

Shalom beloved,

I want to share a word with you today, a word that might just offend you, if your primary values are current American ones. It might just tick you off too, if you pride yourself on being contemporary, and view everyone else as primitive. It's a word about how a good Christian wife can fulfill and even enrich her role as a homemaker. I don't give it to you only to help those women or families who need a little advice, but give it especially for those many Christians who believe it's impossible to fulfill this role today, or worse yet, that the Christian wife shouldn't. I want to let you know how possible it is today, even on the financial level, as well as go over the amazingly important work that homemakers do, up to and including in their older years. This job is God's gift to the Christian family. It is our Lord, through His little daughters, blessing the Christian community. And it is most urgently for right now.

The first and most obvious work of the homemaker is with children. Women bear and raise the children according to scripture and nature's law. This was accepted for many centuries by believers, albeit with a few exceptions. How it is possible to ask what valuable work a homemaker can do today, while ignoring this obviously valuable and time-consuming work, I do not know. Just ask any woman who has raised or home educated children how much free time she has and I think you can guess the answer. Not only that, but being raised by a family member, and educated by a Christian mother, sounds leaps and bounds above the alternative, which usually is sending children off to someone else to care for and educate. In fact, when believers look around and are shocked at what their children believe and adopt as lifestyles, why are they surprised when it was they who turned them over to secular education and culture to begin with? As little Messiah's in a sacred community, we must at least do our best to train up our children. Having the mother raise and educate children in the faith is far better than subletting that work to someone else. It's true that with many different jobs to do, a homemaker may need to ask for help here and there. Of course. And generally, that's what family is for. And community. Yet simply subletting out the work does not amount to asking for help. It amounts to abandoning the job.

Children who are taught at home do better academically, on average, and avoid the largely unnatural setting of being forced into large groups of age-isolated children. Perhaps this is why they also do better on social, emotional and psychological indicators. Homeschooled children moreover are safer, especially compared to at the larger and more urban schools, and through their Christian home avoid a good deal of bullying and drug abuse, along with stabbing, mass

shootings and rape. The next time someone tells you there's not much for a wife to do at home, let them know they're in error, and correct them on the matter. The next time anyone suggests the wife's role is less valuable than say, pursuing this or that career and maybe being a tax consultant, let them know that's false. The homemaker's work is the work of God; it is life bearing, life preserving and the heart of the sacred community.

I realize you might have guessed already some of the other work that homemakers do, but I want to say it anyway and once again point out its importance. The homemaker provides fresh and healthy meals on the table for her holy family. She can also grow some of the family's food either just outdoors or on a rented plot. The homemaker keeps the family clothed, not just by clothing the kids, but by planning those purchases. She also plans and purchases many other of the godly family's needs and wants. My own wife, although she has yet to do any home business, has already saved us thousands of dollars just by researching good buys on major items. That's more than a dollar or two. That's thousands. The homemaker also keeps the house clean and presentable. This is a major and sometimes strenuous task, and what a beautiful outward expression of the cleanness of the soul we are to have.

A Christian wife is also busy with other kinds of work; this could be helping out at the congregation, working in a charitable endeavor or running a small business from the home, if time allows with the children. In fact, much of this work, especially doing some business from home, is greatly facilitated by modern technology. I realize many of you have been taught the opposite about the homemaker – that modern culture or technology made her work irrelevant. Yet this claim which everyone buys like milk simply isn't true. In fact technology can make her work more productive and more enjoyable currently than it ever has been. For example, the internet facilitates any number of tasks, be it in helping out ministry or in home business. You can make investments from the home. You can do much of the work necessary for import and export. Not only that, in the household you can do any number of manufacturing tasks with a bit of training and investment. In fact, considering all those Christian families out there with large homes and few children, the door is really open for using that extra space in women fulfilling their homemaking role, be it in raising children, providing education or making products at home. Our culture and our technology, far from making the godly role of homemaker impossible, then makes it more possible than ever. Think about it.

Lastly, a friend recently asked me – well what is a woman supposed to do at home after her children have left? This friend was willing to acknowledge that raising and educating the

children was awesome work for a woman, but wondered what on earth she could do with all her time once those children left. And you know, that's an excellent question, and I intend to answer it. Number one, you will notice that the incomplete list of work above includes various other things besides home education, so even from a few of the above we see there is still time-consuming work for the Christian wife to do. Not only that, but there is nothing to say that her work with children need end at a certain age when children leave (and leaving at 18-or-so should not be mandatory anyway). That incredible work, I'd even say lifesaving work, is to help out those families in the community that have no help at home. Maybe one of the parents has left. Maybe both of them are on drugs or in prison. She can be the one to provide godly raising and education, bringing the love and healing of Messiah to the much-too-frequent broken homes. Think of all those women who might like to stay at home with the children, but truly must leave the home and send the kids to some pagan school because of financial necessity. Enter the older homemaker, that empty-nester we're talking about right now, and those children from a broken home can have a Christian care-giver and teacher right away. Nothing to do for older women? You've got to be kidding. This is chance for our ladies to be the more feminine version of the fireman, and rush in and save lives in the collapsing building all around us. That most certainly is a part of fulfilling what scripture teaches of the older women, which is to teach the younger women in the congregation their roles. What an incredible example that would be. Instead of being an example of abandoning the home and pursuing a career, they could be an example of being a homemaker. Let's remember those beautiful words of God, which instruct, *"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."* (Titus 2:3-5)

Now I know a lot of my brothers in Messiah might be saying – well, I've opened my Bible and I can see that this is the God-given lifestyle of a Christian wife, but how on earth is anyone supposed to get by without a double salary? It's just not possible. That's a valid concern, and I know a lot of you are steeped in debt, a problem I will address in a moment, but the goal of living as God instructs us is not out of sight. Number one, take a look at your finances. Take a look at your needs. Maybe on examination you'll find you can indeed get by on one salary (and don't forget some money can be earned at home too). This is especially a possibility if you are willing to downgrade a more comfortable lifestyle for a more moderate one, or even a quite humble one. I mean, do families really need an immense amount of extra space, extra cars, nice vacations and expensive schooling? Why? Generation after generation of Christians raised many children and educated them well without half of what we have today. I provide on my *Clothed in Scarlet* page a number of links about families that get by on one income, both

Christian and secular, so I think if some of them can make it then probably more can too if they're willing to try. Go do some research on it yourselves. The claim a one-income home can't tread water today is simply a false claim. Not only that, but please remember a lot of the same cost-of-living problem people complain about, was itself fed by an ever increasing number of two-income homes, more precisely, of women in the career world. It has helped raise the price of many items. Yet as we see faithful Christian after faithful Christian abandon this modern career path, it makes sense that some of that economic difficulty will right itself more in the direction of before, when a man could support his family on a single salary, including home ownership and a vacation. It would be a true societal revolution.

That leaves us asking – even if we begin to change our lifestyles right now, how will the next generation return to the Christian home, if they are also steeped in school debt? This link in the chain needs to be addressed just like the previous. The key is not going to be likeable to people who think we must adopt modern American lifestyles, but it will be a key that liberates our children and grandchildren. That key, most obviously, is not leaving our daughters and our granddaughters with massive school debt. Besides, if they plan to be homemakers, how much advanced schooling is necessary? Not that some training isn't good. Of course it is. But years of advanced education seems too much in most instances. How can a faithful believer choose to be a homemaker when she is soaking in tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt? I'm serious. What choice does she have, this forsaken young woman, besides entering the career world or marrying some rare very wealthy man? It seems she has little choice. We like to think of ourselves as free, especially in this culture, but that freedom unravels facing \$20,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or a quarter of a million dollars we've got to earn and pay off, with interest starting after a matter of months or a few years. So if we want to restore the godly Christian home, and the woman's God-given role, it will involve liberating our daughters (and to a lesser degree our sons) from having to pay back for many years of schooling. Then we can see women really produce what is valuable, in filling up the home with their presence, bearing the children God gives them and supporting the household and community in immeasurably enriching ways. She is a source of light in the world, when she follows her God-given path.

To review brothers, the woman's role in scripture is more than possible to fulfill despite some real obstacles to it. It is full of valuable work, such as raising and educating children, providing food, growing food, managing financial matters, supporting the church community and even running a business from the home. Moreover, it continues to be enriching in older age, when a woman acts as an example for the younger generation, and today may find herself called to care for the broken families just a few doors down the road. Financial difficulties to being a

homemaker are real, but they can certainly be overcome. I don't just share this good news with you as a reminder or as mere information, but like much of my other writings, as a call to repentance to a Body of Messiah which has in so many ways abandoned its calling. We have been given a sacred lifestyle by our Lord. We have been called to obedience. The current malaise of Christians raising up daughters to ignore the home has been immensely destructive, and like every wicked act sends shockwaves out in all directions. We need to give up on our dreams of being contemporary, and living in that already fading American glitter. Let's have dreams of being holy instead, dreams that the heart of the home, the Christian wife, can fulfill.