"** On another, **"Hands Off!"** Or, **"Look, But Don't Touch!"** Add them to your

maternity wardrobe, and the offenders should get the message.

Starts when a woman first gets pregnant – but it continues on for the rest of her life – Everyone wants something from Mom!

A) If Denise had a \$1 for every time over the yrs my kids asked – Hey Mom – What is for dinner / did you wash my can you pick me up

B) Do you have any money – hold me / help me / - she would be a millionaire

C) Being a mom is hard work

A recent survey completed by Salary.com who asked 5.4 million stay-at-home moms to list their job titles and daily duties. Here is what the came up with.

Based on a 40 hour work week, moms should make on the average of \$43,461.00.

But it doesn't end there, for the on average extra 60 hours of overtime they put in every week, the average mom would receive an additional \$88,009.00 per year for a total of \$134,371.00 for the job of mom!

Being a mom is a tough Job – that is why the words of Paul to Young Timothy found in our text today are appropriate words for every mom here

A) But not just the moms – these are sound words – important words for anyone here facing a tough task – hard Job – Challenging ministry.

B) See, Timothy had a tough Job as well – He was pastoring the Church in Ephesus at a time when Persecution throughout the Roman Empire – growing

1) It was becoming very dangerous to be a Christian, let alone a minister of the gospel. -

2) **Paul himself in prison - was waiting to be executed**

C) On top of the threat of persecution – Timothy was having to deal with a growing apostasy – led by false teachers – perverting the faith

We saw in Chapter 1 Paul wrote to Timothy, exhorting him to not be ashamed of the Testimony of Christ – or Paul, his prisoner

A) V.13 Hold fast to the pattern of sound words -

B) The word pattern, refers to an architect's BLUEPRINTS .”

Bb) Right now our Architect is working on the blue prints for our new building, the design -

1) Those will have to be followed precisely by the builders

C) So too in the Church there is a definite outline of doctrine that is to be followed, a standard by which teaching is tested.

1) There are certain things that are not open to debate – or discussion - It is the way that it is!

D) Timothy was to hold fast to that – guard it – no matter what others were saying and doing –{ Our Call today – Truth is being attacked all fronts

E) Well, Timothy might have been prone to wonder – how am I supposed to do that?

Paul gives the answer in our text this morning –

2 Tim 2:1-2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Notice what Paul says here – I like this – He doesn't say – Be strong – suck it up – hang in there

Be Strong in the Grace Christ Jesus' Strength is something outside of yourself.

Of all the concepts in the Bible, one of the most important for you to understand and apply daily to your life is that of God's grace.

A) If you do not understand God's grace, you do not understand the gospel, because grace is at the core of the gospel message.

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

B) Grace = Undeserved favor – getting what we don't deserve.

C) Not only are we saved by grace, but also we are told to grow in grace (2 Peter.3:18).

1. God's grace motivates us to serve Him (1 Corinthians 15:10).

2. His grace sustains us in our trials (2 Corinth 12:9).

3. When we are needy, we are invited to come to God's throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need (Hebrews . 4:16).

4. We are told to fix our hope completely on the grace to be brought to us when Jesus Christ returns (1 Peter 1:13).

5. The very last verse of the Bible reads “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.” (Revelation. 22:21),

Because God's grace is such a vital concept, it is not surprising that the enemy of our souls works overtime to subvert God's grace by spreading error and confusion about its true nature.

A) Every false religion on earth promotes salvation either totally by human works or by some mixture of God's grace with human works.

Aa) We add our works to God's grace, we diminish the work of Christ on the Cross

1) Let them be Accursed

B) Among God's people who have been saved by His grace, the enemy promotes confusion about how to live the Christian life apart from God's grace.

C) On the one side you have those who get caught up in trying to earn God's favor thru – Human effort –

1) Legalistic endeavors {Don't do this / don't do that

D) On the other side – you have those who Abuse grace acting like they can do anything – license for Carnality “Oh hey, God will cover it in His grace”

E) Things people were stoned for in the OT – Grace

1) Grace doesn't mean that God is soft on Sin –

2) It means that He has made provision – Christ death

F) We get forgiveness – because Jesus was punished

Forgiveness only when true repentance

But I want us to consider this morning Paul's specific words here: Be Strong in Grace – but specifically the Grace that is in Christ Jesus.

A) Saving Grace - / Sustaining grace – holds us

B) But this is what we might call Strengthening grace

Translated –Be strong By the Grace that is in Christ Jesus

1) It is that which comes from the Lord to enable us to do well – what we could not do on our own

C) The connotation is similar to Ephesians 6:10: "**Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.**" 1) Timothy was not to be strong in his own strength but in God's.

E) It is stated as a present passive imperative and could be translated "keep on being empowered."

Our natural tendency is to try and to find strength in ourselves –

A) Taught that – trained in that way.

B) Find strength in schooling – training – experience
Expertise

C) We go through most of our life – relying on those things – until we find ourselves in a place –
1) where we feel over matched – under trained

D) Suddenly we find ourselves looking either to quit or to find strength and insight – beyond us

Acronym for Grace – God's riches at Christ expense

A) All the resources & blessings of God – come to us thru the conduit of God's Grace. –

B) That includes a Strength that is beyond our human potential.

C) It is that which comes from God and meets us in our moments of weakness.

To be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

A) Involves the putting away of self-sufficiency and self-confidence –

B) Get out of your comfort zones – **resist the life of Ease** – take on new Challenges for the Lord

1) Find yourself doing things – Beyond you – bigger than you.

C) Result is – Greater dependency upon His grace

I am sure –Timothy felt in over his head – overwhelmed by everything happening / called to

A) **Feeling overwhelmed or over your head in things is not a comfortable way to live!**

B) Without the Lord = Stress/ Ulcers/ depression

C) Spiritually it is so healthy - I constantly feel that way { Brings to my knees

1) Parent – God I don't know how to do this

D) Husband – I don't always understand her

E) As a Pastor – **List is endless** – smart enough gifted enough – strong enough – Lord I am tired

1) But it is in those moments crying out to Him – The reservoirs of His Grace are opened up.

For Timothy to be strong in the Grace that was in Christ Jesus

A) Timothy would have to NOT give into his fears His feelings of inadequacy –

B) His Tendency toward being timid

C) He needed to walk in the grace and strength that was constantly available to him in Christ

CH Spurgeon tells of a time when the immenseness of God's grace became real to him.

He was riding home after a heavy day's work.

A) He felt weary and depressed, when suddenly the text came to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

B) It came home to him with the emphasis on 2 words, "My grace is sufficient for *thee*." Spurgeon said, "**Doubtless it is. Surely the grace of the infinite God is more than sufficient for such a mere insect as I am,**"

C) Spurgeon burst out laughing as he thought on how far the supply exceeded all his needs.

D) He said that it was as if he were a little fish in the sea, and in his thirst he said, "Alas, I shall drink up the ocean."

Then the Father of the waters lifted up His head and smilingly replied, "Little fish, the boundless main is sufficient for thee."

D) Suddenly He felt so foolish for even feeling overwhelmed by what he was doing.

1) God's strengthening grace is like an ocean – Available to meet us in every difficulty

The Grace available to Timothy to Help Him fulfill his calling is the same

A) Available to us – It is like an ocean in comparison to our need!

B) I don't know about you but that fills my heart with such confidence

1) Nothing is impossible / nothing is too big / nothing is beyond His scope.

C) When the Lord calls – I want to respond – Here I am – not with excuses / not focused on my many inadequacies

D) Throughout the Bible the Lord seems to exploit man's weakness and inadequacies to promote His Strength

For Paul it was a physical affliction – that wiped him out – thru he learned – 2 Cor 12:9

A) His grace is sufficient – it is more than enough to enable me to do what I am called to.

B) Led Paul to boast in his weakness – because when he saw how weak he was – it only magnified the power and the strength of God – invaded his life

C) Paul would say: Therefore I will glory in my affliction – I am weak – He is strong

D) Joshua before Jericho / Moses before Pharaoh / Gideon outnumbered 150,000 to 1

1) His Grace is sufficient

Precious saints – Moms – Dads – feel overwhelmed overmatched – out of strength

A) Call on Him today – His grace is sufficient

B) Paul would write – not that we are sufficient in and of ourselves – our sufficiency is from Christ

C) That is being strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Hudson Taylor said of those whom God uses in a mighty way

All God's giants have been weak men and women who did great things for God because they believed that God's spirit was with them & in them."

Now Timothy was not only called to live by God's grace but He was called to pass it on to others V.2

2 "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

A) The ministry is not something we get for ourselves and keep to ourselves.

1) We are stewards of the spiritual treasure God has given us.

B) It is our responsibility to guard the deposit and then invest it in the lives of others.

1) They, in turn, are to share the Word with the next generation of believers.

C) Paul is writing to Timothy as a Pastor but his words are applicable to all of us

1) Husband – passing to his wife

2) Parents to Children

D) Those older in the faith to those who are younger

1) We call Discipleship

Moms – You are to be teachers!

Mothers teach us a lot about life itself! {Don't know source

Mothers teach us about foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

• **Mothers teach us about logic:** "If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don't come crying to me."

• **Mothers teach us about prayer:** "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."

• Mothers teach us about time travel: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

• Mothers teach us about contradictions: "Shut your mouth and eat your dinner!"

• Mothers teach us about flexibility: "Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck?"

• Mothers teach us about genetics: "You're just like your father."

• Mothers teach us about the weather: "It looks like a tornado swept through your room."

• Mothers teach us about the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Hopefully our mothers are teaching other things as well.

A) Thankful for my mother: She could be tough – she could be a disciplinarian –

B) She modeled for me what it means to serve others And do it joyfully

1) That it is more blessed to give than to receive

C) The importance of daily devotions – I have followed her habit – tea and the Bible each morning

1) She modeled for me – a life of prayer

D) What it means to be hospitable – never leave hungry.

1) How to be caring!

E) Thankfully some of those things took – have become a part of my life –

1) Never as good as her though

Paul wants Timothy to do the same – Pass on the truth to FAT MEN – where see that?

A) Not overweight - Faithful/Available/Teachable

B) Faithful – consistent

1) Available – Around

2) Teachable – Not know it all

C) Ezra gives us a great example of how to become that kind of person

How to go to Church! Ezra 7:10

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.”

Pass it on! Want to learn – become a teacher – Tomorrow at work –

Never know what might transpire!

A Sunday School teacher, a **Mr. Kimball**, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk, **Dwight L. Moody**, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

During **Hamm's** revival, a young man named **Billy Graham** heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ.

Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested **his life** in the **lives of others**.

Moody – impacted Clarence Chambers – Pastor – who shared that spiritual fire with His Son – Have you ever heard of Oswald Chambers –

All started with a Sunday School teacher – Mr. Kimball

“The task of the local church is not to preserve the truth, as in a museum; but to live it and to teach it to the generation to come.”

“If you wish to enrich days, plant flowers; If you wish to enrich years, plant trees; If you wish to enrich Eternity, plant ideals in the lives of others.”