
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What does the Bible say about stay-at-home moms?**

This study is not about stay-at-home women. Not all women need to stay-at-home.

- Suppose a woman is not married and has no family. Is she to simply stay-at-home and starve to death? No. A single woman who has no income needs to get a legitimate job and earn a living.

Neither is this study about all moms. Not all mothers have the option of staying home with their children.

- Suppose a woman's husband dies or divorces her against her will. In this case a woman, who is a mother, would be all alone with no income. She must do something to feed herself and her children.

Rather, this study is about the home as God would have it. God's intention was for a man to marry a woman and that they stay married for life (Mt 19:4-6). In this home with both a father and mother, God intended that children would be born and those children reared by both the father and mother (Eph 6:1-2). The mother and father's primary obligation is to their children. These children should be the primary focus of the mother and father's attention and concern.

The scriptures record the following:

Titus 2:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
- 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
- 4 That they may **teach the young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,
- 5 To be discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

You will notice this comes from the Book of Titus. This was written by the apostle Paul to a young preacher named Titus. In this passage the apostle Paul is instructing Titus about what he should teach the members of the Lord's church. These things are called "*sound doctrine*" in verse 1. What is the sound doctrine which the church members are to be taught.

First, notice in verse 4 that the young women are to be taught to "*love their husbands.*" This is a verb in the original Greek. A verb, of course, describes actions, not feelings. The young women are not to be taught how to "*feel*" toward their husbands, but the young women are to be taught how to "*act*" loving toward their husbands. Bible love is a verb that expresses itself in action – even when a person doesn't feel like doing it.

To illustrate, sometimes when my children were babies, my wife didn't feel like getting up at two o'clock to feed them and change their diapers. Yet, even though she didn't feel like doing this, she did it anyway. Why? Because she loved her babies and Bible love expresses itself in action, not in feelings. (Read James 2:14-17 for more information about this.)

Second, notice in verses 4-5 that the younger women are to be taught to love their children and to be keepers at home. My friend, if a woman has no intentions of staying home with her children to rear them up and guide them, she needs to think again about having a child to begin with. As noted earlier, I am not speaking about a woman whose husband has died or a woman whose husband had divorced her against her will. Women in such cases have no control over such circumstances. I'm speaking of women who have no intention whatsoever, in the very beginning, to stay home and care for the children which they bring into this world. The problem in American society is that children are being reared by day-care centers and baby sitters who don't care about the welfare of those children. In the mean time, mothers of these children are out five to six days a week working at careers and when they come home at night, they are too tired to bother much with children.

Listen to me again my friend. If a mother has no intention to stay home and guide her children, if her intentions are to have a career, she doesn't need to have children in the first place. When mothers argue, "*I have to work to help provide for my family,*" many times, if the truth is known, the mothers and fathers are trying to live lifestyles above and beyond their means and mothers are working to keep up a higher lifestyle standard. Listen, it is better to live on less and see that children are reared to know the Lord, than to have all the things money can buy and see the children grow up with no respect for authority and no belief in God.

Should moms stay home with their children? Listen again:

Titus 2:4-5

4 [Older women are to] admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 to be discreet, chaste, **homemakers**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

According to this passage the priorities of wives and mothers involve their husbands and children. Their priorities are not to be the best houses or furnishings for the house. Their priorities are not to be the best clothes. Many mothers are working so they can eat out at restaurants, have nice clothes, nice cars, nice houses. It's time people started taking the Bible seriously. It's past time for mothers and fathers to take their wedding vows seriously. Mothers and fathers need to stay faithful and committed to each other. They need to learn how to live on less. The father needs to learn how to get busy and earn a living (1 Tim 5:8). The mother, if at all possible, needs to stay home and keep the house and rear the children. The father needs to train his children up to know the Lord and take them to church and see to their spiritual needs (Eph. 6:4). Until we take child rearing and marriage seriously, we will continue to see crime and terrorism increase. If couples do not plan to stay committed to one another, if they do not plan to honor their wedding vows, and if they do not plan to rear their own children and teach their own children moral and spiritual values, then that couple does not need to bring children into this world. We have enough children rearing themselves without parental involvement to continue the cycle on any further.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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