

# THE ONE MISTAKE

That Every  
Homeschooling  
Mom Should  
Avoid

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## Introduction

When we first began home educating over fifteen years ago, I was a young mother who didn't know any other families who homeschooled. The people in our life at the time, including church friends and our pastor, did not have experience homeschooling, so we knew that we would learn the do's and don'ts of home educating on our own. 😊 That did not discourage my husband and me since we were excited about our decision to homeschool. If I could turn back the clock, though, I would have loved the idea of reading a short, concise Biblical booklet that explained any mistake I should avoid along our journey of homeschooling. So, with this in mind, the next few pages include my attempt to offer other mothers this information in a reader's digest version (or at least close to it) so this major mistake could be avoided or at least minimized in their journey of life, specifically homeschooling.

## The One Mistake

There's one major mistake that I made countless times while home educating my children. It's this mistake that caused me to make errors in my approach to time management, education, discipline, training, and relationships. For the most part, any difficulty or challenge I have faced, as a homeschooling mom, is a direct result of this one mistake—having an IMPROPER MINDSET or PERSPECTIVE. It could easily be concluded that everyone should avoid having an improper mindset, but for the sake of this booklet, I'll expound on this mistake as it pertains to homeschooling moms.

In this short booklet, I want to share the definition of an improper mindset, discuss the consequences of this mistake, and lastly, give a solution that will help mothers adopt a mindset that will bless them, their families, and their posterity.

## The Definition of an Improper Mindset

So, what does it mean to have an improper mindset? It's the kind of mindset or perspective that you don't want to have because it negatively affects and destroys oneself as well as relationships with others. Biblically speaking, it's not having the mind of Christ but having a mindset that is contrary to the Word of God. Naturally or by default, everyone will have thoughts and perspectives that are contrary to scripture. Just take a look around the world. Theft, violence, abuse, suicide, and murder are just a few of the proofs that man thinks and acts contrary to the will of God. Thankfully, we have a choice to obey His law. If we are not raised and trained learning the scriptures and applying them, then we will choose the wrong mindset when it comes to every issue of life since our mindset comes from our internal belief system. Where does our belief system come from if it doesn't come from the Word of God? Well, we believe certain things because of culture/tradition, repeated



experiences, and indoctrination, just to name a few. All of these influences will dominate our thinking if we don't consciously choose to control our thoughts and base our mindset on principles in the Bible. (As a side note, if you're not a Christian, I would like to invite you to read and apply the principles in the Bible and see what it does to your life. I am confident that you will experience the power of truth in your life just like I did.)

Now, I'll get a little more specific by examples of what an improper mindset looks like in these areas of life: relationships, discipline, training, education, and time management—all pertaining to a homeschooling mother. First, it's important

to remember that we will naturally have our own opinions about these aspects of life based on our own experiences, culture, traditions, etc. Here, I'll use myself as an example of how improper mindsets will affect our daily decisions. Since I grew up in a single parent home, went to public school, moved often, and experienced poverty and other dysfunctionalities, I automatically adopted certain beliefs and thoughts (like fear, insecurity, distrust, and instability) that would govern my actions in adulthood.

As a wife and mother, I would approach relationships with distrust, approach discipline and training with instability and inconsistency, approach aspects of education with fear, and approach time management with insecurity (e.g. creating meaningless tasks so I wouldn't have to set or meet real goals because I felt I was incapable). (Even after becoming a Christian, these beliefs would control my mindset even as a wife and mother until I let the Word of God renew my mind.) So, as a young mother, I would make improper decisions that were not only destructive to my person but to others closest to me. This was not the path that I wanted to take for my homeschooling journey. Despite my upbringing, I knew that I was responsible for adopting a biblical/right mindset and changing course so that I could help guide my children down the path of success. Of course, as we become wives and mothers, we cannot know all of God's principles at once, but we can strive to learn and apply His principles as quickly as possible. It will save every wife and mother from a lot of unnecessary mistakes and frustration.

## Consequences of This Mistake

Unfortunately, I had to learn the hard way that having the wrong mindset came with serious negative repercussions with regard to training and raising my children. You see, our mindset

has the power to influence and mold the minds of our sons and daughters whether it's a proper or improper one. If we don't allow our minds to be renewed by God's Word, we'll train our children to adopt our improper mindset. As homeschooling mothers, we have a great amount of influence over them especially because of the amount of time we spend with our children.

As I mentioned earlier, I adopted a mentality of fear and insecurity in childhood. When I became a mother, I initially held on to this same mindset. Even though I wasn't vocal about my fears and insecurities, it was evident that I had them because of my actions. My daughter was starting to adopt these same fears and insecurities. She was internalizing my attitudes and perspectives daily. My attitudes and actions were like seeds being sown into her heart. Over time, these seeds were growing into something bigger and quite evident. Now, it would take a lot more effort to uproot this mindset out of her. This was such a wake up call for me. As parents, our goal was to pass our faith to our children and not wrong beliefs.

Once I realized that my improper mindset had long-term negative consequences, I knew that I needed to know what the Bible said about fear, insecurity, instability, etc. and change course immediately. I needed to replace these old beliefs with new ones. As I took on a renewed mind (Biblical mindset), I could see these fears and insecurities slowly uproot from my daughter's mind. What if I didn't change course? No doubt, I would have passed my improper mindset in this area to my children, and they would most likely pass that mindset to their children and so on. Wow...what power our mind has to influence our children and future generations. Considering these consequences, the wrong mindset is a mistake that we all need to avoid!



## The Solution

As you may have already gathered, there's a sure cure for an improper mindset. The Bible gives us wisdom that we need and the thoughts we should think in place of our improper ones.

Sometimes, it can be challenging to know all of the biblical perspectives when it comes to replacing all of our wrong beliefs. Most of the time, we're not even aware that our mindset or perspectives are wrong until we come across certain scriptures that we read in the Bible. To give mothers a glance at what the Bible says about the common improper mindsets or beliefs we may possess, I will provide a list of scriptures that contradict our beliefs.

Here are some examples in the areas of attitude and relationships, discipline and training, prioritizing and time management, and lastly, education:

# ATTITUDE & RELATIONSHIPS:

IMPROPER MINDSET	BIBLICAL MINDSET/TEACHING
Believing that we are incapable of homeschooling and managing our home well	"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" -Ph 4:13
Believing that our offenses toward our children are not a big deal	"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" -MT 18:6
Believing that it's not important to be a good example of Christianity to younger mothers and the rest of the world	"The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things: that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." -Titus 2:3-6
Believing that we do not have to submit to our own husbands	"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands own husbands, as unto the Lord." -Eph 5:22
Believing that we do not have to have a deep respect for our husband	"...and the wife see that she reverence her husband." -Eph 5:33
Believing that we can think or dwell on thoughts that don't build up our person	"Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." -Ph 4:8
Believing that we don't have to be diligent about controlling negative thoughts	"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" -II Cor 10:4

# DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING:

Believing that we can get by without consistent correction of our children when they do wrong	"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod he will not die." -Pr 23:13
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IMPROPER MINDSET	BIBLICAL MINDSET/TEACHING
Believing that we can neglect training our children with a Biblical worldview and still expect them to turn into strong Christians	"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Pr 22:6
Believing that anything other than correction will resolve our child's behavioral issues	"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from them." -Pr 22:15
Believing that we can neglect discipline because our child starts crying	"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." -Pr 19:18
Believing that it is too burdensome to correct our child consistently	"Correct thy son, and he shall give you rest; yea, he shall give delight to thy soul." -Pr 29:17

## PRIORITIZING AND TIME MANAGEMENT:

Believing that we can waste time by doing non-important tasks instead of productive ones	"See that you walk circumspectly; not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." -Eph 5:15
Believing that time we lose in a day is not important to God	"And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed: If he rise again and walk abroad upon his staff, then he that smote him shall be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed." -Ex 21:18-19
Believing that we can set our daily schedule without placing the kingdom of God as our first priority in our homeschooling efforts	"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." -Mt 6:33
Believing that we can be lazy in our work without the consequence of wasting our time	"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is great waster." -Pr 18:9

## EDUCATION:

Believing that we don't need to teach our children God's Word	"And thou shalt teach them (God's commandments) diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." -De 6:7
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IMPROPER MINDSET	BIBLICAL MINDSET/TEACHING
Believing that we need to replicate the public school curriculum when we homeschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.” -Pr 19:27</li> </ul>
Believing that we need to educate our children in a way that pleases others just to prove ourselves and justify our decision to homeschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance for ye serve the Lord.” -Col 3:23</li> </ul>
Believing that we are inadequate or not qualified to teach our own children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” -Ph 4:13</li> </ul>

After reading all of the improper mindsets that mothers may have, we might believe that we don't possess any or most of them, however; if we examine our actions on a daily basis, then they will show us if our beliefs line up with the Biblical teachings in these areas. Our actions reflect what we believe. The Bible teaches that our heart is deceitful above all things, so we can easily deceive ourselves by thinking that we have the right mindset. Seeing that this is the case, our actions will prove what we really believe. Once I had this understanding, I could easily see where I still possessed an improper mindset or belief in certain areas of my life.

Once our heart is set on making the necessary changes for a more successful homeschooling journey, then we can be confident that we will teach our children according to the Lord's will; we will have a wonderful marriage; we will manage our days well, and we will pass our faith on to our children. We will not only positively affect our husband and children, but we will sow seeds that will affect our future posterity! A great responsibility has been put in our hands, but thankfully, God has bestowed upon us a mind with the capacity to choose the right path...

In closing, here's a couple of great quotes to meditate upon:

**You are what you are and where you are because of what has gone into your mind. You can change what you are and where you are by changing what goes into your mind.**

- Zig Ziglar

**When you change the way you think, you will change the way you feel.  
When you change the way you feel, you will change the way you act.  
When you change the way you act, you will change the way you live.  
When you change the way you live, you will change your world.**

-Author Unknown

*May your homeschooling journey be a wonderful one!*



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