

Godly Wives

(This series of lessons was compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources and many teachers over a period of thirty years. The compiler is very grateful for their wisdom.)

Introduction: Prov. 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."

A. 1Cor. 11:2-3 - We need homes where God's authority is supreme.

1. Respected by husband, wife, and children; all yield to what they are commanded within God's instruction book.
2. Then, and only then, will our homes become a better place to live.
3. God's authority structure: it is not about value; it is about making homes function effectively and efficiently.
4. The home fulfills multiple roles:
 - a. A framework for the lifetime union of a man and woman in marriage
 - b. The training ground for children who will become the future
 - c. The institution where children and neighbors will first hear of the will of God
5. In order for the home to successfully handle all of these vital tasks, it cannot be allowed to just be; it must follow God's plan, or fail

B. How do we view the home?

1. "Where the small are great and the great are small."
2. "Where our stomachs get three meals a day, and our hearts get 1000."
3. "Parents' kingdom and child's paradise."
4. "Where we get abundant blessings and the many complaints."
5. "Homes are the vestibules of heaven."
6. "Home is where we eat."
7. "It is where we go between midnight and daylight when everything else is closed."
8. Mother: "It is where I slave the hardest and am appreciated the least."
9. Father: "It is what I work two out of five days each week to pay for."
10. Christ: John 14:1-3 - "I go to prepare a place for you."
 - a. Can we not try to model our homes after that pattern?

C. What is mistaken about some of these definitions?

1. Home is not a place, but the persons and commitments that make it up.
2. Materialistic view of the home reflected in real estate.
3. Definitions of a house not a home.
4. May begin to indicate why the family is in trouble in this society.
5. Active anti family proponents are not the biggest danger.
6. Holding the nuclear family of secondary importance when compared to other interests of individual family members is the problem.

I. FAITHFULNESS DEFINES THE CHRISTIAN WIFE

A. It is essential that she begins with being a faithful Christian

1. One who is faithful in attendance - Heb. 10:25
2. One who is faithful in example - Phil. 3:17

3. One who is faithful in modesty - 1Tim. 2:9
 4. One who seeks the kingdom of God first - Matt. 6:33
 5. One who puts Christ into her life - Gal. 2:20
 6. One who serves the Lord, not merely in the home, but in the local church - Rom. 16:1-2; Acts 9:36
 7. One who is a faithful teacher - Titus 2:3-5
- B. Why must she be a faithful Christian? - 1Peter 3:1-2

II. WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN WIFE?

- A. A faithful helper - Gen. 2:18; 1Cor. 11:9; Titus 2:3-5
- B. A faithful wife - Eph. 5:22-24
1. It says submission, because it means submission.
 - a. Nudge wife: "Listen to the preacher and stop playing with the baby. Go ahead preacher, take an extra ten minutes."
 2. Are you a head in the home, men, like Christ is in the Church?
 - a. "Here are the rules; where's my golf clubs?"
 - b. Hard to submit to such a man; do it anyway.
 3. We often emphasize that the man must be the kind of loving husband that would make it easy for a wife to be subject to him. Are you the kind of wife that makes it easy for a man to love you as he ought?
 - a. Far too many wives complain about their husbands. When did God give you permission to do that?
 - b. Far too many wives act as if their role is a burden and imposition. You impugn the wisdom of God when you act that way.
 - c. Far too many wives excuse themselves from subjection to their husbands. Do you believe you will escape God's judgment for this sin?
 4. Heb. 13:4; 1Cor. 7:1-5 - You draw closer by this physical relationship; the strong emotional relationship generated reinforces the bond of love, and helps one another to remain faithful in the face of temptation
- C. A faithful friend
1. Gen. 2:18 - Not good for the man to be alone; God did not give him three buddies; He gave him one wife, a lifetime companion
 2. The passing of one elderly mate often hastens the passing of the other
 3. The examples of Sarah and Abraham
 4. Ruth 1:16-17
- D. A faithful home provider - 1Tim. 5:14; Prov. 31:10-31

III. WHY HAS THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN WIFE FALLEN INTO DISFAVOR?

- A. Feminism: The fear of Patriarchy (Patriphobia?) Don't buy the Lie!!!
1. Feminism is essentially the view that patriarchy is evil or at least obsolete. Patriarchy is the old idea that dads are in charge. The father is the head of the family, and the family (dad, mom, and the children) is the essential unit of society.

2. Every people and culture throughout the history of the World has been essentially patriarchal until now. Historically, when any society became matriarchal, it signaled its decline and heralded its eventual fall.
3. However, feminism has taught us that most of the evils of society can be traced back to this inequity, that it is sexist to hold that one half of the race has the right to lead the other half based on the biological distinction of a person's gender.
4. The Bible, on the other hand, is a thoroughly patriarchal book. Consider that Jesus is patriarchal. He chose 12 men as His Apostles; Jesus was not one to accommodate the fashions and hypocrisies of His day. He also revealed God as FATHER (never as mother) and Himself as the Father's SON (never as daughter).

B. The Fallacy of Feminism: Feminist is a form of egalitarianism.

1. Egalitarianism is the doctrine that genuine equality in society requires that no one class of people have a right to hold a position of authority over another. It is usually expressed in the language of rights. In feminism, this doctrine is applied to the traditions of making distinctions based on gender.
2. According to Secular Feminism, the differences between men and women are only biological (and therefore superficial). The traditional ideas of masculinity and femininity as proper ways of behaving for men and women are no longer "correct."
3. This denial or confusion of gender distinctions is called androgyny and means that it is no longer wrong or improper for a man to be effeminate or a woman to behave in a masculine manner. Everything is relative to what a man and woman want to do.
4. However, what has happened is that this destruction of gender distinctions and the repression of natural gender behaviors, particularly in children, results in gender-confusion dysfunction. As we used to say, people "don't know whether they are Arthur or Martha" anymore.
5. So, is patriarchy all as bad as we are being led to believe?

C. Complementarity - Men and women are equal in value before the Lord but different in roles under God and can live together functioning according to their differences without sacrificing their equality as souls.

1. Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18
2. Men and women are created equal in God's image; they are both living, eternal souls
3. Because we are created by God in His own image and loved by God equally means that we are of equal worth.
4. Gal. 3:28

D. Men and women are Different by Design: From the beginning of the creation of man as male and female, God dealt with them as man and woman. The differences are much deeper than biological sexual capacities for procreation. Their identity is in their respective genders as masculine and feminine.

1. The concept of the image of God in us is based on the fact that God is spirit and not a biological being, but He is always HE. Image and

gender are distinct concepts. For instance, a daughter can be just like her father in looks and mannerisms, and yet be thoroughly feminine, and her father be thoroughly masculine. Her femininity is the mode by which she expresses his image. So it is with us and God.

2. It is God who created us and gave us worth and it is God who has determined in His creative design that men and women should function differently in their relations with each other. God has created us different so that we complement (complete) and supplement one another with our different capacities and naturally different gifts. You might say, for instance, that men provide stable framework and direction for the family, whereas women fill in the details of content in family living and loving.

Conclusion:

- A. Wives, how can you help your husband be the man God intends?
- B. How can you help boys become men (and not tyrants), or your girls to be faithful Christian women?
- C. Submit to your husband out of reverence for Christ - Eph. 5:33; Prov. 31:11-12
- D. Wives, teach your children respect for their fathers by the respect that you show him.
- E. Coral's Story