

# Workers at Home

Phil Dykstra

“That aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good; that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

The above text is found in Titus 2:3-5. This is the Word of God to the Church in Paul's day, as well as it is the Word of God to the Church in our day. This article will be especially focused on the duty of mothers, aged mothers as well as young mothers: mothers in Israel. Maybe we should emphasize the truth that the Word of God is for the Church. The Word is given to us by God in His love and grace. The Gospel, you know, is particular as to its promise and content. A Gospel for all is a Gospel for none. We, as believers in Christ, must not expect this part of Scripture to be heeded by the world. Obedience to these exhortations from Titus is only possible through the sanctified work of the Spirit in our hearts and lives.

Workers at home, this is what the Word of God says, or stronger still, what the Word of God commands. Is this true of you, older women and younger women? It should be. Many are the excuses and reasons given by our mothers as to why they are working out of the home, and thus disobeying this exhortation found in Titus. Probably the most pious excuse is, “If I didn't go out of the home and get a job, we would not be able to pay our school tuition.” How often haven't we heard this reason for our mothers in Israel out working? Must we be reminded that God is not mocked? When God declares that mothers be keepers at home, God means just exactly that! One mother gave that very reason for herself getting a job. But, yet, after several months of working this same mother made this comment. "I'll just work a few more hours a week; then we can take that vacation we have all been looking forward to." We need not even comment on this type of reasoning. It's as clear as the nose on our face.

There are cases, isolated cases, I think, where it might well be that if the mother didn't go out of the home and get a job, that the tuition would not be met. What does God say about such a circumstance? Keepers at home, period. If such is the circumstance, let us use the Biblical method of solving such a problem, and not resort to sinful ways by taking the mother out of the home. Is not the Body of Christ to be knit together in love and always ready to help one another? Where is the help of the Church? If we see a brother in need, do we let him or her sin? By no means, we have to help that brother or sister in the Lord. The Church administers the mercies of Christ through the office of the Deacon. It is surely the Church's duty to see that the children of the covenant are instructed in our Christian schools, and not to let our mothers go out to work for that cause.

Other mothers will say, “I see nothing wrong with getting a job if all the children are in school,” or better yet, “all married and out of the house.” Do we read that in Titus? No, God says, “keepers at home.” Remember aged mothers, you are to train the younger women to be keepers at home. Can you do this if you are out of the home, working? You certainly know the answer to that yourself. Aged mothers need not say, “I can find nothing to do now that my children are out of the house.” From God's Word we know that there are many very good and profitable things to do. What are some of the Scriptural things for you to do? Read I Timothy 5:10. Are there not the afflicted ones in your congregation who would delight in your visits? A day would be made full if you would faithfully visit the saints who are in need, or make a meal for those who could use

it, or make a shirt or sew some article of clothing for those who are poor in the things of this earth. Remember, train the younger women also to love their husbands and children and to be keepers at home. Why? Because God says exactly that in His Word.

Younger women or mothers, what is your calling? To learn from the aged women to love your husbands and your children and to be keepers at home. Also, to bear children and to instruct them in the fear of the Lord. This is what our God delights in, for this is His Word. Obey His Word, and you will also find joy in this work, for this work of motherhood is full time work. Remember, you are a mother in Israel.

We live in a day when a greater percentage of our mothers work out of the home. This should not be! Let all of our mothers return to the old paths of being “keepers at home,” for this is where the Lord’s blessing rests. It is a matter of principle. We must walk in the way of godliness and sanctification, and may we all hear the words of Christ say of us, “Greater joy have I none than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” -III John 1:4

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