

## Biblical principles of feminine virtue

### *What ever happened to Women's Bib?*

Titus 2:1-5

#### Introduction

We live in a culture that has almost completely lost all sense of what a woman is and what she was created for and is therefore squandering the blessings that flow from this most noble, gifted and tender creature. As Christians, we must understand, live out and unabashedly embrace the wonderful distinctions between men and women to the glory of God and the blessing of our families.

#### Who's the real sexist.

Those who hold to so called "traditional" (read biblical) notions of femininity are often accused of sexism. Legitimate charge to extent that term is defined by simply holding to biblically based gender based economic distinctions. As for the definition that emphasizes the demeaning of women, it is those who hold the contra-biblical view of women who have systematically destroyed the highly honorable and important place women ought to hold in society by disparaging the value of the work to which women have been called by God.

#### Ontological equality

Economic distinctions do not equate to ontological inequality. Men and women are unequivocally equal in essence - in eternal worth, significance and glory (Gal 3:28, Matt 22:23-33). Does not obliterate economic distinction established by God. Consider Trinity. Jesus' condescension to humanity and His subordination to the Father in no way undermines His deity, equality with the Father, or His worth. His glory is established in humility, not harmed by it (Phil 2:5-11).

#### "Women's work" as spiritual warfare - 1 Tim 1:18 - 2:10

False dichotomy - domestic / feminine emphasis vs. "Lord's work". By adoring yourselves in good works, you are doing the "Lord's work" and you are most emphatically engaging in spiritual warfare. Feminine piety is very much about the salvation of the world, the fulfilling of the great commission.

#### Biblically defined feminine piety - The virtuous wife of Proverbs 31

Feminine virtue involves a whole bunch of hard work. Not restricted to the abstract realms of the mind. Feminine piety and virtue are about verbs not adjectives. Stuff you do. But not just any old work will do. It is first covenantal / marital (directed toward your husband and children), it is domestic (directed toward home), it is charitable (directed toward others).

#### Nature of works

#### Directed toward husband - Woman created for man 1st Cor 11:1-19

Creation order was neither random, nor was it discreet in its application to the only couple it physically related to - Adam and Eve. Woman is the glory of man and created to be man's helper. Cultivate this mindset carefully. Impossible to grasp the principles of feminine virtue if you miss this point either practically or theologically. Easy to embrace theologically and completely ignore the principal in practice. Chief end of man and woman is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The way a woman generally accomplishes this is to glorify her husband and enjoy him while on earth.

### Manner of relating to your husband - Gentle and quiet spirit - 1 Peter 3:1 - 6

Peter says to submit to your husband and to do so in a particular way - gentle and quiet spirit. Hardest part. Note that instruction is to those whose husband's don't obey the word. This is precious in the sight of God. Note also that you are not instructed to place your trust in your husband. However, it will look exactly like your complete trust is in him if you really are trusting God in the head He has given you.

### Heavily involved in childbearing and rearing - Saved through childbearing - 1 Timothy 2:11-15 -

Feminine piety very much associated with childbearing and childrearing. Titus 2 Paul instructs older women to teach the younger how to be busy at home and lovers of their children. Paul says women will be saved through childbearing. Not referring to special way women gain access to heaven. Primarily refers to the sanctifying effects of childrearing. 1 Tim 5:9-15. Children are very demanding on a mother. This is a great blessing from God. Perhaps no greater protection for a young woman from all manner of temptations (idleness, wantonness, busybodyness, gossip) than the responsibility of raising children. Perhaps not coincidentally why the enemy's attack has been most vigorously focused on this particular aspect of biblical femininity. (e.g., abortion, working women).

### Domestic - Titus 2:1-5

This point is obviously related to the previous point - The locus of your works will generally be your home. Has a lot to do with the fact that children will be there. But not solely tied to this fact. Whether or not you have children, should see that home environment is cultivated for maximum piety, peace. Should be a place of great enjoyment for your husband. Can also be a place of tremendous ministry (Prov 31:18-20)

### 1 Tim 5:9-10 - Nature of good works - serving others.

This is an area that I believe the church could and should really excel in. Titus 2:9 - Exhort bondservants....that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. Doctrine in a vacuum is vacuous. Credible doctrine is always adorned with life. Doctrine of feminine piety has been under attack for quite some time. It is not enough to fight back with "the bible says...". We must adorn the glorious truth about biblical feminine piety with the life. People always notice the children when they visit. So many well behaved children. I would like for the first thing people notice that stay with us for a few weeks is the way the women serve each other. There are many ways that this already goes on. Though it already exists in good measure, need to do it more and more. ("But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more... 1Thes 4:9-10)

### Some opportunities for ladies in various circumstances to serve one another.

- Ladies with kids in school most of day / week. Seek opportunities to serve others. Don't grow idle, gossipy, etc.
- Ladies with out kids - take a day off of work every so often just to help out a young mom. Bridge fellowship gaps.
- Ladies with kids. Be alert to ways you can help others. Don't expect to always be on the receiving end.