



Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women
The Ministry of Womanhood Series

Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.

The Ministry of Making A Home

On May 10, 1998, I received a book entitled, "Home Is Where The Heart Is" from my husband as a Mother's Day gift. Inside the front cover, he wrote a special note to me that went like this:

May 10th, 1998

To My Wife,

You are in a class all by yourself when it comes to being a Mother. On this Mother's Day, I wanted to pause a moment and give you this book that describes you so well! Home is where your heart is and I thank God you have followed His leading and calling for your life. My children are blessed and many other Mothers by your example.

*I Love You,
Happy Mother's Day
David*

When I received this gift, I was very encouraged. I was encouraged because, by God's grace, I had been able to communicate to "my world" around me, that I wanted to serve the Lord by committing myself to the making of my home.

Today I am going to teach you about what the Bible has to say about the ministry of making a home, but I am also going to try and convince you of the importance of you committing yourself to the ministry of serving God in this area. I don't think there is a more important thing for a married woman to do with her life or a greater way that she can bring honor and glory to the Word of God than to obey Him in this area of becom-





ing a full-time keeper of her home.

I want to talk to you about three things today:

- ◆ The Importance of Homemaking
- ◆ The Two Essentials of Developing a Healthy Home
- ◆ Becoming a Keeper At Home

The foundation for my thoughts of each of these are found in the many passages found in the Bible on women, home, and homemaking. Before I begin teaching you today, I would like to share with you a few of them: Psalm 113:9; Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 31:27-28; I Timothy 5:14; and Titus 2:3-5. I would also love to show you the testimonies of biblical women like Sarah, the Shunamite Woman, Mary & Martha, Mary, the mother of Jesus & Elisabeth to name a few, but we don't have the time for me to do that. I do pray that you will give me the full attention of your heart so that I can convince you of the incredible opportunity that God is giving us in this ministry of making a home.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME

- 1. Home is the foundation of civilization.**
 - a. Laws are established and reinforced in the home
 - b. Character is trained and nurtured in the home
 - c. Vision and purpose for the future is established in the home
- 2. Home is a picture of Heaven on earth.**
 - a. The reality of God is seen through the love and authority of the home
 - b. The peace of God is seen through the order and respect in the home
 - c. The beauty of God is seen through the furnishings and amusements of the home
- 3. Home is the place where personal needs are meant to be met.**
 - a. Security is gained when physical needs are taken care of
 - b. Happiness is gained when emotional needs are fulfilled
 - c. Holiness is gained when spiritual needs are addressed
 - d. Friendliness is gained when social needs are met

TWO ESSENTIALS OF DEVELOPING A HEALTHY HOME

- 1. A Godly Home-Life**
 - a. Proper conversation
 - b. Proper influence
 - c. Proper work ethic
 - d. Proper entertainment
- 2. A Godly Home-Spirit**
 - a. A spirit of love & acceptance
 - b. A spirit of peace that comes from contentment
 - c. A spirit of rest that comes from order

**Thoughts from the book
"Homemaking" by J. R. Miller**

"The true home has a peace that is not broken by earth's tempests. Its love is a fountain of blessing that does not waste in summer weather, and its happiness and blessing in household life are simply incalculable. All that is needed is that each member faithfully do his own part."

"It is not so much strict fidelity in teaching and training that is powerful in our homes for holy impression as it is the home-life itself. It is necessary that the whole home-life and home-spirit should be harmony with the teaching and training, if these are to make holy impressions. Simple goodness is more important than the finest theories of home government most thoroughly and faithfully carried out. There is nothing in the daily routine of the family life that is unimportant."

"Few things are more important in a home than its conversation. It can impart knowledge; utter words that will shine like lamps in darkened hearts; speak kindly sentences that will comfort sorrow or cheer despondency, breathe out thoughts that will arouse and quicken heedless souls; even whisper the secret of life-giving energy to spirits that are dead."

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



- d. A spirit of security that comes from respect for authority

BECOMING A KEEPER AT HOME

1. Understand the Importance of God's Call on Your Life

- a. All married women are called by God to be keepers at home
- b. Being a keeper at home is a full-time job and ministry for God
- c. Every wise woman spends her time building her home

2. Become Familiar with the Full Meaning of the Phrase "Keeper at Home" that is Found in Titus 2:5

- a. Domestically Inclined
- b. Stayer-At-Home
- c. Guard

3. Realize the Danger of NOT Committing Yourself to this High Calling of Homemaking

- a. Broken marriages
- b. Wayward children
- c. Reprobate society
- d. Ineffective churches
- e. Blasphemy of God's Word
- f. Lost rewards in Heaven

4. Commit Yourself to the Ministry of Making YOUR Home

- a. Embrace the privilege of making a difference for God in this world
- b. Commit yourself to obeying God's Word for your life
- c. Resist the temptation to want to live for your own gain
- d. Look forward to the praise and rewards that will come from your friends & family members

This has been an 'around the world' look at the ministry of making a home. It is such an important thing for us to do, and yet, in our day and age, it is the most neglected thing that is done.

For the next three weeks, I will be showing you how to be successful in this ministry of making a home, as I teach you how to create a home that is a haven of rest for your family, a place filled with beauty, and one that will be a well-spring

More thoughts from the book "Homemaking" by J. R. Miller

The good wife is a good housekeeper. One of the first thing that a young husband discovers is the relation between housekeeping and wedded happiness. In other words, good breakfasts, dinners, and suppers, a well-kept house, order, system, promptness, punctuality, good cheer ~ far more than any young lovers dream, is dependent upon such common place things as these. Bad housekeeping will soon drive the last vestige of romance out of any home."

"It should be understood that the first duty of every wife is the making and keeping of her own home. She must look upon her home as the one spot on earth for which she alone is responsible, and which she must cultivate well for God if she never does anything outside.

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A Ministry Worth Standing Up For

During my husband's sophomore year of Bible College, someone from the college staff wrote a letter to me offering me a job.

When I received the letter, I was very flattered. I know that Hyles-Anderson College is a place of high standards and that it is quite a privilege to have the opportunity to work there. I also knew that before they even offered me a job there, that my testimony had to be screened and my name approved by the Pastor of the church, who at that time, was the great Dr. Jack Hyles himself.

Before I tell you whether I took the job or not, I want to explain to you about the state of our affairs at the time of this job offer. I was a mother of two high school children that knew how to drive, a wife of a man that worked two jobs because we had so many financial demands at that time, and a keeper of a home that hardly ever got messed up. It was one of those rare times in our lives when we needed extra money and I could have easily been the one to help provide it.

But when I asked my husband if I should take it, he said no. Oh, it wasn't that he probably wasn't tempted to say yes ~ he knew we could use the extra money and he knew that it was an honor for me to be asked to serve at the college. But when he made his decision, he didn't base it on these two factors, what he based it upon was our testimony according to God's Word.

"Don't you think working at the college would be a compromise of our testimony Julie?" he said to me at that time, "And don't you think that if God called you to be a keeper at home that we would be disobeying Him by sending you outside of the home to work?"

"Yes, I do," I told him in response, "It's just I see you working so hard and I want to do whatever I can to help make things easier for you."

I will always remember how he responded to me on that day . . .



Home Is Where My Heart Is

"I don't need you to make my life easier for me. I was made to work hard and provide for the financial needs for this family. The best thing that you can do for me is to love me and support me by taking care of the girls and making sure that everything runs smoothly for us in this home. And the best way that we can prepare ourselves to be faithful servants in the ministry someday is for us to work hard at being obedient Christians in our daily lives today."

The next day when I called to tell the man at the college who offered me a job that I wouldn't be able to take the job, he wanted to know why. He couldn't believe that I was turning down this great privilege and opportunity, and he wanted to make sure that I wasn't making a serious mistake. When I told him about the fact that my husband said that I already have a job as wife, mother, and homemaker, he told me that he appreciated our willingness to obey God in this area and stand for what He has called me to do.

When I got off the telephone with him, I thanked God that he gave me the kind of husband that wanted us to stand for what God says to do, rather than give in to what might be more helpful for us at that time. It caused my respect for my husband to grow and my confidence in his Christian testimony to deepen.

Dear friend, if God has given you a husband that is **man enough** to allow you to obey God in the area of being a keeper at home, be **woman enough** to embrace it. Don't complain about having to be home, don't gripe about not having enough money, and don't look for something else to do. Just be glad for the opportunity to do something that brings glory and honor to God, and a good name for the testimony of yourself and your husband.

**"Every wise woman buildeth her house:
but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."**

Proverbs 14:1