

Homemaker:  
A Calling from God?



# Homemaker: A Calling from God?

---

One of the greatest struggles for many young people is knowing what to do in life. There are so many choices and possible paths one can take. At times it may seem like there are no clear choices. The Bible doesn't give Christians a list of where or if we should go to college, what career we should choose, what city to live in, what to eat, etc. In much of life we simply have a freewill choice.

One of the options available for young ladies is being a homemaker. Perhaps many don't think of homemaking in this sense, but homemaking is a career. Not only is it a career, it is unique in that it is a career calling from God. Consider Titus 2:1-8

*Titus 2:1-8 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: (2) that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; (3) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (6) Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (NKJV)*

God knows what the church needs to hear. In verses 4-5, young women are called to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, and obedient to their own husbands. By worldly standards that list might seem unimpressive and it is certainly not the path to fame and fortune. Titus doesn't tell young women to go out and make their mark on the world, but to be *homemakers*. If God wants young women to be homemakers, what is a homemaker?

## **A homemaker defined:**

The American Heritage dictionary, Fourth Edition, defines a homemaker as "One who manages a household, especially as one's main daily activity." A homemaker is someone whose primary activity is managing a home. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:14 helps us understand this role. In 1st Timothy young women who are widows are told to marry, have children, and *manage the house* (NKJV).

Being a homemaker might seem unimpressive to many in our modern society; they try to minimize the idea, by making it look old fashioned, even wrong or oppressive. Being a homemaker is not a missed opportunity or an oppressive burden; it is a blessing and calling from God for all married women.

## **Being a homemaker is a blessing!**

When God plans or designs something, it works so much better. The New Testament church works better than a denomination. A godly marriage works better than shacking up or extramarital affairs. The same is true of God's plan for the family. God says there should be a homemaker in the family. We need to trust that God knows what is best.

The obvious benefit of being a homemaker is the opportunity to spend more time on the home and family. Family life is always a difficult balance, and for a working couple it can be even

more of a challenge to accomplish everyday tasks. There are only a few hours after work each day to finish the everyday activities of life. Just simple things like going to the bank, post office, the DMV, and grocery shopping can be easier for the family with a homemaker. Having a homemaker in a family allows the family to work better and accomplish more.

An additional blessing of being a homemaker is the opportunity to serve God and the church. Some homemakers make class books, have Bible studies with other women, follow-up on church visitors, study the Bible, home school, volunteer at a public school or other venue, visit and help the sick and elderly, adopt, foster parent, be a match maker for singles, etc. There is so much that can be done in the realm of good works and evangelism by women, but these opportunities are restricted by the limited amount of time they have. I suspect in most Christian's lives there is a desire to do far more than we have the time and resources to accomplish. Being a homemaker is a blessing in the sense that you have more precious time and God's permission to focus your time on your family and the church.

### **Women can do great things for God:**

*Proverbs 31:1 "1. The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:" (NKJV)*

For many generations, Proverbs 31 has been the standard of the virtuous woman. But I think sometimes we forget that Proverbs 31 is words of wisdom given from the king Lemuel's mother. The virtues taught by the king's mother thousands of years ago are still being taught today. Consider the generations of people who were helped and shaped by her efforts in teaching her son. It is important that we don't underestimate the value of raising and teaching children, reading the bible, teaching children's bible class, working on bible class materials, and planning classes. Teaching efforts can affect people generations from now. You can be part of helping countless people in the future.

The woman of Proverbs 31 can feel like an unapproachably high standard. There will likely be seasons in life when even some of the good works in Proverbs 31 will seem difficult, but those seasons are not permanent. I suspect all young families face periods of life when successfully getting the kids clothed, the family fed, and the laundry done is an accomplishment worthy of celebration (and rest!). Life can be stressful and completely full at times. Perhaps you can't juggle all the things that the woman of Proverbs 31 did, but you can aspire to do many of them. All Christian women can be someone whom her husband trusts, works hard, looks for opportunities to help the needy, and is a blessing to that family. All Christians can help the widows, the elderly, and the poor if we choose to make time in our life. What wonderful work we could do in God's kingdom if each Christian gave an hour or two a day for good works instead of spending time on Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, TV, Netflix, and the Internet.

### **Why This Matters:**

Although it is just one contributing factor to our modern problems, forsaking homemaking has weakened many families. As a society, we have paid a high price for ignoring the calling of a homemaker. Many children are raised in daycare in their formative years. Many marriages suffer when career desires pull couples away from each other and drain energy from the family. In many families, children are left to watch TV and media that are not good influences while parents are away at work. Children in many homes are left to view the internet unsupervised and exposed to the many dangers that lurk in the dark corners of social media. In many families the children's friendships are not monitored. Having a homemaker in the family can be a shield to the children.

Another consequence of the absence of homemaking is that many families have fewer children because they are a hindrance to a woman's career goals. A common American ideal is one boy and one girl. In some wealthy European countries, the norm is one child. This modern attitude toward children being an inconvenience is hard to reconcile with verses like Ps 127:3-5 which describe the blessed man as having "a quiver full" of children or Ps 128:3-4, having children "all around your table." God considers having numerous children a blessing. The Bible doesn't tell us how many kids to have, but it does tell us what attitude we should have toward kids. Being a homemaker helps Christians have the same attitude toward children that God has. While not everyone can have children, everyone should have God's attitude toward children. Children are a blessing and are more important than any career.

### **How can being a homemaker be possible today?**

Without a doubt there are tough situations in life: financial problems, marriage problems, or sickness that might necessitate a married woman needing to work outside the home. I was raised in such a situation. My dad was paralyzed when I was nine years old, and he never worked again. I understand this struggle; it was hard for my family, both emotionally and financially. I feel for any family who is struggling with the loss/disability of a husband. For this tract, I would like to keep the focus on what to strive for and not the difficult exceptions.

Most couples will struggle with finances at some point in life. I am sure that in some cases both the husband and wife need to work full time just to pay the bills. Either by their choices or unfortunate circumstances, the man of the house does not make enough to allow the wife to be a homemaker. This does not have to be a permanent state if both work toward the goal of allowing the wife to be a homemaker. Goals usually take time to accomplish. Achieving the goal of being a homemaker is often not easy, which is also true of our Christian walk, sometimes it takes hard work and sacrifice to do the right thing.

### **What about older women whose children are out of the house or in school?**

Both 1 Timothy 5:4 and Titus 2:5 address young married women. Does this mean that if you are older and there are no children at home you should seek a career? The time when the children are grown and out of the home is a season of life when we have more time. What will we use that time for? The opportunities are many: helping children and grandchildren, teaching, volunteering, helping the church, evangelism, and much more. So many good things can be done with your life if you seek out opportunities.

### **What about being a young single person ?**

The choices you make now will help you be a homemaker someday, starting with who you are seeking to marry. Does he want a homemaker for a wife? Has he prepared himself to provide for you? If not, how can you fulfill your calling?

Another question is what to do while single. Preparing for a calling makes sense. Preparation is one of those realms of judgment, like what career a Christian male should seek. The Word of God doesn't dictate exact details. Being a homemaker doesn't mean that you can't have income or engage in business. The woman of Proverbs 31 was clearly involved in all sorts of business: she bought, planted, sold, and made things, but those efforts centered around the home and family.

Learning a useful skill could allow a young lady to provide secondary income as a wife. Preparation could be a job that allows you to earn and save up for a future marriage. For

some, preparation might be college and learning useful skills, perhaps even learning a trade while single. For some, preparation will be staying at home, learning to be a homemaker from her parents.

### **What about college?**

Unfortunately many young women go into excessive debt for college. Many have the idea that they *must* go to college and learn a career just in case their husband can't provide for them in the future. College can be useful for a young woman, but we should think realistically about its long term value "insurance" value. First, it is important to consider that an unused 15 or 20 year old college degree is almost worthless for quick income in the event of an accident. If your future husband becomes sick and you must provide for your family, in most fields, having an out-of-date degree will not likely be useful for quick financial help. Most likely you will have to work blue collar jobs (jobs that don't require college education) or go back to school.

Excessive college debt is a huge problem today. Recently it was noted that college debt exceeded credit card debt in this country. College is often very expensive. Although college is free or low cost for some, getting a college degree for many people means acquiring a lot of debt. This debt will likely take five to ten years to pay off in the best case scenario. In the worst case, college debt destroys a couples' financial future and is a unnecessary burden. I think the question one must ask is this: Does this choice help or hurt my future? If college is free or low cost based on scholarships and you want to learn a useful skill, that could be a good choice. However, for some young ladies today, racking up debt for a degree that will be little used may end up hurting her future family. Excessive college debt is a sad reality for many young men as well. Some young men find that they cannot easily pay the expenses of life and their college loans with the income generated from their degree. Be wise in your career and college debt choices. It is possible you are setting the financial course for the rest of your life.

One can be prepared for the unexpected with a little planning. Through life insurance one can have a financial safety net. Cheap life insurance is common; for a small amount per month many life insurance plans have \$250,000 or \$500,000 coverage. Many employers automatically give life insurance. Married couples can easily have life insurance to help with the unexpected. A life insurance plan that includes disability insurance is a smart decision and generally reasonable in cost. This preplanning by my parents meant my mother could care for my dad instead of having to get a job to support the family.

### **Final words:**

The opportunity to be a homemaker is a calling from God. In a world of unclear choices and uncertain paths, you can make a clear, godly choice that will be a blessing in your life. The choice is yours.

Ryan Sollars. [rsollars@aol.com](mailto:rsollars@aol.com) (2-15-2014 Rev ebook version)

Cover art licensed by Microsoft Publisher.