

# GODLY WIVES AND MOTHERS

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## Introduction:

- A. We sometimes look around at the digression of our society and ask the question: “What has gone wrong?”**
1. While there may be many factors that attribute, one of the main problems is a break down in the homes and family life of America!
  2. One place where homes have broken down is in the position & role of wives & mothers
  3. Not only are dysfunctional homes, families, and marriages destroying our nation but they are destroying Christians and local churches!
- B. We need to understand that marriages and families are both instituted by the Lord!**
1. Since God created marriage and the family structure – It’s His right to direct it!
  2. Since God created marriage and the family structure – He knows what is best for it!
  3. To be well pleasing to the Lord and have our homes be what God would have them to be, we have to allow the Lord to build them!
- C. So in the midst of a world gone wrong we need to stop and ask ourselves the question: “What does a godly wife and mother look like?”**

## **I. Godly Wives And Mothers Are Submissive To Their Husbands:**

- A. God’s view of a godly woman is one who is submissive to her husband (Eph. 5:22-24)**
1. What does it mean for someone to be “submissive”
    - a. First of all... It is does not mean one is a SLAVE, has no RIGHTS, or that one has to forfeit their views, thoughts, and opinions!!!
    - b. Submission means to yield to the power or authority of another (R.H.D.)
    - c. Submission is a military term that means to rank under → A wife submits to her husband much like a Major would submit to a General!
  2. Notice how Paul said a woman is to submit to her husband:
    - a. He says, “As unto the Lord” → Like you’d submit unto Christ!
    - b. She is to submit “as the church is subject unto Christ” → Christ head, we submit
    - c. She is to submit “in everything” → She may not agree – but she submits
  3. A wife’s submission was in God’s plan for marriage in the beginning (**Gen. 2:18; 3:16**)
    - a. God designed the woman to be a “Help-Meet” for man – It’s in her nature
    - b. He created an order in the home: Wives under the rule of the husbands
    - c. God created marriage and home → If we want them to function properly we must follow His instructions for them... He knows what is best!
  4. God has put men in the leadership roles at home & the local congregation (**I Cor. 11:3-8**)
  5. The Lord does not call women to submit because they not as good, not as smart, or have less ability → It boils down to a matter of authority!
    - a. The Bible does not teach women to be submissive because men are superior!
    - b. When two equals enter a relationship one has got to submit! Jesus did this!
    - c. Note: God did make men and women differently... we are wired differently. Men are made perfect for their roles and women are perfect for theirs!
- B. There are three things that are true of a woman’s submission: (I Pet. 3:1-5)**
1. First of all, her submission to her husband is an obligation!
    - a. It’s an obligation because it is what God has told her to do! It’s God’s instructions!
    - b. When a woman is not submissive to her husband it is serious business – It is sin!
  2. Secondly, her submission is an opportunity!
    - a. Here’s one whose husband is not a Christian → She has great power to influence
    - b. It’s not a power that comes from pounding God’s word into him 24/7 verbally, but this a power that is silent... it’s the power of EXAMPLE!
    - c. The husband sees her serving the Lord day in and day out... quietly going about doing the Lord’s will... if he can be won, this will work on his heart!
    - d. Wives shouldn’t nag their husbands, even with the gospel! (**Prov. 19:13; 21:9, 19**)

3. Thirdly, her submission is an ornament!
  - a. A woman's putting on of submission is much like putting on Christ – It's about a quality of person down in the heart that is developed
  - b. This is what holy women of old did – When you met them you would walk away thinking, “Now this a submissive woman”
  - c. It's not something to dread – but rather a valued quality to be developed!!!

**C. Peter gives women two different examples to look to for submission:**

1. First of all women can look to Jesus Christ (**I Pet. 3:1**) → Peter says, “Wives likewise...”
  - a. Look at what Peter has been saying (**I Peter 2:21ff**) → Likewise points to Christ!
  - b. Before Christ came to this earth He was equal with the Father; however, in coming someone had to submit... Jesus willingly took that on
  - c. In the garden – He made His wishes known but submitted to the Father's will
  - d. The Lord is not calling women to do anything He hasn't already done Himself!!!
2. Secondly, women have Sarah and other godly women to look to (**I Pet. 3:5-6**)
  - a. “If I had a husband like Abraham, I could submit too!” → He was far from perfect!
  - b. Submission was something these women wore – You would be around them for only a short time and you would say, “Now that is a submissive woman!”
  - c. Sarah called him “LORD” → She recognized he had a place of authority over her!
3. At the foundation of submission was her trust in the Lord → No matter where she went with her husband or what situation they faced... she trusted and then submitted!

**II. Godly Wives And Mothers Are Focused On Developing A Beauty That Inward:**

**A. A godly woman's real focus is not on her outward beauty: (**I Peter 3:3-5**)**

1. What we need to understand better is that outward beauty fades day by day!
  - a. Just consider the beauty queens of yesterday... where are their pictures now?
  - b. If the greatest thing you have going for you is on the outside... it won't take many years before you find yourself without anything going for you!!!
2. A woman striving for godliness will dress in a way consistent with godliness! (**I Tim. 2:10**)
  - a. This means she will not dress in such a gaudy and extravagant way as to draw undue attention to herself... she isn't striving to be loud and bold!
  - b. She also will not dress in a way that would draw attention to her body in a lustful way → Why do you wear what you do? What is it drawing attention to?
2. The Lord paints a great picture of what a godly woman looks like!
  - a. Her conduct is chaste → She doesn't want to be wild or rebellious... how she behaves is ruled by the fact that she fears the Lord!
  - b. She is chaste in her sexual conduct... her attitude, actions, and words are pure and holy... she only wants one man to chase her – her husband!
  - c. Her demeanor is described as gentle and quiet → This doesn't mean a woman cannot be outgoing... but she isn't trying to draw attention to herself!
  - d. The women's lib woman is bold, loud, pushy, and bossy!
3. When the Proverbs described the adornment of the virtuous woman, it described her inner qualities... not her outward beauty! (**Prov. 31:25-26**)
  - a. Her clothing – what she wore that others noticed was her character
  - b. She was known by strength, honor, and her love for the Lord and His word!
  - c. She may have been a beautiful woman... but that's not what mattered most to her!
4. There are some women and girls, even those who profess to be Christians, whose beauty is only outward... notice how Proverbs describes this: (**Prov. 11:22**)

**B. This does not mean that a woman should not try to look nice and even beautiful!**

1. When Peter says not to let your adornment be outward with arranging the hair, wearing gold, or wearing fine apparel – are these things wrong?
  - a. There are some who will not do any of these things because of this passage!
  - b. I don't believe Peter is saying to “NEVER” do them but rather that this outward adorning is not her main focus! It's not what she's most concerned about!

- c. It is kind of like Jesus' instructions on laboring for earthly food (**John 6:27**)
- 2. The same woman, Sarah, that is given as an example of a godly woman, is spoken of in the Bible as being VERY beautiful! (**Gen. 12:14**)
  - a. In fact, she was so beautiful Abraham feared that others would kill him for her!
  - b. She couldn't have just let herself go... she had to give some attention to her outward appearance for this to be the case; however, it wasn't her main focus!
- 3. A godly woman knows and understands that God cares how she cares for herself and her body and thus she will give attention to her outward appearance!
- 4. There's something too about a woman wanting to look nice & beautiful for her husband!
  - a. If you remember you likely did this when you were dating! Why stop now?
  - b. A wife should want to try to remain as attractive as she can for her husband

### III. Godly Wives And Mothers Have Their Home As The Emphasis Of Their Lives:

#### A. If the other points are not popular in our society, this one is even less popular... God's has placed the wife and mother as the manager of the home! (**Titus 2:5**)

- 1. We might get a better understanding by looking at the different ways this is translated:
  - a. ASV: "Workers at home" → ISV: "Managers of their households" → KJV: "Keepers at home" → ESV: "Working at home"
  - b. This phrase does not mean that we should "keep em at home," "have a legalized slave, or that "women are inferior to men"
  - c. Simply put, God has given the women the responsibility of taking care of the home!
- 2. Look at the word "home maker" itself and you can see what it means! She creates and maintains a home and it's atmosphere
- 3. We see a wonderful picture of a woman doing this in the virtuous woman (**Prov. 31:10ff**)
  - a. If you look at her life where do you see her focusing her time and energy?
  - b. She is caring for her children and husband, providing a home for her husband and children, and yet she still finds time to reach out and help others!
  - c. As this passage closes we see her receiving the honor that is due her!
- 4. Finally, woman also need to realize that part of being a "home maker" is spending time raising children to become Christians! (**Deut. 6:6-9**)
  - a. Who is it that likely spends the most time around the children? It's the mother!
  - b. She has a unique opportunity to teach, mold, & influence her kids in God's ways
- 5. Just because God has given the woman the responsibility of keeping the home does NOT mean that the man does nothing in this regard!
  - a. Some might be so bold as to think that only the woman should cook, do the dishes, clean the house, and change the diapers! This is WRONG!
  - b. In all of the good godly healthy marriages I have seen, the men share the load!!!

#### B. This does not mean that a woman may NEVER do any work outside of the home!

- 1. There are some examples of wives and mother working outside of the home:
  - a. The virtuous woman of Proverbs did work in and out of the home; however, her main focus was on her husband, children, and home! (**Prov. 31:10-31**)
  - b. Priscilla, the wife of Aquila, worked with her husband as a tentmaker (**Acts 18:3**)
- 2. There are, I believe, situations that might cause a wife and mother to need a secular job:
  - a. The husband may die, it may be needed to help the family survive, etc
  - b. Even in these cases she must know her home and family must take preeminence!
  - c. If your secular job interferes with your care for your husband, children, and home – your secular job has got to be the one to give! One will give!!!
- 3. Sometimes wives and mothers have secular jobs for other reasons that are not good!
  - a. All too often she is holding that job not out of necessity but out of want, desire, and maybe even a materialistic attitude
  - b. Another problem is when she feels like she need a job to "escape from the house" or to "be something" (Illustration: Jill's new job on Home Improvement)
- 4. A godly mother knows and understands that she has the greatest and most glorious job in the entire world – She cares for her husband, children, and her home!

#### IV. Finally Godly Wives And Mothers Love Their Husbands And Children:

##### A. Paul tells Titus to have the older women admonish the younger to love their husbands and children: **(Titus 2:4)**

1. To some this might seem as an odd instruction → Why would a wife have to be admonished to love their husbands and children?
  - a. The ASV says it this way: “train the young women to love...”
  - b. This love is not something that just happens... it comes by much effort and time!
2. Many have misconceptions about love!
  - a. I have heard young people speak about being “in love” → Really what it boils down to is that they’re in LUST or INFATUATION not true love!!!
  - b. Some describe their relationship by saying, “It was LOVE at first sight!”
  - c. When people form relationship and even get married with these ideas about love they will soon find themselves in trouble!!!
3. What Does This Love Look Like? **(I Cor. 13:4-8)**
  - a. How come many marriages struggle... people don’t develop THIS love!!!
  - b. This love is not something you fall into and out of quickly!!!
  - c. It is this kind of behavior and attitudes that bond marriages and families together!