**The Worthy Woman**

**Introduction:**

The role of women in the local congregation is vital to the future of that church. There are just a few limitations placed upon women compared to the large number of works in which she can be involved. Each and every congregation of God’s people would find it very difficult to function effectively without the input of the women. Their work is extremely valuable and important. It’s just different in some ways than men’s work.

**Body:**

1. **Examples in the New Testament of Women’s Work**
2. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2) “I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.” NKJV Her work as a servant of the church in Cenchrea was highly regarded by Paul. It even impacted the congregation in Rome. She had assisted Paul in his endeavors to preach the gospel. She was more concerned with furthering the kingdom than in following her own desires. She was also called a “helper.” **Vine**: A word of dignity indicates high esteem with which she was regarded. **Thayer**: One who cares “for the affairs of others” and aids “them with her resources.” A truly remarkable woman!
3. Tabitha [Dorcas] (Acts 9:36-42) “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 39b And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 41b, 42 he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.” NKJV [“Full of” – abounding] She used what she had to help and serve others. She had used her sewing talent for good as well. She brought glory to God and was well-thought of among the brethren. May we all strive for the same.
4. Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-5a) “Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house.” NKJV

Recall that both had been involved with instructing Apollos in the way of the Lord more accurately. Paul referred to them here as fellow workers. Both were actively involved in the Lord’s work. They had risked their lives for Paul as well as opening up their home so the church could meet there.

1. **Ways Women May Serve Their Lord**
2. In the Home Read Titus 2:1-5. “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” NKJV
3. Wife Love her husband, [seek what is best for him, what is in his best interest]. Be in subjection to her husband. (I Peter 3:1) “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,” NKJV Respect his God-given leadership role. When you do this, you are serving Christ. It is not demeaning – but God pleasing. (Proverbs 12:4) “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.” NKJV
4. Mother Love her children, [have their best welfare at heart]. This is an unselfish work, often very tiring and not very glamorous! Caring for her children’s physical concerns is time-consuming and exhausting. But all of us are indebted to our mothers for the great care given to us through the years. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Men are what their mothers made them.” Women are equipped with special abilities. They are much better care-givers and nurturers than are men.

Mothers

“It is to her we turn and depend when the heart is sore, the body racked with pain, the soul filled with sorrow, and the spirit broken by bitterness. We long for the touch of her hand, the soothing music of her voice, the light of her smiles, and the healing counsel coming from her union with Jehovah.” God’s Woman, C. R. Nichol

 Along with this, she is to be a homemaker, a good manager of the household, a diligent worker in this area. This is also a God-given role for her. Note: Proverbs 31:15, 27-28. “She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. 27-28 She watches over the ways of her household And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blesses; Her husband also, and he praise her:” NKJV A great blessing that comes with being a mother is the opportunity of teaching her children the ways of the Lord, especially during their younger years. Recall the words of II Timothy 1:5 “5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” and II Timothy 3:14-15. “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” NKJV Timothy’s mother and grandmother filled a very important role, especially since the father had no part in his spiritual training. This role cannot be over-emphasized!

1. Teacher
2. Older women are to teach younger ones. (Titus 2) Teach them to be good wives and mothers.
3. Teach women’s classes where just women are present. [Comment on class at Nettleton.]
4. Teach children’s classes. They are very well-adapted in this area. Women excel and exert immense influence which will last for eternity.
5. Personal Worker
6. One-on-one studies – no situations where she exerts authority over a man, though. Recall the woman at the well. (John 4) Priscilla (Acts 18) and those who were scattered in Acts 8.

(Philippians 4:3) “And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.” NKJV

1. Send and grade correspondence courses. Truth for the World
2. Hand out tracts; send mailers or flyers to the community.
3. Benevolence
4. Visit the sick at home or in the hospital. This is very effective, probably because in general she is more sympathetic and understanding. “Better bed-side manners”
5. Organize activities: fellowships, potlucks, showers, meals for families [funerals, illnesses].
6. Send cards, make quilts, gather and sort clothes for the poor.

**Conclusion:**

The above is just the tip of the iceberg. Women contribute to all areas of vital importance to the local church. They contribute immeasurable to the work of the Lord’s church. We all have work to do. Are you doing yours?

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