

To Be Keepers At Home ~ A Good Thing For Women To Learn

Today we are studying a very important, and yet a very controversial subject of the Bible . . . *God's admonition for women to be "keepers at home."* As I have studied for this lesson, I have once again been reminded that God's ways are not our ways. Our ways are to do what feels good, what seems easy, and what brings us the most glory. But God's ways always lead us to deny ourselves, live for others, and bring Him the honor and glory. And such is the case as we study how to be a keeper at home. The following lesson will run contrary to our desire to do our own thing, and will lead us straight to the path of living for and serving our mighty God, and a journey that will lead us straight to a life of peace and optimal personal fulfillment.

Please turn with me to Titus 2:1-5 and let's remind ourselves of what we are studying and why we are studying it.

Verse 1 tells us that these "good things" that we are to learn are considered to be sound doctrine in the church. The Apostle Paul instructed Titus to make sure that these things were taught to the young women of the church so that the *ministry of the church* could be the most effective.

As we begin to study what it means to be a keeper at home, I want you to keep in mind that the purpose of all of this instruction is for us to learn how to live so that "*the word of God be not blasphemed.*" How we live and what we do is so much bigger than what other people think about us . . . it's all really about what other people think about God.

What do you think it means to be "a keeper at home"?

Why do you think many women of our generation want to do everything but be a "keeper at home"?

I think one reason is because they don't see the significance of it. They don't see the importance of taking care of a husband and children, doing the housework, and just being available for others when they are needed. They believe that if they are going to find real significance in this life, they are going to have to LEAVE the home, find a job, and make their own money.

Now, if God's Word says that women are to learn to be keepers at home, where do you think the modern woman of today got this idea from?

They got it from Satan and his worldly way of thinking.

As Christian women, it is very important that WE learn to base our thoughts and principles on THE WORD OF GOD, and not on the ways of this world.

Having said all of this, let's look at God's Word and see what God thinks a woman should be doing when she is busy "working":

1. *Psalm 113:9*
2. *Proverbs 14:1*
3. *I Timothy 5:14-15*
4. *Titus 2:5*

Keep house, build the house, guide the house, and keepers at home. These are the things that God wants women to be doing when they are working. But some of you may ask . . . "But what exactly am I to do

when I do these things? I mean, there is only so much housework that can be done in a day!” Good question. Let’s look a little closer at what God means when He asks us to be “keepers at home”.

If you look up the word “keepers” in the Strong Concordance, you will find that it comes from the Greek word “oikouros”, which has three distinct meanings ~ **a guard; a stayer at home; and domestically inclined**. Let’s look at each one of these meanings a little more closely, and see how they relate to the work that God would have us do in our homes.

1. **God expects us to be a Guard in our homes.** God is asking us to be the ‘sentry’ of our homes. He has given us the responsibility of making sure that good things come in and good things go out. You could say that He desires us to be the ‘keeper of the door.’ What are some of the things that we should be concerned about keeping in and out of our homes? Is this an easy task? Who does this job if Mom is not working in the home?
2. **God expects us to be a Stayer at home.** God is asking us to BE at home. He is not telling us to make sure that someone is at home . . . He is telling us that WE are supposed to be the ones that are there. Why do you think it is so important to God that the woman of the house be at home? Why isn’t a housekeeper or babysitter just as effective? I believe that God has given every married woman a business to run and that business is her home. Just like a Pastor runs the church, a CEO runs his business, and the Lord runs the universe . . . God has given every married woman an area to run and rule over ~ and that is the domain of her home. And in order for her to do her job effectively, she must BE THERE to do it.
3. **God expects us to be Domestically Inclined.** God is asking US to be good housekeepers. Oh, how women of today hate to hear this! Many of them would rather do ANYTHING than clean their homes, but God says that He wants them to be the ones to do it. Now, this doesn’t mean that you can’t have a little help. There is nothing wrong with using the modern appliances that are made available to us, teaching your children to do chores around the house, or even hiring someone to help you with the really BIG jobs. But God wants us to know that the responsibility of getting the housework done in a good manner lies on OUR shoulders, not on anyone else’s.

Now having said all of this, let’s talk about a few of the things that hinder good Christian women from being willing and able to do this:

1. **Lack of faith.** They don’t believe they can do it because they don’t believe they are strong enough to do it. They think that being a keeper at home will cause them to go crazy and that the whole world needs to understand that they are the “one” exception to God’s rule for a woman’s role. If this is your problem, I want to encourage you to memorize the following two verses, and remember that God never asks us to do anything that He doesn’t give us the wherewithal to do it:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

I Thessalonians 5:24

2. **Lack of knowledge.** They want to obey God, but they have no idea HOW to do the things that He wants them to do. Maybe they were raised by a Mom who worked outside the home, and they were never taught how to keep a home. These women are willing to obey God and be keepers at home, they just need some training on how to do it. If this is your dilemma, I would encourage you to read good Christian books on being a wife, mother, and homemaker. I would also encourage you to find

an older woman in your church and ask her if she would mentor you in this area.

3. **Lack of obedience.** These are women that have been saved by God, but they aren't willing to do the things that He says. God calls them *disobedient Christians*, but they see themselves as *free-spirited believers*. They think that God's commands are suggestions, and that the pursuit of their own happiness is of more importance than the glorifying of God's Word. If this is your dilemma, I want to remind you that in John 14:15 **God says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."** God equates your love for Him BY the measurement of your obedience to His Word.
4. **Lack of contentment.** These are the women that spend their days worrying about what other people are doing. They *want* to love their husbands, raise their children, and keep their homes, but they keep getting sidetracked by what everyone else has or is doing. They *want* to believe that God's ways are best, but they struggle because it seems like they are always missing out on something. If this is your heartbeat, I want to share with you the admonition of God as He cries out in Deuteronomy 5:29, "**Oh that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!**" God wants you to forget about what everyone else is doing and focus on fearing and obeying Him. Why? Because this is the only way that it will be well with you and your family forever!

As I close this study, I want to remind us that Proverbs 24:3 says that, "*Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established.*" If we are going to have homes that have good testimonies **established by God**, for the glory of God, we are going to have to give ourselves over to being willing to understand and obey what His Word teaches about things like being "keepers at home". Why? Because this is one of those "things" that God thinks helps a woman to have a God-honoring home.

Next week we will look at how the "knowledge" of learning how "to be good" will help us fill the rooms of our homes with all kinds of precious and pleasant riches."

Hope to see you next week!

Julie Fink