

*D GROUP – Life on Life Discipleship for Women of FBC

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for Women, Priority of the Home, Part 1

THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:

#1 When you think of the saying “a woman’s work is never done”, what kind of work do you consider? What does a woman do that keeps her so busy?

#2 What happens in the home when a wife/mother is not working hard at her God-given role?

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Approximately one out of three mothers with a child under the age of three holds a full-time job. And many women who don’t work outside the home are consumed with interests other than their husband, children and home. Who does that leave to invest in the kids and manage the home? No one! God paints a totally different picture for women. God’s design stands in stark contrast to what we see in our world. What is God’s domestic expectation for godly women? Paul wants the older women to mentor the younger women. Why? According to Paul, *that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, **workers at home**, kind, being subject to their own husbands that the word of God may not be dishonored.* Why are women to pursue these qualities with all their heart? *that the word of God may not be dishonored (Titus 2:4-5).* In other words, this kind of woman is a dynamic witness for Jesus Christ. Our study of the godly woman brings us to the quality of being “**workers at home**”, a word made up of a combination of two words. It literally means **to work at home**. The implications of Paul’s exhortation are incredibly controversial in our modern society. Focusing on this biblical quality will radically affect many lives in the church. This quality will affect the person you choose to marry, your lifestyle, the character of your marriage, the nature of your parenting, plus the home you buy. Let’s examine four major implications of being a worker at home.

#1 – A willingness to work hard for your home To be a worker at home means you won’t be lazy, slothful or idle. In the first century, when a Greek woman was part of a Christian family, she would enjoy a freedom that other women did not have. In the non-Christian home, the wife was treated similarly to a slave, locked in her house, free to do only her husband’s bidding. But in Christ, a Christian wife was given freedom to minister outside of the home. She could serve, help the needy, care for the sick and visit prisoners. The consequences of this improved status meant she also had freedom to gossip, become idle, lazy or be immoral. This lifestyle was a new experience in Greek culture, with new sins to be guarded against. **Read 1 Timothy 5:11-15.** Why is it so important for the older women to train younger women to become hard workers at home? Paul says, if this training doesn’t happen, younger women may “learn to be idle.” The word translated “idle” is used to describe someone who has nothing to do; someone unemployed or careless. We know this was a problem on Crete since Paul says the description of Cretans as lazy gluttons is accurate (in Titus 1:12). In fact, the Greek word translated “lazy” in Titus 1:12 is the same Greek word translated “idle” in 1 Timothy 5:13. The godly woman isn’t lazy, careless or negligent. She is willing to work hard. Do you recall how God’s Word describes the godly woman in Proverbs 31:27 “*She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness*”. Godliness is not merely the externals of Christianity, like carrying a Bible or attending church. All genuine Christians work hard. If you are a godly woman, you will be a hard-working woman. When Paul tells Titus that women are to be ‘workers at home’, the word for ‘work’ means hard labor. Literally a worker at home is someone who seeks to accomplish difficult tasks through hard exertion. All those homemaking chores discussed earlier are spiritual work. Why does God call women to work hard in the home? That is where God designed women to make their greatest impact for His glory.

#2 - A strong commitment to the priority and management of the home In 1 Timothy 5:14, Paul makes a startling statement: *I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach.* God’s design for younger women is to get married, have kids and “keep house.” The word translated “keep” is a very strong word. (NIV says “manage” and KJV says “guide.”) It comes from two words in Greek, translated “house” and “master.” It literally means this woman should rule, manage and be master over the domestic affairs of her home. In fact, the Greek word for “master” is *despot*—the word from which we get the English word “despot.” God’s design for the role of women is a strong commitment to the priority and management of the home. The godly woman does stay home, working hard to oversee the life of her family. She does everything for the mental, physical and spiritual benefit of her family for God’s glory.

What picture does the world have of women who stay home to care for their families? The world pictures her as a prisoner, a confined slave, stuck doing boring tasks, frustrated out of her mind because she is missing out on the good life. But how does the Bible view the woman who stays home? Home is her top priority and the place where she fulfills her purpose in life. The home is where she lives out her commitment to God to be a virtuous wife and mother. She makes her home a stimulating place that nurtures spiritual growth. She makes the home a challenging place that builds character and spurs on Christ-likeness. She designs the home to be a place of contentment and peace reflecting God's gracious goodness. When she manages the affairs of her home well, her husband and children are blessed in countless ways. The wife and mother who is focused on living out her God-given role, sees the home as the place where she fulfills her unique role in ministry. She sees her home as her career (finding it fulfilling); as her pleasure (not her duty); as her office (where she manages her business); as her opportunity (to serve others and bring God glory).

#3 - The home is a reflection of a woman's character In Proverbs 14 and 15, God gives us some fascinating truths about the house in which we live. 14:1 *The **wise** woman builds her house, but the **foolish** tears it down with her own hands.* 14:11 *The house of the **wicked** will be destroyed, but the tent of the **upright** will flourish.* 15:25 *The Lord will tear down the house of the **proud**, but he will establish the boundary of the widow.* 15:27 *He who profits illicitly **troubles** his own house, but he hates bribes will live.* Notice in these verses God names a house by the primary character quality of its occupants. A house is wise, foolish, wicked, upright or proud. A woman's home is a reflection of her inner character. In fact, a woman's home is a window into her inner person because God tells us the home reflects who she really is. There are other items that can be used as measures of our inner character. A checkbook will reveal the values of a person's heart. A calendar will reveal someone's priorities. A crisis will reveal whom a Christian really depends on and trusts. And a home will indicate a woman's priorities, values, desire for order and so much more. A home is a window into a woman's heart. How would you describe your home? Is it stiff or comfortable, user-friendly or fragile, open or closed, economical or extravagant, light or dark, welcoming or restricting, formal or casual, happy or depressing, orderly or chaotic, gracious or grumpy, wise or foolish, hospitable or hostile, relaxed or tense? When you describe a home, you also, to some degree, describe the woman who manages that home. The key to being a godly worker at home is not a woman's affluence or her circumstances, but her heart. There are women who work at home with the wrong heart. Others can't be at home, but their heart is at home. Their great focus is toward their family. What is the priority of your heart? Is your heart committed to your family and home above other commitments?

These implications raise some serious questions. How does Titus 2:5, being a worker at home, apply to women who can't be full time homemakers? How can a single, divorced, unequally yoked or widowed woman be a worker at home? How are women who are not workers at home in practice apply this text. With a heart that trusts God and His Word, we will look at some principles that will give us answers to these critical questions in our next lesson.

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

1. Each person, briefly discuss areas of rejoicing and battling of being a Titus 2 woman as we have studied thus far.
2. Rank the priorities of the godly woman who is a worker at home in order of importance. Consider what work must be done and what work can be delayed, or even eliminated, if time becomes an issue.
3. How would someone evaluate you when they walk into your home? Does your home reflect your priorities as being those God has outlined in Titus 2? What do you see that needs to change?

4. KEY: What part of being a worker at home do you need to make a focus this week? What can you do?

D group project: With your husband, talk about the priorities that were discussed in your group today. Ask him how he would answer the questions above. Pray each day for yourself and your fellow D-Group members as you begin to implement changes in your home priorities.