**The Importance of Godly Women**

**Introduction**

1. Having pulled back the curtain to give a glimpse of the spiritual Jerusalem to come **(Isaiah 2:1-4**), Isaiah brought the focus back to Judah and Jerusalem’s current form during his time (**Isaiah 2:5-4:1**).
2. Among the condemnations revealed by the prophet is one addressed to the ***“daughters of Zion”*** (**Isaiah 3:16-4:1).**
   1. They were prideful, materialistic, and seductive – they would be brought low, and made ashamed.
   2. The address to the ungodly women is preceded by the condemnation of the men who rule.
   3. The women had an influence on their ungodly rule – **Isaiah 3:12-15 (cf. Amos 4:1-3** – to women in Israel, 760-750 BC – influenced their husbands to corruption/oppression to satiate their appetite for luxury)
   4. Women play a significant role – for better or worse.
3. By God’s design, women hold a unique and important place.
4. While there have always been efforts to pervert God’s intention for women, it is especially a problem in today’s society and culture.
5. More and more the thought rings true – ***“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” (Proverbs 31:10, KJV)***
6. The Woman in God’s Plan
7. Woman Was Carefully Placed in Creation
   1. Man created first, woman second – **1 Corinthians 11:8-9; 1 Timothy 2:13**
      1. Does not express inferiority, or lesser importance.
      2. The order of creation, if anything, brings greater honor to her.
   2. God is mindful of man – **Psalm 8:3-5**
      1. Eternally mindful – in creative planning, and after creation.
      2. **Man** – *anthrōpos* (LXX) – human being, mankind (whether male or female). (contrast – *anēr* – male)
      3. **Genesis 1:27** – God created man male and female in His image.
   3. Order of creation does not express an afterthought:
      1. ***“eternal purpose…accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11).***
      2. **Galatians 4:4** – being born of a woman. (**Genesis 3:15** – woman part of plan all along.)
   4. Order stressed importance of woman to Adam:
      1. **Genesis 2:18** – not good to be alone – no mistake! – MADE HIM FIRST TO SEE THAT ***“IT IS NOT GOOD…”***
      2. **Genesis 2:19-20** – GOD BROUGHT THEM TO ADAM – did He think there was a chance to find a comparable helper? NO.
      3. **Genesis 2:21-24** – shows comparableness – shows completeness of man in woman.
         1. **(v. 23)** – Adam understood the thrust of what God had done.
         2. ***“This is now”*** – "this is now (p̱a‘am lit., this time) bone of my bones," (Keil and Delitzsch)
            1. ***“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (ESV)***
            2. **I.E. IN CONTRAST TO ALL HE SOUGHT BEFORE (VV. 20).**
8. Woman Has an Honorable Role
   1. World – taken what the Bible has to say (as just seen in scripture – order of creation, woman for man, etc.) and made it appear to be degrading to women.
      1. Encouragement of women to pursue things of men.
      2. Pushing women to abandon their roles.
      3. Belittling women who value Biblical roles/values – submissiveness/quietness/domestic realm/caring for husbands and children/valuing godliness over vanity/etc.
   2. **Romans 12:2** – pursuit should not be the way of the world (worldly values), but what does God label as ***“good and acceptable and perfect”*** – His will!
   3. The honor for women is found in their God ordained sphere.
   4. A proper husband will acknowledge this – **1 Peter 3:7**
      1. ***“understanding”***– *gnōsis* – ***“according to knowledge”* (ASV, KJV, YLT)**
         1. Of them personally, and their position.
         2. Knowledge of the word – concerning them (points above – order, value, etc.)
      2. ***“giving honor…as being heirs together of the grace of life”*** – she is equal in Christ (spiritually – not sameness of roles) – ***“there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28)***.
      3. **Weaker vessel** – not pejorative, but opposite.
         1. EX: expensive vase vs. sledgehammer
         2. ***“giving”*** – *aponemo* (ἀπονέμω, 632), “to assign, apportion” (apo, “away,” nemo, “to distribute”)… In the papyri writings it is said of a prefect who “gives” to all their dues. (VINE)
            1. “to grant that which is appropriate in a relationship, assign, show, pay, accord” (BDAG)
         3. ***“to the wife, as to…”*** – the honor that is due is peculiar to the wife – to leave the God-appointed place is to leave the honor.
            1. Wife – *gynaikeios* – feminine (Strong)
            2. Her feminine, womanly role – not leaving womanliness for something else.
9. The Danger of Ungodly Women
10. The deliberation of God’s placement of woman, and the importance and value expressed toward her throughout the inspired writings shows the enormous potential for good or evil coming from her.
    1. ***“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” (Proverbs 31:30)***
    2. ***“As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.” (Proverbs 11:22)***
11. Eve’s ungodly meditations led to the downfall of her and her husband – **Genesis 3:6**
12. The “sons of God” (those who walked with God) married the “daughters of men” (those who did not walk with God) and were influenced to evil – **Genesis 6:1-2, 5**
13. Jezebel encouraged even greater evil in king Ahab – **1 Kings 16:31-33** (trivial to simply worship the golden calves at Dan and Bethel)
14. The list goes on…
15. Yet, there are many accounts of godly women promoting good in their men, and the people round about them – Ruth, Hannah, Esther, Mary(s), Tabitha, Lydia, Priscilla, Phoebe, etc.
    1. It is important that women exercise themselves toward godliness.
    2. They play significant roles in the plan of God.
16. The Importance of Godly Women
17. Adorn the Doctrine of God
    1. Titus to speak things proper for sound doctrine – **Titus 2:1**
       1. Contrast – **1:16** – what they profess and what they work are incongruous.
       2. Proper – ***“things which befit the sound doctrine” (ASV); “what accords with sound doctrine” (ESV); “things which are fitting for sound doctrine” (NASB)***.
          1. These things are a proper fit with sound doctrine.
       3. **1 Timothy 2:9-10** ***(“proper”)*** – proper for women professing godliness w/ good works.
    2. For women (older, younger) – **Titus 2:3-4** – this is the conduct which is fitting for sound doctrine.
       1. NOTE: Godly women cultivating godly women – if women are not valuing the domestic role, and living chaste, reverent lives there will come only a generation of vain, selfish, ungodly women to follow.
       2. **(v. 5)** – to fail in this is to cause God’s word to be blasphemed.
       3. **Cf. Ezekiel 36:20-21, 23** – profaned due to appearance of impotence in God (but it was the people’s rebellion), and lack of fidelity in people.
    3. Rather, adorn the doctrine – **Titus 2:10**
       1. **(v. 9)** – bondservants.
       2. Idea – making the doctrine attractive to those outside.
       3. **Women – when you conduct yourself according to what the gospel dictates, this makes the gospel attractive!**
       4. Do not underestimate the attractiveness of the godly life (particularly with women) – **cf. 1 Peter 3:1-2** – winning others with this conduct.
          1. NO GOOD QUALITIES IN THE WORLD’S VIEW OF A WOMAN.
          2. Not – social media, celebrities, entertainment, etc.; BUT THE GOSPEL!
18. Nurture the Home
    1. Love for husband and children – **Titus 2:4**
       1. *Philandros* – fond of man, i.e. affectionate as a wife (Strong)
       2. *Philoteknos* – fond of one's children, i.e. maternal (Strong)
       3. Today’s society – **Romans 1:31** – ***“unloving”*** – *astorgos* – *a*, negative, and *storge*, “love of kindred,” especially of parents for children and children for parents) (VINE)
          1. Selfish, egocentric, narcissistic.
          2. ***“glory is in their shame” (Philippians 3:19)*** – neglecting/forsaking/ignoring husbands and children is glorified as “self-care,” etc.
       4. No home thrives when the love of a wife and mother is absent – what greater role is there?
    2. Manage the home – **Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 5:14**
       1. Homemaker – *oikouros* – “working at home” (*oikos,* and a root of *ergon*, “work”), (VINE)
          1. domestically inclined (STRONG)
       2. ***“manage the house”*** – *oikodespoteō* – from oikos, “a house,” and despotes, “a master,” signifies “to rule the household” (VINE)
          1. manage one’s household, keep house (BDAG)
       3. What an important role! – Nothing is valuable/good if “in order to secure [it], the duties of a wife and mother at home have been disregarded.” (Albert Barnes, Titus 2:5).
    3. Submit and support the husband – **Ephesians 5:22, 33** – nothing boosts the husband more than the backing of a godly wife.
19. Strengthen the Church
    1. There is so much invaluable work that women can do!
    2. ***“teachers of good things” (Titus 2:3)*** – as authorized.
    3. Phoebe – **Romans 16:1-2** – servant of church, helper of many.
    4. Priscilla – **Romans 16:3-4** – risked neck for Paul and gospel. (**cf. Acts 18** – helped teach Apollos more accurately)
    5. Widows indeed (measure of a working, Christian woman) – **1 Timothy 5:10**
    6. Tabitha/Dorcus – **Acts 9:36, 39** – charitable, made tunics for those in need.
    7. Lydia – **Acts 16:15, 40** – hospitable to Paul and Silas.
    8. THERE IS SO MUCH WOMEN CAN DO IN THE WORK FOR THE LORD – THE WORK OF THE LORD CANNOT THRIVE WITHOUT GODLY WOMEN.

**Conclusion**

1. Women play an indispensable role within humanity, gospel success, the home, the church.
2. When women lean toward the values of our ever-changing, vanity seeking, morally decaying world, we all reap the rotten fruit.
3. We must teach, encourage, and value godliness within the lives of women of all ages, and disdain the filth the world lauds before us.