

The Ministry of Womanhood

Encouraging women to find their purpose & significance through serving God in their biblical roles

Volume One, Issue Nine

Every woman
has been
born into the
ministry
of God.
It is spelled
out for her
in Scripture,
lived out be-
fore others in
her home,
church,
and commu-
nity, and re-
corded
by God
in the pages
of eternity.



A Fruitful Vine ~ A Wife That Will Help Her Husband Bring Forth A Godly Seed

Today we are going to look at how a wife can help her husband bring forth the godly seed that God says should be a product of a godly marriage in Malachi 2:15. **What is a godly seed? It is a distinctively Christian child.** One that is brought up by distinctively Christian parents, in a distinctively Christian home, is educated by distinctively Christian methods, and will be saved and set apart to marry only a distinctively Christian mate.

Please turn with me to Malachi 2:11-17 and let's see how serious God is about the fact that godly marriages were created for the purpose of bringing forth a godly seed.

Who is God *mainly* addressing in this passage as the obstacle standing in the way of their marriages producing godly children? He is addressing the men that were husbands. And what were these men doing that was frustrating God and making Him so angry with them? They were divorcing their covenant wives and marrying other women.

As I begin to share this Bible study with you, I have to be honest with you, I wish it were my husband that was teaching it, and not me. Why? Because then the men could hear these things as well. Unfortunately, many men today, even the Christian men in our churches, are like the men that Malachi had to address ~ men that are dealing treacherously with the wives of their youth. Men that don't treat their wives with the love and respect that God has ordained for them to do, and men that are divorcing their wives to marry other women. My heart breaks as I think about the lasting effects of the behavior of these men, and God's heart breaks over their unwillingness to live for something much bigger than their own personal gratification . . . and that is the opportunity to bring forth a godly seed.

But this Bible study is not for men, it's for women, and as a Bible study designed to teach and encourage women, I want to show you what God's Word has to say to the woman that wants to help her husband produce the godly seed that God so desperately desires from every Christian marriage.

Please turn with me to Psalm 127 and 128 and let's read these two passages together.

In Psalm 128, the Bible tells us that if the husband is a man that fears the Lord and walks

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in his ways, that his wife will be like “a fruitful vine by the sides of the house,” and his children will be like “olive plants round about thy table.” This is the way that a man will be blessed if he lives a life that honors the Lord.

Because of this, I believe the first thing that a woman can do to help her husband bring forth a godly seed, is to pray that God will help him become the kind of man that fears the Lord and walks in His ways. How does she do this? First of all, she establishes a regular time of praying for her husband each day, asking God specifically to help her husband become a God fearing and obedient Christian man. And then she stands back and allows God to work these things out in the every day life of her husband. What do I mean by this? She doesn't stand in the way of God dealing with him by bailing him out financially, physically, or emotionally. A woman who wants to encourage her husband to fear the Lord and walk in His ways will not try and become his savior herself. She will allow her husband to stumble, fall, and be chastised by the Lord when he needs to be. And she will not become overly consumed with “how everything is going to affect her”. Instead, she will give her fears over to the Lord and trust Him to work it all out for her good, her husband's good, and God's glory.

The second thing that a woman can do to help her husband bring forth a godly seed, is to become a fruitful vine for him by being willing to bear him as many children as he desires. This is what being a fruitful vine is all about, the willingness to be pregnant, time after time so that your husband can have lots of “olive plants” that will sit around his table. In a day and age of birth control, planned parenthood, and women's rights, this is a very hard truth for many Christian women to hear. I know at one time in my life, it was very hard for me to hear! Many women don't want to hear that God wants them to be willing to have lots of children, and they certainly don't want to hear that the purpose of having them is to please their husband and not themselves! But the truth of the matter is, although the bearing and raising of children brings great purpose into the life of a mother, the Bible teaches us that children are a blessing from the Lord given for the happiness of the father. And that is why the Bible says, “happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.”

Psalm 127:4-5 tells us that a third thing that a woman can do to help her husband bring forth a godly seed, is to bring them up in a way that they would be like, “arrows in the hand of a mighty man” that “shall speak with the enemies in the gate”. It is a Christian wife's duty to raise her children in a way, that as they grow up, they will be a ready defense and support to their Christian family. What do I mean by this? That they will be able to stand up for what they have been taught, and to defend themselves against those that will attack what their family stands for and believes. Will this be an easy thing for her to do? Not usually. If a child is going to be raised as an “arrow in the hand of a mighty man”, and be able to “speak with the enemies in the gate”, he is going to have to be raised in a distinctively Christian way.

What can a wife do to help her husband raise their children in a distinctively Christian way?

1. **She can be a distinctively Christian wife.** She can be the kind of wife that not only loves her husband, but is willing to reverence him as well (Ephesians 5:33). How can she do this? By submitting herself to him personally, and also by allowing him to lead in their home.
2. **She can provide a distinctively Christian home environment.** The Bible tells us in Titus 2:5, that it is the woman's responsibility to be the “keeper of the home”. And if you look the word “keeper” up in the Strong's Concordance, you will find one thing it means is to be a guard of the home. As Christian wives, it is our duty to guard our homes from the infiltration of heathen things like: worldly TV shows, worldly videos, worldly video games, worldly literature, worldly people, and worldly ideas. And it is also our duty to fill it with things that will influence our children to love and serve the Lord. This is so practical, but yet so important in the bringing forth of a godly seed. Let's face it, our children are going to become what they think about, watch and do. And if they spend their time watching secular shows, playing secular games, and hanging around secular friends, they are not going to grow up to become young people that will be able to stand up and defend the Christian faith.
3. **She can make sure that her children receive a distinctively Christian education.** This is another touchy sub-

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8



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ject among many Christian families, but a subject that needs to be dealt with nonetheless. It is God's will that children from Christian homes are educated in a distinctively Christian manner. What does this mean? It means that they are to be taught by a Christian teacher, using a Bible based Christian curriculum. This can be accomplished by either teaching them at home yourself, or by sending them off to learn at a good Christian school. The same goes for college training as well. God has no good words for those of us that send our children off to schools that encourage our children to "walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of the sinners, or sit in the seat of the scornful". His only desire is to see our children delighting in His law and meditating upon it both day and night.

4. **She can make sure that her children have distinctively Christian associations.** As a mother, it is our job to help our children make Christian friends. How do we do this? We make sure that our children spend lots of time frequenting places where other Christian children are. What are some of those places? Church, Christian School, church activities, Christian College. If you want your children to become solid in their Christian faith, you must make sure that they hang around other children that are solid in their Christian faith. The Bible reminds us of what will happen if we don't heed to this in I Corinthians 15:33, "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*"
5. **She can make sure that her children understand that they are to prepare themselves for a distinctively Christian courtship and marriage.** What does this mean? That they are to be trained to date with a pure heart, mind and body. As we prepare our children for courtship and marriage, we should teach them that they are to date only sincere Christians that have been approved of by their parents and Pastor. We should also teach them that the Bible says that they are to date without touching each other at all. No hand holding, kissing, or other stuff. I Corinthians 7:1-2 says, "*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*" Any kind of sensual touching outside of marriage is considered by God to be fornication, and the Bible says that we are to teach our children to avoid this. I know that to some of you, this may sound crazy, but it really isn't if you think about it. What if a young couple spends their courtship days kissing and touching all over each other and then they don't get married? They have defiled each other for the next relationship, and I believe this is why so many marriages have problems with pornography, immorality and unfaithfulness later on. Once a person is defiled, they no longer view the physical part of the relationship as something special or sacred, and when they lose this healthy respect for it, they don't feel bad when they violate it. God wants our children to be pure when they get married, and the best way we can make sure of this is to teach them to keep their hands to themselves until they get married. But you know what ladies? It shouldn't just stop there. We need to teach them to keep their hearts pure as well. Train your children to guard their affections when they become young adults and get to the dating stage. Teach them to spend lots of time getting to know who the other person is, what they believe in, and what they are willing to live for, **before** they think they are "in love" with them or not. There should only be one person that they are ever "in love" with, and that should be the person that they end up marrying.

As we close this study, I want to leave you with this final thought ~ there are only two things that God's Word says hinders us from bringing forth a godly seed: divorce and remarriage, and heathen associations. I want to encourage you to guard your marriage with everything that you have within you. Love your husband and be the best wife that you can be. Do it for the children's sake. And keep yourself and your home unspotted from the world. Give your children the opportunity to be raised in a good Christian home where the Word of God is not only heard, but also seen . . . in the people that come around, and in the things that are heard and watched, and in the lessons that they are educated in from day to day.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving next week! See you the week after!

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8

“The Maternity Outfit”

In the first year of my marriage, I found myself pregnant with my first-born daughter. I’m ashamed to say, that at that time, I didn’t want to be pregnant and I didn’t not look forward to being a mother. I saw my pregnancy as a hindrance to my shapely figure and I viewed motherhood as something that was ordained for women to do, who didn’t have something more significant to do. That was how I saw things before I actually became a mother and before my husband used a gift of a maternity outfit to help me see the beauty of my ‘motherhood’ state.



It was the first day of my seventh month of being pregnant when my husband woke up to find me crying on the sofa in our living room.

“What’s wrong Julie? Why are you crying like that? Did something terrible happen that I don’t know about?” my husband said to me with genuine concern in his voice on that day.

“I don’t really know what is wrong. Nothing really terrible has happened. It is just that I feel like I look horrible. I’m so fat and my clothes don’t fit, and I really don’t have anything but that dark blue outfit to wear. I hate being pregnant and I’m sick of being fat!”

“Oh, don’t say that Julie. It is a good thing to be pregnant. And your not really fat. You are just “great with child”! I think you look beautiful and I’m so glad that we are going to have a baby.”

“I wish I was. I’m not trying to be negative, but I feel just horrible about all of this right now. I’m sorry that I’m not as excited as you are. But all I can think about is visiting your folks over the holidays and I don’t have anything nice to wear!” As I said this, my husband got a look on his face that told me he was developing a great idea in his mind.

“You just stay right there. I’m going to get dressed and go somewhere. I’ll be back in a little while. Ok? Don’t go anywhere, I’ll be back before you know it.”

“Ok,” I said, as I watched him scurry around, “Just don’t take too long. I don’t want to be here all day by myself.”

Well, after my husband got dressed on that day, he hopped into our car and I didn’t see him for the next eight hours! It was just about dark when I saw the car pull up and heard him coming through the door.

“Julie, come here, I went and got something special for you! It is something for you to wear. Now you won’t feel so sad. This will make you feel better about the way you look. I can’t wait for you to see it!”

And then he placed in front of me three boxes from a store that he had driven to called *Mothercare*. Even way back then, *Mothercare* was an expensive store and one

that was only found in malls located in major U.S. cities. I later discovered that my husband had driven all the way from our small town of Beaufort on that day, to the big city of Charleston, just so he could buy me a beautiful looking maternity outfit.

I’m ashamed to say this, but when I first took a look at it, I wasn’t the least bit appreciative of it.

“What is this?” I said, as I pulled out of the box something light green and very frilly, “Do you expect me to wear this? It looks like something that a baby would wear!”

“Oh Julie, I thought you would love it. Look, give it to me and I’ll show you how cute it really is.” And then he took the outfit and disappeared into the next room. **I wasn’t quite sure what he was going to do, but when he emerged from that room a few minutes later, all dressed up in that maternity outfit, I knew in my heart what I needed to make the decision to do.**

“See Julie, see?” he said to me, as he stood there all squeezed into that light green and frilly looking maternity outfit. “Can’t you see how cute this is? And look how cute it is from the back!” And then he turned around so that I could see the whole outfit in full view.

But what I saw that day was more than a cute frilly light green outfit. I saw the heart of a father that desperately wanted his wife to enjoy being a mother. And I made two decisions on that day – the first to happily wear that frilly, light green, baby looking outfit, and the second to be a happily pregnant wife and woman.

I’m so thankful that God gave me a husband that saw me as a mother and loved my children long before I was able to see the importance of it. I’m so thankful that my husband was man enough to want to encourage me to be what I was supposed to be, rather than allow me to wallow in what I wanted to be. I can only imagine what would have become of my children had he not stepped in to remind me what a blessing children were, and what an honor it was to be giving birth to one.

Dear ladies, if you have a husband that loves children, be thankful. If he wants his house to be filled with them, rejoice in that. It is a sign that his heart is tender and filled with the desire to please the Lord. And it is also a sign that he loves you and wants you to share something very special with him – his opportunity to make a difference in this world by bringing forth a godly seed.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3