

To Husbands and Fathers

It is estimated that on a normal day, the average man spends less than six minutes with his children and less than thirty minutes with his wife.

We give priority to those things which are important to us. Too many men, by majoring in minor matters, are neglecting their families.

Husbands have a tremendous responsibility to "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph.5:25). The least one can do is to treat his wife with the same care he shows to himself. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies . . ." (Eph. 5: 28).

The failure to know what a wife needs and then to provide it will not only cause a less than desirable marriage, but will also hinder one's prayers (1 Pet.3:7).

Even the best of men have made egregious mistakes in the training of their children: Noah, Abraham, Lot, Eli, David. Is it possible that our absorbing interest in work and worldly matters has caused us to neglect our children? (Eph.6:4.)

Far too many fathers will one day regretfully remark, "While I was busy here and there, my children have gone" (cf. 1 Kings 20:40).

We need more Joshuas who say, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

- by Rick Duggin

To Wives and Mothers

Happily married couples are a dying species. The blame for this unfortunate situation must usually be borne by both husband and wife. But God has given women greater powers than most realize to build a happy marriage. "Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

A wise woman will build her house by treating her husband properly. She will be in subjection. She will refrain from nagging. She will conduct herself with godliness. Her emphasis will not be upon material things but upon the true, inner beauty. Her meek and quiet spirit will convince her husband that she is serious about serving God and being the best wife she can be. Carefully study 1 Peter 3:1-6.

A wise woman will build her house by treating her children properly. Older women were to teach the younger women to love their children (Tit.2:4). A wise woman knows that love includes proper discipline, and that the failure to discipline will produce shame (Prov.29:15). She will use her uncanny ability in communicating with children to ground them in the word of God (2 Tim.3:15; 1:5), knowing that the seed sown in young hearts will produce a spiritual harvest in years to come.

A foolish woman will tear down her house by neglecting her God-given role in pursuit of her own fulfillment. How utterly unfulfilling it will be for her in later years to discover that her life-long pursuit yielded nothing but fool's gold.

- by Rick Duggin

Saved in Childbearing

"Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing) if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

There has been much discussion and confusion over the meaning of this difficult passage in 1 Timothy 2:15. While there are many possible explanations as to the meaning of these words) a good number of them fail because they contradict other clear passages of Scripture. For instance, this cannot be teaching that women must bear children in order to enter heaven. If such were the case, many women would be damned because of their inability to conceive. Add to this Paul's own admonition that under certain situations it is better for women to remain unmarried (1 Cor. 7:25-36), and we see that this verse simply cannot be implying that women must physically bear children to be saved.

Neither does the context suggest that women are to be spared physical travail in childbirth if they are faithful in service to God. The pain of the birth process is that which has naturally come upon women ever since Eve (Gen. 3:16). And so, again, this cannot be the intended meaning.

The accurate view of this verse must be gained by first carefully considering the context (verses 9-15). Here Paul has addressed the proper role of godly women. Theirs is not to be in a position of authority over men, but rather they are to be in subjection (vs. 11,12). Nevertheless, Paul concludes the thought by assuring the women that they can be saved in heaven, just as surely as men, if they will properly view their role and fulfill it to the best of their ability. The term "childbearing" here means then, not the physical act, but rather all the many things that go into making a woman a wife, a mother, and a "keeper at home" (Titus 2:5).

While the woman will never be able to preach the gospel, serve as an elder or deacon, or perform many of the other jobs that fall to the man, she can nonetheless rest assured that she may please God by carefully applying herself to the very important task He has given her.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

- by Greg Gwin