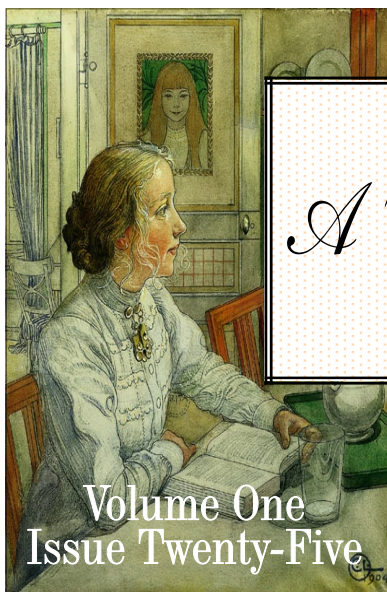


Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women

A Woman & Her Walk With God Series

Encouraging Women to Walk With God on the Brighter Side of Life



Making Time for Children, Church Service and Community Work

Greetings Ladies! It has been a couple of weeks since we have been together, and I have missed you! I pray that you have enjoyed your weeks and that the Lord has allowed you to use this time to organize yourself into some kind of a workable routine.

In Ephesians 5:15-17, God tells us to **“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”** How we spend our time each day is a big deal with God BECAUSE He knows that evil will overtake our lives if we are not carefully to spend our time wisely.

Today we are going to talk about three areas of responsibility that God wants us to spend our time wisely taking care of. I pray that this practical lesson will be of much help and encouragement to you.

We have already talked about the fact that as a Christian woman, that God is supposed to be a part of EVERYTHING that we do. His influence isn't just limited to the time we spend in our personal devotions or church attendance. God is the foundation and the guiding light for the way that we take care of everything that we need to do each day.

After we understand that, we know that God wants all of us to biblically take care of ourselves (through personal devotions, prayer, grooming, friendships, eating right, exercising, reading, resting, etc.). We also learned the last time that we were together, that if we are married women, the next thing we must do is spend time biblically caring for the needs of our husbands and homes.

Now that we have that down pat, we must talk about prioritizing the “rest” of the things that God has called us to take care of in our lives, and these things are: Children, Church Work, and Community Service.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN

The Bible tells us in Psalm 127:3-4 that, **“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”** In the eyes of God, the opportunity to bear children and raise them up is a pretty important thing. As a matter of fact, it is so important, that Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4 tells us exactly how God wants us to do it! **“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”** Proverbs 22:6 **“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”** Ephesians 6:4

*The Ladies of Grace Bible Studies for Women are written by Mrs. Julie Fink as a ministry of the
Grace Baptist Church, 501 N. State St., Lockport, IL 60441, David M. Fink, Pastor.
If you are interested in contacting Julie, you may write her at the church, or e-mail her at: ladiesofgrace@cleaninter.net*

A Woman & Her Walk With God Series

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SERVING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

One of the most important things you do for the Lord and for the good of raising your children, is to serve the Lord in your local church. Now the type of things that you will be able to do will vary according to the ages of your children and the number of children that you have. But EVERY Christian woman should be serving the Lord in her local church, and it should be something that takes priority over the work she does outside of her home and for the community.

The Bible says in Psalm 100:2-4, “*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are the his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*” I think many Christian women need to be reminded of the truth of these verses. What truth is that? That serving the Lord is a glorious thing and being in church and helping His work to prosper is a wonderful investment of your time.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

In our day and age, there is a great effort to push a woman out of her home, away from her church, and into the secular work force. Many Christian women today spend much of their day working outside of their home while someone else takes care of their husband, home and children. And as diligent students of God’s Word, we have to ask ourselves, “Is this biblical?” Is this a right thing to do?

Some look to Deborah the Judge and the Proverbs 31 woman as their example, saying that Deborah was called by God to be a leader and the Proverbs 31 woman bought and sold land (making her some sort of a real estate agent). But the truth of that matter is, that God NOWHERE in His Word advocates a woman leaving the responsibilities of caring for her husband, home and children to pursue a work or a career outside of the home for herself. Now, having said all that, I will say this, that as a woman grows older and her children grow up, her husband passes away, and/or there is not much for her to do at home, that God DOES have some work that He would want her to do as an Ambassador for Him in her community:

1. Take care of the poor (Proverbs 31:20; Dorcas in Acts 9:36-39)
2. Help her husband with his business (Proverbs 31:16; 23-24)
3. Teaching the truths of God to other women (Titus 2:3-5)

Community work is a wonderful thing as long as you keep it within the context of Christian service. You see ladies, God NEVER meant for married ladies to work outside of our homes in the world for the purpose of establishing a career, making money, or personal fulfillment. It is our men that are supposed to be building the careers, making the money and finding personal fulfillment from their jobs, because that is exactly what God created them for. **Men were made for work and women were made to care for the needs of men while they worked.**

What about me and the fact that I DO work outside of my home??? Well, if you are a single woman, make sure you are using your time and talents to help a godly man excel at his business. And if you are a married woman, and your husband has told you that you must do this, do it unto the Lord as a help to your husband. But if you are a married woman, and you are working outside of your home because of your own independent heart: quit your job and go back home to work.

On the following page, I have given you a visual diagram and some ideas and suggestions about how all of this looks during the different stages of your life. I hope it helps!

SINGLE WOMAN WITH NO CHILDREN

SELF

JOB

HOUSEWORK

CHURCH

COMMUNITY

WORK

SINGLE WOMAN WITH CHILDREN AT HOME

SELF

HOUSEWORK

**CHURCH
WORK**

JOB

CHILDREN

SINGLE WOMAN WITH GROWN CHILDREN

SELF

JOB

CHILDREN

CHURCH

WORK

HOUSEWORK

MARRIED WOMAN WITH SMALL CHILDREN

SELF **HUSBAND**
CHILDREN **CHURCH WORK**
HOUSEWORK

MARRIED WOMAN WITH OLDER CHILDREN

SELF **HUSBAND**
CHILDREN **HOUSEWORK**
CHURCH WORK

MARRIED WOMAN WITH GROWN CHILDREN

HOUSEWORK **HUSBAND**
SELF **CHURCH WORK**
COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARRIED WOMAN WITH NO CHILDREN

HOUSEWORK **HUSBAND**
SELF **CHURCH WORK**
JOB **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

WIDOWED WOMAN WITH CHILDREN AT HOME

HOUSEWORK **JOB**
SELF **CHURCH**
WORK

WIDOWED WOMAN WITH GROWN CHILDREN

HOUSEWORK **CHURCH**
SELF **WORK**
JOB **COMMUNITY SERVICE**
CHILDREN