

THE BATTLE FOR THE HOME—THE ROLE OF WOMEN

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Introduction

Marriage and the home are facing crucial and critical dangers as the twenty-first century has dawned. The seed of many of these perils was sown in the century that is just past. To many people marriage is a straight-line arrangement with husband at one end and the wife at the other. No longer is there the triangle of marriage with God at top angle, husband at one of the base angles and the wife at the other. No longer do we have the family triangle with God at top angle, parents at one base angle and children at the other base angle with parents over the children—not on an equality, not under!

Society is adamant in rewriting the role of woman without any influence whatsoever exerted by God or His Book—the Bible. Belittle the man. Portray him as inferior. Do not give man any respect or dignity in the home as husband, head and father. Let him be a blundering figure who hardly knows enough to come out of the rain. The foregoing points are feminist agenda for a surety. Feminists have been at war with men for the last few decades. Women are told they do not need men. If married, leave. If single, stay in that state. If marriage does continue, keep them subservient and void of any respect exhibited. Far too many have fallen for these egregious errors.

With Sodom as noxious norm we now have homosexuals and lesbians marrying those of their own sex. Hence, we have brides with no grooms; we have grooms with no brides. The so-called Gay community is calling the shots in Washington, state capitals and at the grass roots of a complacent society. Spineless judges and compromising legislators are allowing their atrocious agenda to infiltrate our whole society. They are determined to silence every voice and retire every pen raised in protest. They are succeeding to an astonishing, alarming degree.

This study will be twofold—her role in the home and her role in the church. They are closely related.

Her Role in the Home

Both Adam and Eve were made on day six, but Adam preceded her. For a very brief time he was alone, bereft of any human companionship. Jehovah God saw it was not good for man to be by himself. He made Eve to be Adam's help meet, his completion, his spiritual other half. As long as Adam was alone he was only half of human kind. The queenly half needed to be made which compassionate Jehovah promptly did. Both were innocent in Genesis 1-2. Genesis 3, the most tragic chapter in the Bible, reveals the explosive entrance of sin into their lives. Eve had not been first in creation, but she was first in transgression. Paul alludes to this in 1 Timothy 2:13-14.

Eve's role was that of wife and later as mother. Her role was not headship but submission to her husband, the God appointed role for husbands. She was told in Genesis 3:16 that her husband would rule over her. Her usurped role relative to eating the forbidden fruit had gotten her into all kinds of trouble. She, in turn, led Adam down the primrose path of transgression—damnable

transgression. Adam should have been consulted prior to her stretching forth the hand of transgression to pluck the forbidden fruit. This, apparently, she did not do.

Sarah and other ancient women of piety were submissive to their husbands. Peter wrote,

For after this manner in old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as you do well, and are not afraid with any amazement (1 Peter 3:5-6)

In Ephesians 5, Paul establishes husband as head and counsels a wife to be submissive even as the church is subject to Christ (vs. 23-24). She is to reverence or respect her husband. Feminists balk at all this and consider Paul a chauvinist. A woman in Illinois came to hear me speak on the ERA Movement when it was a very hot issue. She was upset with me and gave me her assessment of Paul when I referred her to the great apostle. She said he was a chauvinist. She was kind enough to put me in the same category! As I now recall, she called both of us chauvinist pigs. I defended Paul and let it ride relative to myself.

As wife she is to love her own husband—not another woman’s husband, her children, be discreet, chaste, good and obedient to her husband (Titus 2:4-5). She is to be loved and respected by her husband and children. She is to guide or manage the household still holding her husband as the lawful head.

As Mom she is to be a model for her children. She should be a Christian. She is the only one who can give her husband a Christian wife, her children a Christian mother and her grandchildren a Christian grandmother.

She should teach her children to love God, their parents, others, the Bible the church and the gospel. Lois and Eunice did this in 2 Timothy 3:15. So did the elect lady in 2 John.

She should leave a legacy of a mother who loved God and Cared for her family as a precious priority.

Her role in the home is vastly important. Success or failure in this role has eternal consequences both for her and those under her care and guidance.

Her Role in the Church: Negatively Noted

There are limitations placed upon her. We should not be surprised at this for all God’s servants, including even His own Son, have imposed limitations placed upon them. While here Jesus was limited to doing God’s will as set forth in Matthew 26:36-42: John 6:38; 7:16-17; 17:4; Romans 15:3 and Hebrews 5:5-10. But submission to His Father did not make Him an inferior or a second-rate Lord. Hebrew prophets of the Old Testament were under strict submission to the Father’s will but this limitation did not reduce them into second-rate servants or men of little worth and value. Paul’s ladder of authority in

I Corinthians 11:3 has Christ in submission to God the Father, man in submission to Christ and woman in submission to man. Christ's submission does not make Him a second-rate member of the Godhead. Man is not inferior or of little value because he is under Christ. Christ did not die for persons of little or no value. In view of the foregoing, why should any blasphemously assert that woman's submission to man makes her inferior and second-rate? This is feminine fodder and it is not worth swallowing and being influenced thereby. Biblically speaking, submission and inferiority are not synonymous terms.

The woman cannot be an elder for very obvious reasons. In 1 Timothy 3:1, Paul refers to a man, not a woman, who desires the office of a bishop. Masculine pronouns are used in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. An elder is to be the husband of one wife and to have his children in subjection with all gravity (1 Timothy 3:2-4). Man, he, his and husband still have a masculine ring to all who have not been duped by feminism.

She cannot be a deacon because a deacon is to be the husband of one wife

(1 Timothy 3:12). All the lib put out by feminists in recent decades cannot biologically change a woman into a man.

She cannot be an evangelist preaching to and teaching mixed groups of men/women. Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:12, prohibits her from teaching over and usurping authority over man. The evangelist is to "speak and exhort, and rebuke with all authority" (Titus 2:15). This she cannot do in view of the Pauline prohibition of 1 Timothy 2:12.

She cannot usurp the role of her husband and head the household. When she does this she violates Paul's teaching in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 2 and Ephesians 5. It is a sad day for women when they seek to become like men. A wise Christian woman once said, "There are some things men have to do and other things women have to do and they have no business in getting them mixed up." This lovely lady lived to be over 100 years of age and celebrated 78 wedding anniversaries. I preached her funeral August 11, 1974, using as my text Psalms 116:15.

God's woman will not seek a place, position, station or work for which God has not equipped or appointed her.

What a Woman Can Do — Positively Portrayed

She can learn about Jesus in youth and remember Deity with gospel obedience when the age of accountability is reached. Then she can grow in the Christian graces and add the fruit of the Spirit to her life (2 Peter 1:5-11; Galatians 5: 22-23). As a Christian, she can conduct herself as becometh a woman of holiness and purity both in dating and serious courtship. She can fall in love with a good man and wed him. This paves the way for her to be successful in wifhood and later in marvelous motherhood. They can form a home that will enhance the congregation where they are members. To her husband she can be a faithful help meet not bringing shame to him or discredit to the church. She can be a good find for him and exhibit that her origin is from the Lord (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14). She can be a modern woman of worthiness (Proverbs 31:10-31). She can love her husband, her children, be discreet, chaste, a worker at home and Queen of the

household (Titus 2: 4-5). Such will enhance the reputation of the congregation to which she belongs. She can marry, bear children, guide the house and leave the adversary silent as far as any manner of reproach is concerned (I Timothy 5:14). She can be the sterling type of wife Peter envisions in I Peter 3:1-6. To her Christian husband she can be a holy heir along with him that their prayers be not short-circuited (1 Peter 3:7).

Congregations will be stronger when we have happy and harmonious homes. As the home goes, so goes the congregation to a large degree.

She can teach other women, her own children and the children of others (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). This gives her about four billion prospects to teach! This refutes the silly allegation that depriving her of the pulpit means she cannot teach anybody! She can be a doer of good works (1 Timothy 5:10). She can be a real partner to her husband in his work for Christ. Elders, deacons, preachers and Bible teachers with good wives are blessed with prized and precious possessions indeed. Their value exceeds any pearls and all earth's gold. There is a wide open field for qualified and dedicated women who can and will write helpful material for other women and children. A Christian woman can teach children in her home and bring them to Bible classes on Sunday, Wednesday and during VBS. Visitation of the sick, shut-ins, the weak and newcomers are opportunities always before dedicated women. No Christian woman ought ever to be spiritually unemployed. Christian women can take the lead in seeing that the homes of the congregation provide recreation for the youth. This work should stem from homes—not the church. The church is not an entertainment agency. It, the church, has its' hand fuller than full with evangelism, edification and benevolence. "Let not the church be charged" should be our persistent attitude in this vital realm. It is my judgment that the woman who takes care of the Lord's Supper in its' preparation or who assists another woman getting ready to be baptized is doing the work of the Lord just as much as her husband who officiates at the table or immerses the baptismal candidate. Did someone say there is nothing challenging our Christian women today? Many Christian women where I preach in Ripley, Tennessee, are great workers and among our very best asset. They breathe the spirit of those Paul had in mind in Philippians 4:3.

Why Women Should Be Busy for Christ

If for no other reason save sheer gratitude, the woman should be dedicated to Christ and to His church. Where the Bible and Christianity have gone, woman has been lifted. Where Christ is respected woman is no longer mere chattel or playful sport for men with uncontrolled passions. Christianity has lifted woman to a superior sphere of feminine value and womanly worth.

Woman should be diligent in Christian service for the salvation of her soul. Though saved by God's generous grace, nevertheless she is saved by her submission to Heaven's will.

She should be diligent for Christ and His church because so much of her work can be done only by her. If not by her, it will go undone.

Woman needs to work for the Lord to exhibit her love for Jesus. John eloquently echoes the sentiment, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments

are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). If we love him, this will we do! Love demands that we walk in his commandments. We are his friends if we do his will (John 14:15; 15:14).

Does the devout Christian woman need greater motivation for serving Christ fervently and faithfully than by the foregoing points? Surely not!

Inspirational Examples of Women at Work for Jesus

The unnamed woman at Jacob’s well in John 4 made great spiritual progress and became a soul winner for the Lord.

Mary Magdalene had seven demons expelled from her by the Miraculous Messiah, and she became strong and steadfast in her dedicated discipleship to His Cause. He conferred great honor on her allowing her to see Him first subsequent to His resurrection (Mark 16:9).

Mary of Bethany sat at His feet in Luke 10:38-42 and anointed Him in

Mark 14:3-9 and John 12:3-8. She received sterling compliments from the grateful Galilean Prophet who stood on the threshold of Calvary.

Mary, of Acts 12, was a worker for the Lord opening up her home for supplicating saints and rearing a son who later wrote the Gospel according to Mark.

Priscilla teamed with her husband Aquila and greatly aided the Lord’s cause in a number of places. She and her husband uniformly are mentioned together. They were a team of truth. What a spiritual legacy they left for future couples in the home and the church.

By name Lois and Eunice are mentioned but once by Inspiration (2 Timothy 1:5). An allusion is made to them in 2 Timothy 3:14-15. What their unfeigned faith and diligent preparation did for Timothy is well known fact to every serious student of the New Testament.

Phebe is mentioned only in Romans 16: 1-2. There she is depicted beautifully as sister, servant, saint and succourer of many. What a unique quartet of royal roles for every Christian woman to fill today.

Paul praised worthy women at Philippi in 4:3 and referred to the mother of Rufus in Romans 16:13 who had been a spiritual mother to him. In this Mark 10:30 is faithfully fulfilled.

Conclusion

What a marvelous and majestic mold Jehovah and Jesus have made for our lovely Christian women to fill with honor, dignity and success. Thank God for our sweet, lovely, charming and gracious Christian women. They are as far above the mold Women’s Lib is currently carving for all women as the heavens soar above lowly earth.

In this study I have talked of Christian women both in the home and in the church for they go hand-in-hand. The battle for their proper roles in each institution cannot be severed. Women out of their proper roles in the home will be out of their proper roles in the church and vice versa.