

The Role of the Woman in the Family

The Home and the Family: Part 3

Introduction

1. Like the man, the woman plays a crucial role in God's pattern for the family.
2. Great damage has been done in many families because one or both of these roles was not being fulfilled as it ought to.
3. In this lesson we will consider some of the principles found in Proverbs 31:10-31 concerning the worthy woman.
 - a. Reliable companion for her husband (vs. 11-12).
 - b. Her heart is always set on the care of her household (vs. 15, 18, 20).
 - c. Generous and giving (Vs. 20).
 - d. Values honor, wisdom, kindness, and devotion to the Lord over charm and physical beauty (vs. 25, 26, 30).
 - e. Her worthy is far above rubies, she is praised by the Lord and in the gates (vs. 10, 30).

Discussion

I. The Woman as a Wife

A. Created for a Purpose: Gen. 2:18-23

1. It was not good for man to be alone. He needed the woman!
2. A helper comparable: "counter part, other side." She makes man complete.
 - a. Animals were not good enough.
 - b. Did not need another man.
 - c. Needed a woman.
 - d. Just as only Christ was good enough for salvation, so the woman was only one good enough for God's purpose.
 - e. "For her worth is far above rubies" (Prov. 31:10).

B. Different role than that of a husband.

1. Husband is head, leader, as Chris to the church (Eph. 5:23).
2. Wives to be in submission (Eph. 5:22).
 - a. Not a bad word. Cast off worldly thinking and pride.
 - b. Not inferior role, just different and equally important before god.
 - c. Just as the man has guidelines set by God to fulfill his role, so does the woman.
 - d. Husband responsible for providing for his own (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - e. Wife's responsibility to take what is provided and use it to care for her home and family in the best way.

C. Freedom in submission

1. Ask women who must work full time. Thy may lead in that sense, but how much time spent caring for home?

2. With husband as head and main provider the wife has more time to spend doing what she does best; what she was designed for – filling her home with beauty, love, kindness, wisdom, and honor.
 3. Most husbands not capable of this.
- D. Wife has a unique role to fill: (Harkrider, *Building Strong Homes*, pg. 20-25).
1. **Companionship:** Without wife, man is alone (Gen. 2:18). She is the only one who can provide the companionship he needs.
 2. **Affection:** Husbands need love just as much as wives do (though they may be too macho to admit it). Only the wife has the ability to know the husband in such a way as to provide the kind of affection he needs.
 3. **Physical needs:** God made man and woman so that they must rely on one another, even for physical needs. Only woman able to provide for all aspects of these needs (1 Cor. 7:2-5).
 4. **Childbearing:** Without woman, man wouldn't be here (Gen. 1:27-28). Childbearing not slave work, woman not incubator. It is designed to be the result of two people coming together in mutual love as “one flesh.”
 5. **Keepers at home:** Requires diligence and the kind of care only women can provide. It is a place of honor among God and His people.

II. The Woman as a Mother

- A. The mother spends the most time with the children.
1. Fathers are to bring up children in training and admonition of the Lord.
 2. But mothers have great influence over the character children develop because they see her the most.
- B. The diligence, love and righteousness with which she cares for her husband and home is what they will most often take with them.
1. If they see an honorable woman then, “her children rise up and call her blessed” (Pr. 31:28).
 2. Therefore mothers must consider the character they are establishing in their children; how they respond to father's instruction, etc. (1 Pet. 3:5-6 or Prov. 27:15-16).

III. The Woman as a Ruler in the Home.

- A. Titus 2:5:
1. Keeper, guard, ruler: keeper of the affairs of the home (Prov. 31:13-15).
 2. Nothing wrong with woman working. When done in right way it can be honorable (Prov. 31:16).
 3. But if she does work, the care of the home must still be her top priority (Prov. 31:15, 18, 20, 21).
- B. Too many households fall apart because husband and/or wife want more money.
1. She may be diligent, but her diligence is misplaced.
 2. The home that she is providing for becomes neglected.
 3. Children forced into day-care, therefore raised by babysitters and not parents.

4. She is no longer able to be the wife, mother, manager of the home according to God's pattern.
- C. Do you want your home to be beautiful in the sight of God?
1. Consider your priorities; see if they match up to God's.
 2. As Mary did, choose "*that good part, which will not be taken away from her*" (Luke 10:42).
 3. Do not eat the bread of idleness (Prov. 31:27), but fulfill your role before God with diligence, love, honor, and wisdom.

Conclusion

1. All women, whether married or not, can look to the worthy woman for guidance for living godly lives.
2. In God's pattern we do not see slavery, but freedom, honor, and true beauty.
 - a. It is one thing to wear diamonds and rubies.
 - b. It is another thing to become diamonds and rubies.
3. Let all women strive to fulfill their God-given roles in their own families, so as to gain honor for themselves, for their families, and for God.

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