

To Love Their Husbands

~ A Good Thing For Women To Learn

Last week we began our studies on the “good things” that God wants the older women to make sure that the younger women learn. We learned that the first good thing that they learned was how “to be sober”. We also learned that the reason being sober is so important is that it helps a woman to be able to build a good home for God.

Before we begin to study this next important “thing” on the list, I want to show you something that I found in my Bible reading this week that I think is the key to why God has given us these good things in their particular order.

Turn with me to Proverbs 24:3-4 as I show you the specific plan that God has laid out for the successful building of a godly home:

***“Through wisdom is an house builded;
and by understanding it is established:
And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.”***

First of all, a godly home must be built with wisdom. This is the part of being sober and loving our family members. The sober mind builds the solid foundation, and the loving spirit provides the security of its walls. Please don’t underestimate the importance of these first two concepts in the proper building of your Christian home. We will learn more about how the rest of the good things apply to establishing and filling the home in our later lessons. Today we are focusing on what it means to love our husbands.

Why do you think God wanted the young women to be taught “to love their husbands”? Isn’t this something that they would have already known how to do?

In the days of Paul and Titus, most women received their husbands by “arranged marriages.” It was the duty of a young man to choose a wife, talk to his father about his choice, and if his father agreed with his son’s choice, then they both presented the whole idea to the girl’s father. If the girl’s father thought the young man would make a good husband for his daughter, he would talk to her about it and then the whole matter would be agreed upon. They would become betrothed and then about a year later they would have the formal ceremony and be married. Remember when we talked about this when we studied about Mary of Nazareth? Anyway, when this young couple came together, they weren’t necessarily “in love”, this was something that had to be learned later.

Do you think it would be hard to love a husband that you didn’t really know?

Do you ever find it hard to love the husband that you know very well?

Even though most of us had the opportunity to choose our own husbands “for love” and were not given them “by arrangement”, *because of our sin nature*, many of us **still struggle** with the practicality of loving our husbands in a way that would please God and help us to build strong homes ~ *especially when they aren't loving us back in the way that we think they should.*

Let's talk a little about what the word “love” means in this verse. What do you think it means?

When I looked it up in the Strong's Concordance, I found that it is the Greek word *philandros*, and it means “fond of man; affectionate as a wife.” It comes from the word *philos*, which means “dear friend, friendly as a neighbor, friend.” In other words, God is saying, “teach the younger women to be affectionate and friendly to their husbands.”

What does it mean to be affectionate to your husband? It means to show them affection in a warm and tender way.

Let's list some of the ways that we, as wives can be warm and tender to our husbands:

1. ***We can speak kind and encouraging words to them when they are around.*** *So many men listen to so much griping and complaining! It's a wonder that they even WANT to be around us!*

2. ***We can be happy to see them when they get home.*** *Men need to be greeted with a smile and a warm hug and sweet kiss when they come through the door, not lectured on why they were late, or reminded of what a bad day we had.*

3. ***We can be sexually comforting to them.*** *A husband was created to enjoy the physical caresses of his wife. These affectionate gestures are what make him feel as though he is accepted and loved by us.*

4. ***We can make sure the things that they like are made readily available to them.*** *Men like to*

know that there is someone that is willing to cater to their own likes and interests. When you make his particular interests a special priority, you make him feel affectionately loved in a very special way.

Why is it very hard for some women to behave affectionately towards their husbands?

How do you think they can they overcome this?

I believe there are four things that a wife that struggles with being affectionate can do to help her obey God in this area:

1. Decide to accept your husband as he is. I know that men aren't perfect. And I know that some of them have real problems that are very hard to deal with. But give your man and his problems over to God and ask God to help you to accept him just the way HE does. (And remember, just because God accepts us, doesn't mean He agrees with everything we do. It just means He is willing to realize that we are human and that we need Him to work in many areas of our lives.)

2. Decide to admire the few good qualities that he does have. Believe it or not, every one of us are good at something. Maybe all he does well is get up in the morning and go to work. Maybe it is something else. Get a piece of paper and write down a few of the things that he does right and begin to compliment him on these things.

3. Decide to agree to disagree on some things. Two sinful people cannot live peacefully together without disagreeing about something. Many women allow these kinds of things to overwhelm their relationships and cause great contention. Learn to let some things go ~ especially the things that you are not going to change anyway.

4. Decide to adjust yourself to your husband's speed. Many women are frustrated with their husbands because they live by a different agenda than she does. God's Word tells us (again, and again) that wives are to "submit themselves to their own husbands," not the other way around. Decide to get BEHIND what he is doing and not AHEAD of it!

This has been a very practical Bible study. It is something that you can learn about, apply to your everyday life and benefit from. Next week we will learn how to love our husbands by studying what it means to be a friend to them.

Hope to see you next week!

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