

*Traits of a  
Godly Woman*

*By Jean Dionne*



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# *Traits of a Godly Woman*

***Titus 2:3-5 – “The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becomes holiness, not false accusers, not given too much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.”***

In God’s Word, it teaches us that we are not to be false accusers or given too much wine, but be a teacher of good things. What comes after that is a list of nine godly traits that a woman is to model. God’s Word says much regarding behavior that is becoming to holiness. Now that’s a topic in itself: holiness. It goes without saying that in order to have the traits of a godly woman, she would have to know God’s Word and truly love God with all her heart. She would have a desire to have a personal relationship with Him and would try to please Him with her conduct.

Conduct becoming to a godly woman would require that a woman not be a false accuser nor given too much wine. If she is to be a teacher of good things and to teach the younger women, those negative behaviors must first be removed and eliminated before going any further. We know that this would not be pleasing to our Lord. No one is talking about a social drink here. We are talking about the tendency to lean upon alcohol or any substance abuse causing us not to act with soundness of mind. Also, the ability to teach good things would require knowledge of God’s Word and her willingness to teach.

What would she be teaching the younger woman? She would be teaching the younger woman to mirror the nine traits of a godly woman.

### **TRAIT #1 – TO BE SOBER**

To be sober is to do one's duty, to be moderate, self-controlled, thoughtful, and to learn to make wise decisions and judgments. All of this requires common sense. What is your duty? What is it to be moderate, self-controlled and thoughtful? How do you make wise decisions and judgments?

Well, the place to start is in the study of the Bible. We know that there is a wealth of knowledge in His Word. *“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.”* (Isa. 33:6) Since God is love and love never fails, then good judgment will follow the principle of love.

*“Love suffers long, and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. LOVE NEVER FAILS.”* (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

In other words, a woman makes a commitment to be the best wife, mother and manager of the home that anyone could be. She is dutiful and loving. Her most basic responsibility is to make her home run orderly and smoothly. She is the coordinator and manager of the household affairs. She considers the needs of her husband and her children and creates a healthy, peaceful environment, and a refuge from the stress of life. Does that mean she is so busy taking care of everyone else that she has no time to take care of herself? Of course, the answer to that would be ABSOLUTELY NOT! She should be someone to be admired and a model of womanhood, as best she can.

Now is that easy? No! Can it be a goal? Yes! Does it always work? Most of the time it does. What about an insensitive or rude husband? Does God expect the godly woman to serve such a man? Yes. No one would dispute the wrongs of an insensitive mate, whether it was a he or

a she especially if that mate is a professing “Christian” with a title to boot! But we are talking about your duty, your job and what is in your best interest. Is it not to serve and respect your husband to the best of your ability for the Lord’s sake? Two wrongs never made a right or a good marriage. But it is amazing how one “right” can make a BIG difference in a marriage and possibly change that selfish old guy (or woman). She certainly has boundaries and is not to be a door mat. Remember, this was the person she chose. When did the prince become the frog or did the princess become the witch? We are told to examine ourselves.

On a side note, it is important to mention that we are not talking about serious abuse here. Seek council if that is the case!

Let’s go back to our duties. If our duties are to our own household, then does it not make sense to plan ahead? There are a lot of things that go into the managing of the home. All of the work does not necessarily have to fall on the woman. Husbands can help. Children can help too. Let’s face it, when we get older everything seems like it takes so much longer and household chores seem never ending. Jobs can be simplified. If one can afford it, maybe outside help can be used. The word is to manage. A manager can delegate. However, a woman is responsible for the overseeing of the household. The principle of love and kindness must be her guide. An atmosphere of peace is the goal. If a mate will not help in any way, it may feel very insensitive and unfair. That is true. However, the principle of two wrongs not making a right should be applied. We all have to answer for our own behavior and to our God who will judge. Our job is to perform our duty and our assignments to create a loving home for our families. A caring husband will know when he can pitch in and help especially during times of stress and sickness. How appreciated that is!

Good nutritious meals, clean appropriate clothing, a clean house (not a perfect one), good planning regarding finances, and the loving care of our children makes for a happy home. Did I forget discipline? Of

course we are talking about loving, but firm discipline for our children. Good orderly direction should be our goal along with a good attitude. (Good, Orderly, Direction....interesting.) Most important is the loving relationship with our husband with an attitude of service, affection, honor, and respect. This is pleasing in God's sight and a good model for future generations.

Your relationship with your husband is the single most important role you will ever play. If you fail here, then you have failed at your life's work and have missed God's perfect plan. This is not a one way street. God holds men accountable for the spiritual leadership in the home. I hope we are talking about a loving husband and a Christ-like person. But when things go wrong, as they often do, it is easy to carry a big, ugly chip on our shoulder. We've all done it at one time or another. We are human. A wise woman doesn't let the little things stir her spirit to agitation. With a quiet and meek spirit, she will seek to make all things better and pursue peace.

*"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that makes ashamed is as rottenness to his bones."* (Proverbs 12:4)

So let us not lack in biblical soberness. TO BE SOBER we must do our duty, be moderate, self-controlled, thoughtful, and learn how to make wise decisions. May our God richly bless our efforts! Remember, it is progress, not perfection! I know it is hard to swallow, but he does not have to be kind in return for a woman to react in a godly way. Take it to the Lord!

## **TRAIT #2 –TO LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS**

Loving him means putting his needs before your own. Our husband and our children *are our ministry*. We are to be a comfort, a blessing, a reward, a friend, and encouragement, and his right hand woman. Webster's Dictionary - LOVE: a strong affection, warm attachment, attrac-



tion based on sexual desire, a beloved person, unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for others, to cherish, to feel a passion, devotion, or tenderness for, to caress, to take pleasure in.

The Bible explains that there are three different kinds of love. The Greek word “agape” is God’s love for all mankind especially for His children. The Greek word “philia” is used for brotherly love for each other and the Greek word “eros” is used for physical and sexual love.

Eph. 5:31-32 *“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”* There is no doubt about the fact that God created sexual fulfillment for the marriage union. It is important for women to understand that it is a man’s most consuming passion. His entire ego is tied up in this sexual experience. God created him so. To him it is the ultimate expression of his deepest love for you, the fullest measure of intimacy with you he can imagine. His entire body, soul and spirit are caught up in this one act of sharing that love with you, the very measure of his person. For a woman to ignore, discredit, or be indifferent to that desire would be a grave mistake.

God describes the marriage as, *“they two shall be one flesh”* which is, their bodies coming together. Sex was not man’s invention. God created it. The great mystery of Christ and the church is His all consuming love for his bride. This physical union between a man and a woman is so beautiful, so otherworldly that God uses this as an example to illustrate our relationship with Him. A disinterested or halfhearted wife affects a man negatively. It is a matter of physiology. God created man with a regular need for a woman, and God commands the wife to see to it that his need is met. It is not right for a wife to defraud her husband (or a husband to defraud his wife).

1 Corinthians 7:4-5 has a lot to say about this. *“The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband: and likewise the hus-*

*band does not have authority over his own body, but the wife. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time...that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*” God grants the marriage partner full access to his spouse’s body for sexual gratification. Indifference and unwillingness is simply unloving. Love is giving up your center, your own self-interest. It is choosing another’s needs above your own.

It would be wrong and insensitive not to mention and understand that at various times during our married lives together, there may be many factors that will interfere with this natural function. It is important to recognize that stress, the aging process, trauma, physical and mental illness, medications along with many diseases contribute to this. Always strive to find ways to ‘rekindle’ your love. Sometimes problems and hurt feelings can be cleared up with an understanding heart and with council and/or medical advice.

Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled.”* It is important to know that we are not talking about an abusive partner or sexual perversion of any kind, but a loving holy godly union. God’s Word has much to say against lust, sexual immorality and vile affections. Satan’s influence and twisted view on sex has permeated the world and the media. The Bible rightly describes him as the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

God requires a woman to have respect and reverence for her husband. I know this can be very difficult if a husband is harsh or disrespectful to her. That is why we must choose carefully our mate and try not to be unevenly yoked. People and relationships can change, but our commitment to our vows should not. Since our topic is about women *loving their husbands*, we will not discuss the various problem areas that may occur during this union. We do know that God hates divorce, and that He hates injustice also.

Ephesians 5:33 *“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love*

*his wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*” To respect means to have a high or special regard for, to esteem, honor and have deference for. Some translations of the Bible use “*reverence her husband.*” Wives are called to submit to their own husbands as fitting in the Lord. (Col.3:18)

There are many wonderful examples of this trait of a godly woman in the Bible; let’s look at the following two examples. The love and submission of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to her husband, Joseph. Also, is the example of Sarah’s love and submission to her husband, Abraham.

When Joseph had angel visitations and dreams warning him about danger and how to flee to protect his wife and the child Jesus who Mary was carrying, she did not argue the point, but honored, submitted and followed. The whole world has been blessed because of her submission. When Abraham was instructed by God to leave all and was given covenant promises that would be passed down to succeeding generations, Sarah did not resist, but honored, submitted and followed. Again, generations have been blessed because of her submission. 1 Peter 3:5-6 – “*For after this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*”

Remember, Isaiah 54:5 - “*For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*” In Christ, whether married or single, male or female, we are all His bride and the Lord is our husband!

### **TRAIT # 3 – TO LOVE THEIR CHILDREN**

*“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.”- Psalm 127:3-4.* One of the most important things a

mother can do for her children is to create an atmosphere of peace and joy. The best gift a parent can give their children is to be happily married, to love their daddy, and work at being satisfied and content with life.

A good mother soberly considers the needs of her children before her own interests. She provides comfort and the daily necessities for their happiness and health. She invests time in training them how to do many things and teaches them to be considerate of others. She educates herself in nutrition and health issues and is always mindful to protect her “little ones” to keep them safe. Even though God has guardian angels, YOU are their guardian angel here on earth.

The home should be a created peaceful sanctuary, not a war zone where there is yelling, harshness, negativity, or abuse. A critical woman is one that cannot be satisfied and has a frozen bitterness about her, which creates a hostile environment for the whole family. “*Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.*” - Proverbs 21:19. Be done with all the tension; forgive! If there is abuse being perpetrated on yourself or your child, get help! Do not stay in a dangerous situation.

We know that parenting is a team effort, but our topic is about a *mother loving her children*. Except in rare cases such as abuse or immoral behavior, the better decision is usually for couples to work out their differences and not to dissolve the marriage. Live in accordance with God’s instructions for marriage and remain together for the sake of the children. God hates divorce – (Malachi 2:16), and so do children. Did you ever hear this expression? “If you think marriage is difficult, try divorce!”

Look for ways to influence your children positively by spending more time with them. Have dinner together; discuss daily activities together, clean up together, etc. There are a lot of things you can do *together*. You should want your children to remember you as loving their dad, *loving them* and enjoying life.

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”*  
- Philippians 4:8. Let this be your guide.

*Think about this:* Just because you happen to be the birth mother of a child, does not necessarily make you the “mama” of that child. If someone else is drying their tears, feeding them, taking care of them and then they are being adopted out every day from one place to another, how does this help a child to bond properly with their mother? Children feel secure when they know they are loved and also have their mother’s presence. They need the same comforting, nourishing breast, the same room, the same blanket, sippy cup, and toys which are so vital to a child’s emotional wellbeing.

This is a fast paced world. Financial pressures can be great and our conditions are not always perfect. This is not meant for mothers to feel guilty. This is meant for them to recognize how important it is for a child to be raised and cherished by their own mother. There is an epidemic of single parenting today with an overwhelming number of them single moms. These are moms who have the extra burden of having to be both mother and father. They have to provide financially for their children. This is serious business!

Sometimes, however, there is only a perceived need for a greater income or a mistaken assumption that having a career is more important than rearing small children. Recently they tried to put a dollar figure on the value of a mother’s work load and responsibility in the home and they came up with a figure over \$100,000! It is important for a small child to spend the vast majority of his time with his one true permanent “mama” who God has ordained to love and care for that little life. Do all you can to be “keepers at home” to the best of your ability, taking into consideration your unique situation. Always keep this one

thing in mind, your *God given role as a mother*.

Mothers are very busy throughout the day and are also busy multi-tasking. *They are in need of encouragement*. Reading a few scriptures here and there throughout the day can add up to a lot of knowledge over time. Meditate on what you read as you work and sing to the Lord in your heart. He will provide you with all the strength that you need. *“The Lord is the strength of my life.”* – (Psalm 27:1). The spirit of God is present with you as you wash the dishes, pick up the dirty clothes and prepare the meals. He is there when you train up your little one, when you tie his/her shoe, when you read a book to your toddler, and when you tell them a simple Bible story. *God is right there* with you as you help and serve and give to your family- loving your husband all the while.

Take good care of yourself amidst all this work. Be kind to yourself and love yourself too. God loves you, and we should love others *as we love ourselves*. Don't allow yourself to have the mentality of “the lonely hearts' club” taking away your joy and your role as wife and mother. Be positive and focus your life on making your home happy. Seek to serve your family as you prepare your children emotionally, physically and spiritually for life.

*“TRAIN UP” a child in the way that he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*” - Proverbs 22:6

God has honored mothers with the blessed privilege of being the daily trainer of their young children. To love your children is to devote oneself fully to their training. God says train up, not discipline up. Yes, discipline has its place. But, to train up means to dedicate yourself and your time to your children. God's desire is for them to become a responsible and mature adult. *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame.”* When necessary, loving discipline directs their path with correction. - Proverbs 29:15

This is a full-time occupation. It means showing them how to: make cookies, ride a bike, make up a bed, put toys away, cook, read, show respect for others and a thousand other wonderful things to learn and do. Training is not a chore for a loving mom; it's a passion! Children are worth all the time and trouble to a "dedicated" mother. Mom is constantly teaching and talking to her children daily as they discuss the "whys" of life in all that they are doing. You don't have to work alone; you have your "little buddy" with you. Check out this web site: [nogreaterjoy.org](http://nogreaterjoy.org).

One very serious thing, mothers need to do is to protect their children! It is sad to know that this world is a hostile and toxic environment for children to live in. Be watchful, be aware, and be alert to the world and its dangers. The media sends out evil messages, and it is important to monitor all the filth that is out there. In just a brief moment a child can be taken, sexually abused, traumatized with scars for life and sometimes by those who may have seemed "trustworthy." YOU are your baby's keeper. *Please keep them safe.*

#### **TRAIT #4 – DISCREET**

Webster's New Dictionary: Discreet – showing good judgment; capable of observing prudent silence. Also the definition of prudent: shrewd in the management of practical affairs, cautious, sensible.

Strong's/Vines dictionary of the Bible: Discreet – sober-minded, temperate, understanding, sensible prudent.

To be discreet is to be wise in avoiding error and in selecting the best means to accomplish a purpose. A person with discretion has good taste, good judgment, good understanding, is courteous, polite, and has honest dealings. Now that's a big order! Remember what it says in Proverbs 11:22 - "*As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.*" Wow! God's Word really tells it

the way it is! A person without discretion is without honor. Man or woman, the principle is the same. In Gen. 41:33, we find a little insight into Joseph's character, which put him in a leadership role. Notice who gave him all this and how discretion was so important. "*Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.*" Gen. 41:39 - "*And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art.*"

When you are discreet, wise, and kind in your dealings with other people, you will reap the benefits throughout your lifetime, and others also will be blessed because of you. You will be the head and not the tail. Proverbs has a lot to say about discretion. You can look them all up in your spare time. (Proverbs 1:4, 2:11, 3:21, 5:2, 11:22, 19:11). Proverbs talks about discretion guiding you, preserving you, keeping you sound and wise. Discretion makes one slow to anger. Understanding will watch over you. Always keep in mind Proverb: 1:7, that "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*"

God's word teaches us how to live. Jesus taught us how to pray. The following is a very powerful prayer; the "Serenity Prayer" (in its entirety).

**GOD GRANT ME...**

Not my spouse, my kids or my friends

**THE SERENITY...**

Remaining unruffled in spite of it all

**TO ACCEPT...**

Not just endure, suffer and bear

**THE THINGS...**

As well as the people in my life



**I CANNOT CHANGE...**

Even though I've tried and tried

**THE COURAGE...**

Which can only come from you- Lord

**TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN...**

Particularly about myself

**AND THE WISDOM...**

This is your area too, Lord

**TO KNOW...**

Not just guess or hope

**THE DIFFERENCE!**

Between Your will and mine!

**NOW THAT'S DISCRETION!**

**TRAIT #5 – CHASTE**

Chaste: Innocent of unlawful sexual intercourse, virtuous, pure, pure in thought, modest, simple in design. Having or showing moral virtue. Virtue.....strength, conforming to a standard of right, morality, moral excellence, courage, a commendable quality, merit, chastity in a woman, a quality of a state of being chaste, sexual purity.

Proverbs 31:10 says, "*Who can find a virtuous woman?*" Isn't this pertinent in today's world? Every day the standards for morality are weakened and lowered to the point where we too can say with God "who can find a virtuous woman?" Those of us who have been washed in the blood of Christ and have been called to be "lights" to

the world must be vigilant to be moral and walk in a manner worthy of this calling. You've heard the story of the frog that was put in water, and the heat was turned up, and now it is to the boiling point. But the frog did not notice the gradual increase in heat all the time and was unaware of the danger. The world is in danger. Our loved ones are in danger. We are in danger!

We are told not to be of the world. But we are in the world. There's a big difference and a big responsibility! Are we not to teach others? How? We know as mothers, we are to teach our children. Even if we are not biological mothers, we find ourselves in the mother's role many times. But, we have the responsibility to teach others by our example with our lives. Unfortunately, we may be the only Bible they may ever read! It's a very tall order; we all fall short. It has been said, "I'd rather see a sermon any day than listen to one."

We have a few things to remember about being chaste. It involves sexual purity, morality and modesty. I think we get the point. A book called, Created to be His Help Meet by Debi Pearl, is very good reading especially if you are married. Married or single, we all relate as women. Though our situation may change, our purpose never really changes. The fact remains; WE ARE WOMEN and as a woman we think, act and identify with each other.

I Tim. 2:9-10 - *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."* What is propriety? Propriety is the standard of what is socially acceptable in conduct and speech of a polite society. This is also a comparison. The principle being; the inside beauty is of more importance than the outside beauty. This can be misleading. God is not saying he wants you to have no style of dress, fashion, quality clothes, nice jewelry or hair style. The point of the matter is it should not be used to judge how you measure up by how you dress up.

Image can be a very funny thing. Impressions can be very powerful. But, what you see isn't necessarily what you get. Think about it! It can and has been used in the reverse. A person can, by dressing extremely modest or drab, give the impression as to appear pious or religious. But, does that make them more righteous? No. Look around in the world and see how many of the religious leaders dress. It can be used as a cloak of righteousness and a sense of false humility. (A dress code that gives a pious impression and then lives an immoral lifestyle produces deception and leads to disaster).

Again, don't let the outside appearance gain the attention, but rather focus on the inside person which shows forth good fruit by your good works. This is not meant to stifle your own style, good appearance and dress. Being modest in your apparel is being careful not to intentionally attract public sexual interest (leave that for your own husband in your own private life). God does have dress standards. There is a proper way to dress and there is an improper way to dress. 1 Peter 3:3-5 *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel- rather let it be the hidden person of the heart with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.”* Did you notice the word *“merely outward”* in this scripture?

Men were created visual and women were created with feminine charm. God made it so and said “it was good.” It is also natural for a man to desire to give gifts, nice things and jewelry to their woman and it is natural for a woman to love them. As the bride of Christ, (male or female) does not God also desire to array us in beauty? It's all about the intent! Isaiah 3:16 - Here we see the wrong intent. (We don't want to be like this!) *“Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with outstretched necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they*

*go, making a jingling with their feet*" (arrogant and immoral intent) verse 18, "*In that day the Lord will take away the finery: the jingling anklets, the scarves, the crescents; the pendants, the bracelets, the veils, and the headdresses,*" etc. You get the picture. They thought they were really something! Arrogant, puffed up and seductive. They used their fancy apparel, with all the importance it made them feel, and adorned themselves for the purpose of evil. They forgot to be humble and thankful to God for all their blessings. God was not happy with them! They were *merely* interested in the *outward* appearance.

There have been issues about make-up in the church in the past, debated in the ministry. This was individual preference and should have been left as such. The same principle applies. It's all in the intent. Was it to beautify or seduce? It is the motive of the heart that is in question. Let God be the judge, not us. Our God looks on our heart. Whole churches have split up on this topic alone! Using make-up or not using make-up does not make one more or less righteousness than another. It is a matter of preference. Your style is simply your style. Proper attire and good hygiene not only show respect for you, but also for others.

Also discussed in churches in the past, was whether or not women should wear pants, especially to church services. It's not a major issue now, but many remember when it was quite the topic. Again, it is a matter of preference and culture. A lot of the reasoning behind it in the ministry had to do with the fact that a woman should be a woman and man a man. God's Word teaches that. But, in the scriptures, it really had to do with cross dressing and homosexuality which is condemned in the Bible in Deut. 22:5. Also, the Word teaches us that it is wrong for a woman (wife) to have the authority over the man in I Tim 2:12. Hence, the expression "who's wearing the pants?" The pants, in the past, was a male symbol in our culture. Today, nothing could be farther from the truth. The wearing of pants for females is not only acceptable in our culture today, but it can be a lot more modest than the

short skirts. We would not expect our men to dress in our culture today in a skirt or tunic, which was perfectly acceptable in other cultures in the past. So, let us just leave that judgment of intent to God and let the women be feminine and the men be masculine and be thankful for the difference. These are big issues of small significance in churches.

BE CHASTE so that the Word of God be not blasphemed. Remember, it is about sexual purity, morality and modesty. Live in the beauty!

### **TRAIT #6 – KEEPERS AT HOME**

KEEPERS: Being on guard, watching, and a caretaker.

HOME: Seat of domestic life

How important is this? For a mother to leave her commanded post even though the need of another seems greater, the Word of God will be blasphemed. Strong words! Why is that? Don't you realize what can happen to children in no time at all without a watchful eye of a loving, responsible adult? Yes, and it is even more important for young women today. Now, more than ever, it is so important to WATCH over their family. The wickedness in the world is alarming. Precious is the oversight of our small children under the care of a "keeper at home." A young mother's place is in the home, keeping it, guarding it, and watching over those entrusted to her.

There are pressures of our modern day life and sometimes the necessity for a second paycheck. The rising cost of living, taxation and just about everything is overwhelming. God understands it all. He will make a way when there seems to be no way. The protection of the children against the onslaught of evil in this world is REAL. If you need to work, you may be able to stay at home and be creative in some kind of work that will provide extra income. Maybe even the children can participate in some way that will help you bring in that extra income. Some cut backs on expenses to stretch your husband's income

more can help, or you may be able to save money on unnecessary expenses. Be creative! Anything that you can do to allow you to be a “keeper at home” will be important. There are many books and ideas on this topic alone as a resource. It will also help to talk with other women of like mind too.

It won't be very long before the children are in school and things will settle down. You will have more time then. The value of child rearing is priceless. Do you realize how much it would cost to replace a mother at home? More than you could ever imagine or make working outside of the home. Your attitude will be important also; to be frugal and content. Of course, if a mother has to work outside the home, it will be important to make sure that she and her husband remain watchful and choose the right person to take care of the children. Someone who will take their place keeping their family loved, protected and cared for and be able to truly replace you. Sometimes parents have to juggle their time and trade off time, but it can be done. Always be sure that the children are in good hands.

I Tim 5:14 Talks about young widows, however, the principle applies to women in general. *“I would therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”* What does that mean to speak reproachfully? To be known as a neglectful mother and wife is a reproach. How will others think of you? How could this woman claim to know God? What kind of example is she teaching to her children? What does her husband think of her? How can she be taken seriously or viewed in a positive light? You can answer those questions yourself. Satan has a field day with all of this. Remember the word blasphemed in Titus 2:5 is pretty strong language. To be a reproach and to blaspheme the Word of God is not something to taken lightly.

We are admonished “not to be idle, wandering about from house to house, or to be busybodies.” Being industrious and productive is the

opposite of idle. There is so much to do to maintain a home. It is not proper to loaf around and do nothing but watch TV, play on the computer, or just find your own entertainment while the home is being neglected. Visiting others is a good thing, especially in a wholesome environment. It can be uplifting, refreshing, encouraging, and a blessing for you and others, as long as you do not wear out your welcome. We are talking about the spirit of laziness, getting involved in other people's business where you don't belong and being known as a troublemaker. Your time should be spent being helpful, not hurtful. You cannot keep your home and keep everyone else's home too. Just staying at home does not make you a keeper of the home. You can sit at home in body while traveling in spirit by means of the telephone or the computer. There is a negative and positive side to this, depending on the spirit of intent. Of course, there is a time for rest, relaxation and enjoyment of activities. The whole idea is about proper balance. Women can get very overwhelmed maintaining the home and can feel like their job is never ending. It will be very important for you to get your proper rest and play time in too. Keeping the home is more than staying at home; it is a heart that is fixed on the home. If the man is the head of the home, then the woman is the heart of the home. Matthew 6:21 says, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" Do you treasure your husband, your children and your home?

Let's not forget hospitality. 1Peter 4:9 it says to "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*" Hospitality is wonderful thing. It makes you feel wanted and loved. It makes the giver feel good and the receiver feel good too. What better place to be hospitable than home with your family and your friends.

It's time to get serious with God. Women have an important role to play. Our family and our home is our priority!

## **TRAIT #7 - GOOD**

What is good? Mark 10:17-18 says, “*And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, why do you call me GOOD? There is none good but one that is, God.*” Yet the Bible is loaded with scriptures that address the difference between GOOD and evil from the very beginning. We know we begin with the keeping of the commandments and then move on to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. But, let’s get back to our topic of a GOOD woman. A GOOD woman is genuine, joyful, virtuous, valuable, competent, ready, kind, benevolent, merciful, hard-working, agreeable, pleasant, congenial, honorable, faithful, gracious, and wise. Wow! That’s a big order!

Make yourself a promise to read Proverbs 31 all about the traits of a GOOD woman. Make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and take some quiet time and read, analyze and study this Proverb. There is so much wisdom in that Proverb to think on. Verse 10 says, “*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.*”

Proverbs 19:14 – “*...a prudent wife is from the LORD.*” And Proverbs 12:4 - “*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that makes ashamed is as rottenness to his bones.*” Let us be mindful to be the kind of woman that God approves of and the kind of woman that would bring honor to our husband for the days we are living in are evil. Galatians 5:22 - “*but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, GOODNESS, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.*” Notice GOODNESS is one of the fruits of the Spirit. So, a “help mate,” helps!

In Debi Pearl’s book, Created To Be His Help Meet, Ms. Pearl gives the ABC’s of being a help.

Calling all Christian Women! The world is a stage and the world is



watching you. But even more important- GOD IS WATCHING! Who among us would want to be told that we were guilty of blaspheming the Word of God! So let us always be mindful.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A- Admit when you are wrong                    | N- Never hold grudges                      |
| B- Be positive                                 | O- Open your eyes in the morning and smile |
| C- Cuddle                                      | P- Pray for him                            |
| D- Do it his way                               | Q- Quit nagging him                        |
| E- Encourage him                               | R- Reminisce about good times              |
| F- Fix his breakfast                           | S- Show respect and honor                  |
| G- Give back rubs                              | T- Trust, and earn his trust               |
| H- Hug often                                   | U- Understand his need for reverence       |
| I "I love you" should be said many times daily | W- Wink at him                             |
| J- Joke around in a playful manner             | X- X is for private times                  |
| K- Know his needs                              | Y- Yearn to please him                     |
| L- Listen to him                               | Z- Zealously guard him with your love      |
| M- Manage your home well                       |  |

## **TRAIT #8 - OBEDIENT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS**

Okay, now tell me that doesn't give you a bit of anxiety? We're independent women, right? We have good instincts and know pretty much what to do. Being obedient to your own husband can be quite a challenge. Don't you think? Many situations will arise in a married relationship such as those over kids, money, time, work, extended families, schedules, religion, politics, social situations, etc. You name it. The list is endless. Did God really mean this? We cannot possibly agree on everything.

CAUTION: THIS DOES NOT MEAN BLIND OBEDIENCE INVOLVING ILLEGAL, IMMORAL OR ABUSIVE ACTS IN A MARRIAGE. WE HAVE CIVIL LAWS THAT PROTECT AGAINST THIS AND ALSO THE LAWS OF GOD THAT CONDEMN UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR. WE MUST ANSWER TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY.

That being said, let's continue. 1Cor. 11:3 - "*But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman (wife) is man, and the head of Christ is God.*" Does that mean any man? No, only to your own husband. There is no man, pastor or minister higher than your husband. It is easy to follow a man who is following Christ because the head of the husband is Christ. Unfortunately, that is just not the case for all marriages, whether they are inside or outside the church. Quite honestly, I can remember thinking during my many years in the church, after encountering some of the behaviors of the men that I was glad I was married to an "unsaved man!" I think you know what I mean and you get the picture.

There are some husbands that can be overbearing, overpowering and disrespectful. That's too bad. The Bible has something to say about this too. I know it is hard to honor a man who does not seem to deserve such honor. But, sometimes the goodness of a good wife can

lead him to repentance. - 1Cor.7:10-16- *“and the woman who has a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, for what knowest thou O wife, whether you shall save your husband?”* Tough to do, but it can be done. Since God is in control, He may be doing a great work through you. God is in the business of changing hearts, and if it is not meant to be, He will make a way.

God commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church. God also has something to say about men not treating their wives right. Malachi 2: *“Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, which whom you have dealt treacherously: yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”* God will not be mocked. Have faith if you are in a bad situation.

If a husband is submitting to the Lord who delegated this authority, then the wife’s submission in recognizing that authority is, in reality, submitting to God. He is her divinely appointed head. Eph. 5:33 - *“Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she RESPECTS her husband.”*

Also, in Eph. 5:22:-24 *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.....so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”* What? Everything? That can be a bit unsettling. Let’s talk a little about that. Does that mean you do not have your own opinion, your own identity, your own personality, and your own unique style and everything else about you that makes you different? No, not at all! What God is saying has to do with function and respect; for we are equal partners in salvation. God is not a respecter of persons. Acting as one and being a team player in our marriage and recognizing that God has made the husband the head of the household, should not be a problem. We know that even in the world, corporations and organizations have presidents and heads of office. We were created to be his (husband) help mate. Will that always seem fair or be fair? No! But in submitting

to Christ, we will submit to our own husbands and God will honor and listen to our prayers. Now that's important!

The Bible tells us not to be unevenly yoked with unbelievers. That same principle would apply in sharing your life with a man who does not have your core values and who could be very detrimental to your overall mental, emotional and physical well being. So be very careful who you marry. There is a difference between a good man who does a few bad things and a bad man who does a few good things. Again, if you think marriage can be hard, try divorce. The devil laughs and the children cry. With the help of God and two people pulling in the same direction, God can create a heavenly marriage for you.

### **TRAIT #9 - THAT THE WORD OF GOD BE NOT BLASPHEMED**

**BLASPHEME** – Means to speak of or address with irreverence. Blasphemy means the act of expressing lack of reverence for God or irreverence towards something considered sacred.

Your marriage is sacred and God has instructed in Titus 2:4-5 how He wants his daughters who are married to behave and be an example for the unmarried. Are you acting sober? Do you love your husband? Do you love your children? Are you discreet? Are you chaste? Are you a keeper of the home? Good? Are you obedient to your own husband? This is a serious matter when it comes to the Word of God. Why did the Apostle Paul say that if you don't do these things, you are in danger of blaspheming the Word of God?

Again, a wife does not owe her husband blind obedience involving illegal, immoral or abusive acts. God condemns unacceptable behavior; we also have civil laws that protect us, whether you are a woman or a man. This is NOT what we are talking about here. Also, in Mark 3:29 it mentions about blaspheming against the Holy Spirit and the serious

consequences of that. This also, is NOT what we are talking about here. What we are talking about is the eight behaviors spoken about in Titus 2:4-5 that God looks very seriously on regarding your behavior as a married woman.

Let's take each topic and give an example of how the destructive force of the opposite behavior can affect not only your home, family and relationship with your husband, but mostly your relationship with God and His Word.

### **EIGHT BEHAVIORS DESCRIBED IN TITUS 2:4-5**

**1. SOBER** – Means to do one's duty, to be moderate, self-controlled, thoughtful, and to learn to make wise decisions and judgments; also not given too much wine.

***Bad Example:*** A young wife is tired of the chores and the minding of the small children, so she decides to have a little fun tonight. Her husband is working late again. She leaves her children sleeping alone and then slips out of the house to have a few drinks at a local bar. She has done this many times before when he worked late and it never was a problem before. The kids usually sleep through the night. Unfortunately, this time she had way too much to drink at the bar! You fill in the rest of the story and use your imagination of what could happen. Blasphemy?

**2. LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS** - Love is a strong affection, warm attachment, attraction based on sexual desire, a beloved person, unselfish loyal concern for others, to cherish, to feel passion, devotion, tenderness, to caress or to take pleasure in.

***Bad Example:*** She just loves the way her neighbor's husband treats

his wife. He appears to be just so kind. She starts fantasizing what it would be like to win his affection. She flirts with him when her husband is working and when the neighbor's wife is away. They have an affair. Now, she has distanced herself from her own husband, and is indifferent towards him and speaks to him with hostility. She has every excuse for not wanting to be intimate with him or satisfying any of his other needs in any way. She has no respect for her husband at all. She has a long list of excuses. Blasphemy?

**3. LOVE THEIR CHILDREN** – A good mother soberly considers the needs of her children before her own interests. She provides comfort for their daily necessities, their happiness and their health. She invests her time in training them how to do many things and teaches them to be considerate of others. She also teaches them the ways of God.

***Bad Example:*** It was so nice before the kids were born. With three little ones to care for now, it just seems like there is no time for her. She remembers her single life and how simple it was then and how she had all the time to do whatever she wanted, whenever she wanted. Spoiled maybe, but she longed for those days. She becomes angry with her children for stealing her time and energy. A close girlfriend who is single and lives in another state understands her feelings and encourages her to come live with her. She leaves her home and children and goes to look for greener grass. After all, the children have a good father. She feels he did not put in the time with the children like she had to when they were young, and he never realized all that she had done.

Her husband was always working and it's time for him to see what she has had to put up with all these years. She thinks that the kids can fend for themselves now. Everyone else can pick up the pieces too, including her mother in law who doesn't have to work anyway. She

is going; she has had it. It's her time now she thinks.

What do you think the consequence for that behavior will be for the children? Think about it. Not uncommon today! Blasphemy?

**4. DISCREET** – Means to show good judgment, capable of observing prudent silence, cautious, and sensible.

**Bad Example:** Harry was always telling Sally he used to like it when she wore silky nightgowns to bed instead of the flannel ones she uses now after 10 years of marriage. It seemed like such a small request, but she just thought it was just asking too much of her.

Sally and Harry fought a lot about many things, but this last argument this morning was pretty serious. Sally decided that she was going to make it better so she bought some cute bedtime wear. She found a little red “hot number” at Victoria’s Secret. She thought it looked great on her and she knew Harry would definitely like it. She had an idea! That night when Harry came home from work, she would serve him dinner in her new red attire, heels and all. What a surprise for him! Just before dinner, Harry called home to ask if she would mind if he took Jim home with him for dinner. Jim was the minister at his local church where he attended alone because Sally never wanted to go with him. She told him it would be fine and that there was plenty of food. She thought her husband’s minister would get a kick out of this too; after all he is a guy! Can you picture the scene? Blasphemy?

**5. CHASTE** – Means innocent of unlawful sexual intercourse, virtuous, pure, modest, simple in design, and moral virtue.

**Bad Example:** She was always reading Cosmopolitan magazine in her spare time. There was an article about wife swapping that really

intrigued her. She would have to convince her husband to try it. It would be good to “spice it up a bit” according to the article. She also met some new friends at the gym that talked about this topic and she joined in the conversation. They invited her to join their inner circle. It just seemed so exciting! It really didn’t take too much convincing for her husband to try it. They both understood that this would only be a game of fun and pleasure and that it had nothing to do with their love for each other.

The next week it was all set. However, she needed a babysitter for her two young girls who were 10 and 11 years old. Her usual babysitter was unavailable; one of her new friends at the gym suggested that they could use her young teenage son who was around 14 years old. Everything was all set to go. Think of all the things that could go wrong here with their marriage, their children and their home. Blasphemy?

**6. KEEPERS AT HOME** – It means to be on guard, to watch and take care of the home.

*Bad Example:* The house was unkempt; the dishes were piled high in the sink. There was not much food in the cupboards either, let alone something in the refrigerator to make a quick sandwich, or anything for that matter. The laundry was piled high near the washer. The kids and her husband knew how to use a washer. Even though he had to go to work every day and the children had to go to school, she thought they could still fit that into their schedule too.

Nancy just felt that she wasn’t put on this earth to serve anyone. Besides, she had to take care of her body too. She wasn’t getting any younger. She didn’t want to work outside of the home either. After she got up late, her usual routine was to go to the gym and then go out for coffee with some of her friends.

There were always so many appointments for her to keep, like her hair,



her nails, her shopping, whatever she had to do for herself. After all, everyone should be taking care of themselves, including her husband and her children. The home was just a pit stop to her. She usually got home after dinner and watched some movies or went out again with her friends. That was her typical day, except for the weekends when she really slept late. Friday and Saturday nights were late nights because she liked to drink and go to nightclubs alone. Blasphemy?

**7. GOOD** – Means the opposite of evil. A good woman is genuine, joyful, virtuous, valuable, competent, ready, kind, benevolent, merciful, hardworking, agreeable, pleasant, congenial, honorable, faithful, gracious, and wise.

***Bad Example:*** Mary had a next door neighbor who was very old and lived in the house right next to her. She never saw family or visitors coming to the home and just assumed that her neighbor was all right. One day at the store, someone from her neighborhood mentioned that the lady next door to her was very sick and probably could use a little help. Mary went over to see what was going on. She found a very old feeble woman near death who did not have children or family. She was a widow of many years and had been very independent in the past.

Mary had a plan. She would help and befriend her and then she believed she would be able to convince the widow to give her house to her for her kindness. Mary hoped that the woman would not live too long and that she would have enough time to make her plan work. No one knew what she was doing, except God! Everyone thought she was so good to help her. Blasphemy?

**8. OBEDIENT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS** - Obedient means submissive to the restraint or command of authority.

***Bad Example:*** Sometimes at bingo with her friends, Sue would get carried away and try to play up to six cards of bingo at one time. It was hard for her not to do that. She just loved to win! Her husband was getting a little frustrated with her because all she seemed to want to do is go to the bingo games. If she could do that every night, she would. He told her that enough was enough, and that he wanted her to stop this behavior. “It only leads to something worse,” he explained. He saw the way she used to like to play cards before and she always wanted to play for money. There was always an argument about it in the past and it was a sore spot with friends too.

Card playing was no longer fun. It always ended in hurt feelings or problems between their friends over money. Her husband always kept telling her she had a possible addictive personality and that she should not be getting herself in a situation that was similar to gambling.

One night she said she was going to visit a sick friend and would be late. Instead, she went to a local casino and had a ball! The problem was that she took her credit card and went overboard. She lost big time and would have to face her husband. This would mean a financial hardship for the family. Blasphemy?

All of the above are bad examples and possible blasphemy against the Word of God. If the world does these things it is still against the Word of God, but when a Christian woman does these things, it is blasphemy!

And so let us look to the good examples like that of Mary, the mother of Jesus and that of Sarah, the wife of Abraham. May our Heavenly Father, richly bless your marriages and your families.





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