

Young Women: Love Your Husbands, Love Your Children #1

John Isaac Edwards

Speaking the things which become sound doctrine includes the exhortation: “The aged women likewise... That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:3-4). This is something that is to be taught and can be learned. Failure of young women to love their husbands and their children, as the Bible teaches, contributes to all kinds of problems in the home, in society, and in the church.

1) *Love Your Husbands.*

The young women are to be lovers of their own husbands. Paul wrote, “...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (1 Cor. 7:2). The woman is fond of her husband, and affectionate to him as his wife. This kind of love is not shared with any other; it is to *her own husband*. Marriage is in jeopardy when young women show fondness and affection for, or a preference to, men other than their own husbands. One man said he noticed that when a certain fellow came around that his wife looked at this man in a way she did not look at him, that she went out of her way to do for him things she knew he

enjoyed, but seemed less concerned about pleasing him and he was her husband! Was he jealous or was her affection out of order? Some may manifest fondness and affection to about every man other than their own husbands!

This “love your husbands” command demands unselfishness on the part of young women. It causes them to be aware of and responsive to their husband’s needs, putting them ahead of their own. What would he want? How can I please him? What would make him happy? In accordance with the Lord’s will, the woman finds fulfillment in her husband’s satisfaction or happiness.

Some things young women do when they love their husbands:

Be an help meet to them. 1 Corinthians 11 teaches that “... the woman is the glory of the man,” “...of the man,” and “... for the man” (vv. 7-9). When God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18), he “...caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken

from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man” (Gen. 2:21-22). As man’s help meet, the woman-wife is her husband’s aid and help. By being his helper and aider, she is loving her husband.

Submit to them. Ephesian wives were instructed, “... submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Eph. 5:22-23). As the church is subordinate to Christ, the woman is arranged under the man in the home. She subjects herself to him. She yields to his admonition and advice.

Reverence them. Ephesians 5:33 says, “...and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” The young woman is to venerate her husband, regard him with great respect, and treat him with deference or reverential obedience. She does this in how she thinks of him, how she speaks of him and to him, and in her actions and demeanor. Sarah is an outstanding example as she “... obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...” (1 Pet. 3:6).

Be faithful to them. It is said of the “virtuous woman” in Proverbs 31: “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,

so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life” (vv. 11-12). Never lie to him or give him grounds to question your integrity. Be able to be relied on as honest or truthful. “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Prov. 11:13). Be his confidant!

Render due benevolence unto them. The marriage relationship provides the haven of safety from sexual immorality (1 Cor. 7:1-2). In this context Paul said, “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband... Defraud ye not one the other...” (1 Cor. 7:3-5). The words “render” and “due” suggest a debt; an obligation. The word “benevolence” suggests a gift. This is a special right and privilege of the marriage bed (Heb. 13:4). Proverbs teaches, “Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine

own, and not strangers’ with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love” (Prov. 5:15-19). She fully satisfies her husband’s needs in this regard.

Win them. Peter penned, “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear” (1 Pet. 3:1-2). The woman will be more effective in winning her husband to the Lord by chaste conduct before him than habitual harping at him.

When young women love their husbands, they can put their name in these blanks: “_____ suffereth long, and is kind; _____ envieth not; _____ vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things,

believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. _____ never faileth...” (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

Wise Solomon said: “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord” (Prov. 18:22). “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies...Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates” (Prov. 31:10, 30-31). Young women, be the wife who is good and praiseworthy!

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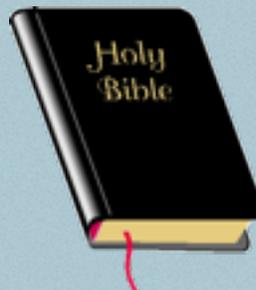
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