

The Holy, Happy Homemaker

*A Phrase-By-Phrase Study
of the Virtuous Woman in Proverbs 31*

By Sonny & Cindy Childs



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Introduction

Homemaking is the Career

Without question, the most fertile, most ready-made mission field in all the world is the home. Yet today, this precious mission field is often abandoned to the supervision of hired hands and near strangers. Look at our culture, the consequences are obvious.

When God blesses a woman with the ability to bring new life into this world, He expects personal responsibility will be taken for that Divine validation. He expects that the one who was Divinely gifted to carry that child within her for nine months and was also blessed with unique nurturing skills even beyond that of the father, would be the one who gives that child primary care as they grow up.

On the following pages, you will find a phrase-by-phrase study of the most famous homemaker in all of history, the Virtuous Woman from Proverbs 31. As Cindy and I took another, more detailed look at this important passage, we documented our thoughts and now we offer them to you for consideration. It is our prayer that you will find this study to be both enlightening and inspirational. We truly believe that the full-time homemaker is the best and most expedient way to draw the American family out of the flames of self-destruction and back onto the path of God's design.

In order for a woman to be an effective homemaker, she must have ingenuity and initiative. She must also see herself as the hero of that old adage, "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world."

The role of homemaker is not a side job, it is primary. It IS the career.

Thank you for joining us on this biblical adventure!

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #1

Let's start at the end. By looking at the climax of this passage, we can gain a better understanding as to why it was written.

Proverbs 31:28-30 (NKJV) "Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing ... But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

At first, we were simply going to call this series, "The Holy Homemaker." However, after reading through the passage and seeing that awesome conclusion, the word "Happy" was added to the title. Clearly, the work of a homemaker is both a holy endeavor and a happy career.

Conclusion: The role of homemaker is essential for women. By it, the blessing of God is established over her home (Holy) and because of it her husband and children "rise up and call her blessed" (Happy).

Make It Real Assignment: Begin a list of homemaker qualities. Post this list in a place that you will see regularly in order to remind you of your holy, happy challenge to make homemaking a top priority in life. The first words on your list should be, "I have purpose!"

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #2

Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”

“Who can find...” - Evidently, exceptional homemakers have been rare throughout history. The Wise Man opens this intriguing exposé of the “Virtuous Woman” by suggesting that women of her quality are uncommon and must be searched out.

This revelation prompts at least two conclusions:

1. God’s people have always been unique (1 Peter 2:9) and it should not surprise the holy, happy homemaker that her assignment will take her outside the cultural norm.
2. As the troubles of this fallen world persist, God’s excellence must be celebrated. Only by His blessing can we hope to shelter our families from this broken world.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am unique!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #3

Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”

“a virtuous” - In the footnotes of the New King James Version, there is this intriguing explanation of the word “virtuous” - “Literally a wife of valor, in the sense of all forms of excellence.”

In other words, the biblical role of a homemaker is more than just fulfilling, it comes as the result of a character of valor.

Weber’s Dictionary defines the word valor in this way:

valor (noun, val·or, \ 'va-lər \) - strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness : personal bravery

Conclusion: To be a holy, happy homemaker, women must face the world with firmness, bravery, and excellence of character.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I have valor!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #4

Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”

“wife” - It’s important to note that the Wise Man’s list of homemaker qualities both begins and ends with the connection a woman has to her husband. The husband/wife relationship is the core of healthy homemaking.

Consider this important application:

To be a holy, happy homemaker, women must emphasize their focus on the marriage. While children are intended to be the results of a marriage (Genesis 2:24), they are not intended to be the focal point of the home. When the husband/wife relationship is healthy, children will feed off of that security and grow from that example of love.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a wife first!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #5

Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”

“For her worth is far above rubies.” - From this sentence, we can draw at least two important conclusions.

1. The inspired Wise Man validates the need to assess the value of a woman’s contribution to the home.
2. Wise women engage in regular self-examination. When her excellence is fully functional, her value is greater than any monetary investment that can be made in the home. A godly home cannot be bought, but it can be built. A truly holy, happy homemaker rejects materialism in order to lay up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a good investment!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #6

Proverbs 31:11 (NKJV) “The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.”

“The heart of her husband” - Once again we see the emphasis on the husband/wife relationship. Notice the word “heart.”

Consider this important application:

By God’s design, women who are divinely focused have the unique ability to cradle and protect the hearts of those given into her trust. In this verse, the emphasis is placed upon her being trustworthy. We emphasize that quality next time.

However, before going there, let’s also notice the general theme of heart guardianship and her husband. The average man works hours and hours each day outside the protective covering of his wife. Men are especially vulnerable to the sensual temptations of this world. From pornographic billboards, TV commercials, online pop-ups, etc., to flirtatious coworkers, the temptations to be unfaithful are enormous. The holy, happy homemaker knows her husband’s heart and guards it well. More specifically, her faithfulness to him is so beyond question that he need not add that to the long list of pressures he is faced to deal with each day.

Helpful Suggestions:

1. Be obvious with your need and attraction for him.
2. Make it a top priority to keep yourself attractive.
3. Be so approachable that he would never keep any part of his life secret.
4. Work to keep every part of your life intertwined with his.
5. Without being a nag, insist on knowing his schedule and coworkers.
6. Keep him sexually focused and fulfilled in you.
7. Read Song of Solomon and become that woman for him.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I guard his heart!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #7

Proverbs 31:11 (NKJV) “The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.”

“safely trusts her” - While it is true that a divinely focused woman has the unique ability to cradle and protect the hearts of her family, in context, the subject is actually her own trustworthiness.

Consider this important application:

A holy, happy homemaker works overtime to establish her husband’s faith in her. Her speech, dress, actions and activities leave no hint that she is anything other than totally loyal to him and the home they are creating. By so doing, she removes a potentially devastating distraction from his assignment to be a provider.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am faithful!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #8

Proverbs 31:11 (NKJV) “The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.”

“So he will have no lack of gain.” - The NIV translates it this way, “and lacks nothing of value.” This inspired use of hyperbole (obvious and intentional exaggeration) is intriguing. In other words, the value of a homemaker is so great, it’s as if her function satisfies and even exceeds all other needs or conveniences.

Consider this important application:

Investing in a homemaker secures, for the husband and the home, all things of real value.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am abundance!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #9

Proverbs 31:12 (NKJV) “She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.”

“She does him good and not evil” - When joined with the previous verse, this phrase obviously implies that the homemaker not only provides all things of real value, she also shelters her husband and home from all things evil.

Once again, the word “valor” (verse 10) comes to mind. Home should be a safe place, a place of peace that is free from both physical and spiritual clutter. The psychological effect of clutter is stress. It is like a subconscious form of claustrophobia which robs a home of breathing room.

Consider this important application:

In a very real way, the holy, happy homemaker is a warrior, a spiritual sentry. Her role of guardian is nothing less than essential!

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a warrior!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #10

Proverbs 31:12 (NKJV) “She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.”

“All the days of her life.” - Notice the length of time to which she has committed herself to her husband. The holy, happy homemaker views her role as a lifelong purpose.

Notice again the emphasis on the husband/wife relationship. Children are not even part of the context at this point. Homemaking is not just a role to be emphasized while children are at home.

Consider this important application:

In a world of disposable everything, it is essential that women count the cost before they commit. Yes, God has reluctantly permitted divorce in some situations, but divorce can often be avoided with a little forethought and training before the vows are said. Perhaps this is why Paul is so blunt when he tells older women to teach the younger women in Titus 2:3-5.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am in it for life!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #11

Proverbs 31:13 (NKJV) “She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.”

“She seeks wool and flax” - Both of these items have to do with sewing, mending, and other textile creations. Notice the initiative implied by the word “seeks.” The NIV uses the word “selects.”

Consider this important application:

A holy, happy homemaker is both a skilled shopper and creative. Her homemaking priority and initiative compels her.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am an initiator!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #12

Proverbs 31:13 (NKJV) “She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.”

“And willingly works with her hands.” - There are three important applications to be drawn from this passage:

1. She is “willing.” The NIV says “eager.” The NASB says “in delight.” A truly holy, happy homemaker has disciplined herself to embrace and celebrate her role.
2. She “works.” When done correctly, homemaking is nothing less than a career.
3. She works “with her hands.” The holy, happy homemaker does not expect others to do her job for her. She takes personal responsibility for the fulfillment of her God-given role. To her, home management is a hands-on assignment.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am eagerly involved!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #13

Proverbs 31:14 (NKJV) “She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.”

“She is like the merchant ships” - The TLB says, “She buys imported foods brought by ship from distant ports.”

Consider this important application:

The holy, happy homemaker invests much time and energy to make sure her family has variety and quality of food. Unfortunately, because of the insane pace of our culture, fast foods, microwave meals, and prepackaged, preservative-filled processed foods have become our primary diet. Health problems, including obesity, abound. The holy, happy homemaker defends her family against that trend. Her intentional, time-consuming food preparation must be celebrated in the home.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a culinary specialist!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #14

Proverbs 31:15 (NKJV) “She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.”

“She also rises while it is yet night” - It seems obvious that this phrase is an extension of the previous verse. Not only does she search out good food, she rises early to make sure its preparation does not interfere with family activities.

Consider this important application:

A holy, happy homemaker disciplines herself to maximize the time she is given. She guards herself from distractions. She protects her health so that she can maintain her pace and the essential leadership she provides within the home.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am disciplined!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #15

Proverbs 31:15 (NKJV) “She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.”

“And provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.” -
Notice two segments of home life that the Virtuous Woman manages:

1. She manages her “household.” The holy, happy homemaker prioritizes her own family above all else and takes personal responsibility to care for their needs.
2. She also manages all non-family members (“maidservants”) who have a potential influence within her home.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a household manager!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #16

Proverbs 31:16 (NKJV) “She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.”

“She considers a field and buys it” - Notice the investment initiative. Two areas are significant:

1. She “considers.” In the same way that she carefully selects her family’s food (31:14), she is also very considerate of other ways she can expand her family’s provisions.
2. Her consideration is for the purchase of “a field.” This purchase must be viewed through the specific theme of the passage. Her goal is not land purchases, but rather a way to expand her care for the family. (See the next phrase.) Homemaking is her career and she invests wisely to help provide for her family.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am an investor!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #17

Proverbs 31:16 (NKJV) “She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.”

“From her profits she plants a vineyard.” - To properly apply this real estate transaction, it must be kept within the overall theme of the passage. Everything the Virtuous Woman does is rooted in her primary role as a homemaker. A vineyard would not only provide nourishment for her family, it would also have the great potential to be a family business which could generate extra income and teach entrepreneurship to her household.

Consider this important application:

Although it is not a woman’s primary goal to be the provider (Genesis 3:16-19), a well-rounded homemaker uses every opportunity to plan for and serve her number one priority - family.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a productive planner!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #18

Proverbs 31:17 (NKJV) “She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.”

“She girds herself with strength” - The NIV says, “She sets about her work vigorously.” The Message says, “she dresses for work.”

Consider this important application:

The Virtuous Woman is not lazy, but rather has a reputation of diligence. She understands the value of hard work and exudes strength both in her appearance and in her effort. Ask yourself this question, “Does the condition of my home and my family make it obvious that I am a hard worker?”

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am obviously diligent!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #19

Proverbs 31:17 (NKJV) “She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.”

“And strengthens her arms.” - The NIV says “her arms are strong for her tasks.”

Consider this important application:

The holy, happy homemaker is not weak. Her hard work ethic is evidenced in both her physical stamina and inner strength. Does your outer and inner self testify to a life of ingenuity, self-discipline, and purposeful effort on behalf of your family?

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am obviously strong!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #20

Proverbs 31:18 (NKJV) “She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.”

“She perceives that her merchandise is good” - The NIV says, “She sees that her trading is profitable.”

Consider this important application:

As with the real estate investment in verse 16, she also engages the marketplace on behalf of her family. We have already seen implications that she is creative with fabrics and with a vineyard. Perhaps those items are used in her marketplace trading. The woman of excellent character is creative and entrepreneurial, always looking for ways to supplement the family income.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am creative!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #21

Proverbs 31:18 (NKJV) “She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.”

“And her lamp does not go out by night.” - Not only is this woman industrious, she maximizes her time. She takes full advantage of the times when others in the house are being still (ex: nap times).

Consider this important application:

As with any successful career, in order to create a holy, happy home, the sacrificial investment of long hours and hard work is essential. A truly devoted homemaker is never bored. (Please notice the list of 31 practical homemaker suggestions in the supplement at the end of this book.)

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am never bored!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #22

Proverbs 31:19 (NKJV) “In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.”

The “distaff” and the “spindle” are tools used in fabric making.

Consider this important application:

The holy, happy homemaker is capable of taking the rawest materials and developing it into something useful for her family. Unfortunately, many of today’s young women have never been trained in the most basic skills of sewing or even cooking because older women have neglected the command of Titus 2:5. The skills obtained from sports, dance, music, and even “higher education” are no substitutes for the direct command to make homemaking a first priority. It is an essential trait of an outstanding woman.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am domestic!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #23

Proverbs 31:19 (NKJV) “In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.”

“with her fingers” - An appropriate value cannot be placed on the creative hands of a holy, happy homemaker. They energize and direct the tools used for turning raw materials into something useful.

Three applications come to mind:

1. Once again, she saves her family money through hard work and ingenuity.
2. When made from the rawest form, items tend to last longer. Applied to food, the closer one gets to the original (ex: raw vegetables), the more vitamins and taste are preserved.
3. In difficult times (natural disasters, persecution), those who can capitalize on the raw forms of things found around them (sew, hunt, forage, etc.) are more likely to survive and thrive in order to serve others (evangelism).

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am an originalist!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #24

Proverbs 31:20 (NKJV) “She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.”

Notice that she “extends her hand” and “reaches out” with the obvious intent to serve the “poor” and the “needy.”

Three applications are evident:

1. Once again, her initiative is apparent. She lives such a disciplined life that she has enough time to manage her own affairs and still initiate service to others.
2. As was seen in verse 15, the influence of this outstanding homemaker goes far beyond her home. While her first priority is always to her own family, she is also engaged with the world. She is not reclusive.
3. Consider the training moments this would provide for her children. Think of the evangelistic opportunities. If a woman fully embraces her homemaking role, there is little time for anything else. It truly is a full-time ministry.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a minister!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #25

Proverbs 31:21 (NKJV) “She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.”

“She is not afraid of snow for her household” - Because of ingenuity and self-discipline, she made preparations that freed her mind from worry.

Several applications come to mind:

1. Fear is a debilitating emotion. It is most often brought on by a lack of preparedness. The holy, happy homemaker guards her investment with forethought and, thus, frees her emotions to invest in other areas of homemaking.
2. Snow seems to be indicative of the harsh, unpredictable elements that threaten to upend peace within the home. When tied to the previous verse, it might be indicating that forethought and preparations will free a woman to expand her management and help others.
3. Specifically, in context, her confidence is in the safety of her own household. An outstanding wife/mother is a visionary who fearlessly assesses the future and puts her family's preparations at the top of her “to do” list.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am fearless!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #26

Proverbs 31:21 (NKJV) “She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.”

“For all her household is clothed with scarlet.” - The original language suggests two possible meanings:

1. It could mean that these outfits were of a decorative color and emphasize the length to which she went in order to provide. Not only did she look after the essentials (warmth), but also the delights of the heart (style).
2. The original language could also suggest that she provided her household with outfits having double fabric.

Either way, this phrase is indicative of a homemaker who goes above and beyond to clothe her family in appropriate apparel.

Consider these applications:

1. The holy, happy homemaker combines function and fashion when caring for her family.
2. In the next verse, we will notice that she clothes herself similarly. Outstanding women see the family as a unit and care for all collectively.
3. When kept in context, it seems obvious that whatever scarlet clothing meant, the purpose was to provide a defense against the cold. A virtuous woman always shelters her greatest investment.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a shelterer.”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #27

Proverbs 31:22 (NKJV) “She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.”

“She makes tapestry for herself” - The NIV says, “She makes coverings for her bed.” Both “linen” and “purple” indicate nobility.

Applications might include the following:

1. Once again, we see the homemaker being creative and taking initiative.
2. In order to create a place of peace and rest, an outstanding woman will control the comfort of bedtime. Few things are more inviting and refreshing than a clean, warm bed.
3. While her family might not necessarily be royalty, when she is able, the virtuous woman will treat herself and her household as if they are.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am royalty.”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #28

Proverbs 31:22 (NKJV) “Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.”

“Her husband is known in the gates” - The NIV says he is “respected at the city gate.” The phrase, “When he sits among the elders of the land” also carries with it respect, power, and influence.

Think about these applications:

1. Because this context is about the woman and not the man, it is implied that his respect, power, and influence are directly related to her character. An outstanding woman understands that the way she embraces her role as a homemaker is foundational to her husband’s functionality.
2. An outstanding home has always been the evidence of an outstanding man. Read 1 Timothy 3:4-5. The obvious implication of this verse is that a woman’s management of the home speaks volumes about her husband’s headship over her and the home. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3-10.
3. “The hand that rocks the cradle...” is a powerful reflection of the message within this verse and the influence a woman can have through homemaking. Every man of influence first started out as a little boy longing for the attention and nurturing of a mother. The homemaking role of a woman is essential to order within a culture.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a world leader!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #29

Proverbs 31:24 (NKJV) “She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.”

Obviously, this outstanding woman did not view her role as one which trapped her within the four walls of a house.

“She makes linen garments” is, no doubt, a reference to the fabric creations mentioned earlier. The fact that she “sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants” indicates networking and initiative. To accomplish this task, she would need to be educated and free to engage the marketplace as a source of outside income.

Consider this important application:

It is a harsh violation of the context to view her home business as being in competition with her career as a homemaker. Instead, her enterprising spirit should be seen as a complement to her first and most important role as a wife and mother. (Test: When a woman and her children regularly spend the majority of their day under the influences of persons and pursuits not of the home, God’s design for the family is not occurring. Under whose direction do you and your children spend the majority of your waking hours each week?)

Unlike the propaganda being taught by modern feminists, the Virtuous Woman of this passage was engaged in the whole picture of femininity. Her identity and function were always rooted in the home, but that certainly did not mean she couldn’t blend that role with the adventures of complementary business initiatives.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am enterprising!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #30

Proverbs 31:25 (NKJV) “Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.”

“Strength and honor are her clothing” - The NIV says, “strength and dignity.” Notice a similar passage in 1 Timothy 2:9-10 (NKJV) “...in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” While 1 Timothy 2 is referring to the literal apparel of a godly woman, it is interesting how both passages center on her character as the empowering factor - “strength and honor” as well as “propriety and moderation.” Her excellence expressed itself both within and without. Appearance is important.

Several applications come to mind:

1. The Virtuous Woman did not view submissiveness to a role of homemaking as a function that was without power. She was obviously strong.
2. “Strength,” “honor,” and “dignity” were so closely identified with her nature that it was as if she wore them for clothing.
3. “Honor” and “dignity” do not come without a lifestyle to match. This holy, happy homemaker found a higher form of existence by embracing God’s role for women.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am strong and honorable!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #31

Proverbs 31:25 (NKJV) “Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.”

“She shall rejoice in time to come.” - This phrase sounds a lot like verse 21: “She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.” However, in this verse the emphasis does not seem to be on the physical as much as the moral. Notice the very next context, “She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.” (31:26)

At least 3 important applications must be made:

1. Her joy in the future is based upon her own influence within the home (see previous context). It is not based upon the influences of outside help. A homemaker’s impact must be firsthand. Who influences your children for the majority of their waking hours?
2. When tied to the following verse, it becomes clear that her rejoicing is based not on the results of physical provisions, but rather on the investment she has made in her family’s inner character. The family became a reflection of herself.
3. “Can the circle be unbroken, bye and bye, Lord, bye and bye?” The lyrics from that old song should motivate every young mother to prioritize her family’s eternal togetherness over all other goals. Temptations from the priorities of this world can be overwhelming. In order to “rejoice in time to come,” a holy, happy homemaker keeps her eye on the sky. She makes any sacrifice necessary to ensure her family is together in Heaven.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am eternity’s guardian!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #32

Proverbs 31:26 (NKJV) “She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.”

“She opens her mouth with wisdom” - This phrase reminds me so much of Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV) “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

One major observation must be made from these two passages - a woman must be present in order for her to fulfill either. Consider these applications:

1. A woman and her husband must spend great amounts of time together in order for him to fully access all she has to offer. **Intentional rearrangement of the budget and other factors should be a priority in order to make this happen.**
2. A woman and her children must be together in order for her wisdom to be passed along. When children spend the majority of their waking hours being parented by persons other than their parents, what does that say about actual parenting?
3. **Intentional rearrangement of the budget and other factors must be a priority in order to make this happen.** Do not allow materialistic conveniences to be an excuse for neglecting this essential role.

The wisdom of women is foundational to the God-centered home.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a wise counselor!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #33

Proverbs 31:26 (NKJV) “She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.”

“And on her tongue is the law of kindness.” - Remarkably, many years after this inspired text was given, the same quality of kindness would be listed as a primary characteristic of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Consider this important application:

Biblehub.com provides this description of the Holy Spirit Whom Jesus promised in John 14:26 - παράκλητος, paraklétos (par-ak'-lay-tos) - called to one's aid, (a) an advocate, intercessor, (b) a consoler, comforter, helper. Do you see the similarities between the nature of the Holy Spirit and the work of the holy, happy homemaker? Wow! Women are called to be partners in the work of the Holy Spirit.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am the Holy Spirit’s helper!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #34

Proverbs 31:27 (NKJV) “She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.”

“She watches over the ways of her household” - This phrase draws an immediate connection to the New Testament commands of Titus 2:4-5 (NKJV), “...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.” When women celebrate the role of a holy, happy homemaker, the Word of God is exalted. Q: Would you say that God’s Word is highly exalted or often blasphemed in our culture?

Five observations come to mind from Proverbs 31:27:

1. The Virtuous Woman is a manager. She diligently watches over her first purpose, her defining career assignment, her God-given domestic identity.
2. The NIV says that “she watches over the affairs of her household.” In other words, she is not only a family participant but also a guide. Much like the previous verse, she guards, guides, and directs the activities of her home with wisdom.
3. People skills (diplomacy and effective communication) are essential talents for her role to be effective.
4. Her life is filled with an ongoing assessment of the inner workings of the home. Regular adaptations and adjustments are made.
5. The amount of work associated with directing a truly functioning household is enormous. Distractions from outside priorities must be kept to a minimum.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a loving scrutinizer!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #35

Proverbs 31:27 (NKJV) “She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.”

“And does not eat the bread of idleness” - Someone of the past spoke a very powerful truth when they said, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.”

If we view this verse as a whole, several applications come to mind:

1. A truly devoted homemaker is so busy managing her home that, should boredom ever overtake her, it’s an obvious sign she has lost her focus.
2. A virtuous woman does not simply bark orders, she is actively involved in the functions of the home. God does not give us children to do our work for us.
3. Idleness is here presented as a food. In other words, she wisely chooses the things that sustain her and inactivity is not one of them.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am actively involved!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #36

Proverbs 31:28 (NKJV) “Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her...”

“Her children rise up and call her blessed” - Few things are more satisfying than receiving praise from the ones in which you have invested your life’s work.

Three applications should be made:

1. Children are often the most insightful judges of character. What opinion do your children have of your homemaking skills?
2. This phrase seems to indicate unsolicited praise. Do your children volunteer to speak favorably of your home management?
3. This phrase suggests more than praise, it says they “rise up” to bless her. Do your children respect your fulfillment of God’s role so much that they stand on your behalf?

This description of the Virtuous Woman brings another passage to mind. 3 John 1:4 (NKJV) “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” The greatest praise a child can give to the holy, happy homemaker is to follow her on the path of truth. Are your children proud of you? Are they following in your footsteps?

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am imitated!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #37

Proverbs 31:28 (NKJV) “Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her...”

“Her husband also, and he praises her...” - As in verse 22, this passage is not so much about the husband as it is about the results born within the life of the husband due to his virtuous wife.

Consider these applications:

1. While children are important, this verse climaxes with the first and most important God-assigned relationship within the home. See Genesis 2:24. Every other aspect of homemaking will suffer if the husband/wife relationship is not healthy. Is your husband a primary priority?
2. It's implied that the husband does the same as the children and, therefore, he too rises up to praise her. Do you provide your husband with enough evidence of virtuosity to prompt such public validation?
3. Men show praise in different ways. It is essential to your longevity that you discover his mode of communication. Treasure it. Exploit it. Your children and others need to bask in the warmth of a relationship that functions as God intended. Does your domestic character prompt pride in your husband?

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am a source of pride!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #38

Proverbs 31:29 (NKJV) “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.”

Everyone wants to be the best at something. Imagine the thrill of receiving sincere praise for being the best mother, wife, homemaker. What would it take to get there?

While some translations use the generic word “women” in place of “daughters,” I find the use of “daughters” to be interesting. Obviously, no woman can reach the level of a virtuous woman without first being a “daughter.” This biological certainty emphasizes the need for mothers to train their daughters with the goal of this verse in mind.

Titus 2:3-5 “Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, ... to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

Consider these important applications:

1. Goals are essential to progress. Aspire to “excel them all.”
2. Your presence is essential for this goal to be reached in the life of your daughter(s).

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am striving to be #1!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #39

Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV) “Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing” - Superficial allurements only lead to superficial attraction.

Two applications come to mind:

1. A holy, happy homemaker is genuine. Her “charm” or attraction is not self-generated, it is God-generated. Unfortunately, many women treat their feminine role like a salesperson who is more interested in manipulation than she is in selfless concern. Don’t be a charmer, be a genuine nurturer.
2. A virtuous woman resists the **hallow** promises of external “beauty” and invests in the internal, eternal beauty of a Divine character. Notice the words of 1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV), “Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” While there is certainly nothing wrong with external attractiveness, these passages suggest that excessive investment in that which is temporary and superficial can be a great distraction from your true purpose, your true self. Be careful not to waste precious time, energy, and resources on that which does not last. Give your family a wife and mother who has a God-centered attraction that never fades.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am genuine!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #40

Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV) "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

"But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." - Within this passage, we find both the core value and the guaranteed results of the character of an outstanding woman.

Two applications seem obvious:

1. As with anything worthwhile, the focus must be eternal and Divine. The final phrase of Titus 2:4-5 comes to mind, "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." (NKJV, Emphasis mine) A truly holy, happy homemaker always has God and His values at the center of her purpose. What sacrifices are you willing to make in order that God's role for "homemakers" will protect His Word from being "blasphemed"?
2. Secondly, this passage speaks of her being "praised" like it is a guaranteed result, and it is. The sureness of her praise comes from Isaiah 55:11, "...my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (NIV) If God says the holy, happy homemaker will receive praise, it will be done. Note: Because of freewill, even perfect leaders do not have full control over others. Unfortunately, there will be those who choose not to follow. Even Jesus had Judas. The virtuous woman may not receive all the praise she deserves from her spouse or her children, but it IS the desired response that God intends and there IS someone close by who is offering it.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, "I am praised!"

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #41

Proverbs 31:31 (NKJV) “Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.”

“Give her of the fruit of her hands” - The NIV says, “Honor her for all that her hands have done....”

At least two applications come to mind:

1. The virtuous woman deserves to enjoy and benefit from the fulfillment of her God-given role. This phrase is a lot like 1 Corinthians 9:9-10, “For it is written in the Law of Moses: ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn’t he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.” (NIV) Every woman who has sacrificed her own will in order to fulfill her Divine calling as a homemaker deserves to bask in the satisfaction of her labor. What kind of homemaking harvest do you have?
2. The phrase, “fruit of her hands,” is similar to the meaning expressed in Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is....” That which grows out of **the life a being shapes the identity of that being**. Just as the Holy Spirit is identified as “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” the holy, happy homemaker is known for the external expressions of her internal character. Look around at the things for which you are directly responsible (organization of the home, character of your children, security of your husband, etc.). What does the fruit of your labor say about you?

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am fruity!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #42

Proverbs 31:31 (NKJV) “Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.”

“And let her own works praise her in the gates.” - The city gates were the center of city life. This location hosted business dealings, governmental decisions, and public acknowledgements.

Two applications are easily seen within this passage:

1. Genuine credit comes from a life filled with “her own works.” A holy, happy homemaker does not borrow from the accolades that others deserve. She manages the home, she raises the children, she guards her husband. These tasks cannot be hired out or passed on to others. Homemaking is her personal career and she is praised for “her own works.”
2. Personification is when human nature is attributed to an animal or object. In this passage, the woman’s works are personified. It’s as if the works, themselves, rise up to publicly declare her praise. When a woman embraces her God-given role and prioritizes it above all else, she is able to walk through life with dignity because she literally has her house in order. It’s as if her works walk ahead of her and publicly declare the value of her character and the success of her chosen profession.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, “I am preceded by praise!”

The Holy, Happy Homemaker #43

Well, my friends, that's a wrap. As we end this study, I pray that you will renew your resolve to apply Bible to life. I do not need to prove to you that our culture is in chaos. The American family is in trouble. At some point, we as Christians must take extreme actions to address these extreme conditions.

Consider this important application:

I hope you enjoyed this study of the holy, happy homemaker. I pray that you will use this template as a guide to show you God's design for a woman's role within your culture. Remember, the hand that rocks the cradle really does rule the world. Look past the world's assumptions of what a woman should be and submit to the Creator's design.

Make It Real Assignment: Add the following words to your list of homemaker qualities, "I am submissive to His design!"

Supplement 1

The Never Bored Homemaker

Two commonly stated sentiments have always concerned Cindy and me about the condition of motherhood in America:

- “My kids drive me crazy! I can’t wait for them to go back to school!”
- “I would go stir crazy if I had to stay home all the time!”

Both of these sentiments underscore the great lack of training (Titus 2:3-5) and the lack of initiative some women have for their first and most important assignment in life - the home.

Below are 31 suggestions on how a holy, happy homemaker can capitalize on the gift of the day. If you practice them regularly, there will be no time for boredom. Celebrate them as part of your primary role and your family will not be viewed as a bother but, rather, an investment in eternity.

Suggestions:

- #1 Pray over every room and the activities that occur there
- #2 Homeschool your children (Women who do this correctly are never bored)
- #3 Research and plan healthy meals
- #4 Initiate and inspire your children to become entrepreneurs
- #5 Plan regular family service projects
- #6 Grow a family garden
- #7 Raise chickens (eggs, meat, teach responsibility, etc.)
- #8 Organize the clutter
- #9 Clean one room every day
- #10 Develop daily devotionals for family time
- #11 Take time to pray, study, and meditate daily (He is your strength!)

- #12 Learn to make small repairs and mend clothes instead of buying new
- #13 Prepare and take meals to shut-ins
- #14 Plan educational family field trips
- # 15 Plan play dates with purpose for your children
- #16 Post your daily blessings on social media to inspire other homemakers
- #17 Send inspirational messages to your husband throughout the day
- #18 Be a healthy shopper (read labels, reduce sugar and preservatives)
- #19 Be frugal (clip coupons, compare prices, reuse)
- #20 Maximize productivity during children's nap times
- #21 Organize a schedule for yearly maintenance (Ex: batteries in smoke detectors)
- #22 Be a creative cook (Proverbs 31:14-15)
- #23 Manage the family finances (Ex: balance checkbook)
- #24 Plan game nights with purpose (Monopoly & Yahtzee teach math skills)
- #25 Create inspirational home decor
- #26 Organize the laundry process (delegate personal responsibilities)
- #27 Plan low-cost outings (picnics, nature walks, family frisbee flings)
- #28 Plan 60 second family drills (pick up clutter, dust, evacuation practice, etc.)
- #29 Manage a family calendar
- #30 Plan date nights with your husband
- #31 Close every day with a review and a family prayer

Supplement 2

“Busy at Home”

Titus 2:3-5 (NIV) “... teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

In Titus 2:5, God places Christian women on the front lines of this battle for righteousness. In that passage, the Holy Spirit gives this assignment, be “keepers at home” (KJV), “workers at home” (ASV), “busy at home” (NIV) or to “take care of their homes” (NLT). He then concludes by pointing to the vital importance of their work - “that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (KJV)

Question: Would you say the American culture typically exalts or blasphemes the Word of God? What does Titus 2:5 clearly say is the key to correcting this cultural crisis?

Given the direct assignment by God for women to be “busy at home” as well as the alarming results of God’s Word being “blasphemed”, a very important question must be asked - What can be done to guard against the lazy homemaker?

Below, you will find a dualistic approach to this problem. God has designed us to be both physical and spiritual beings. For women to fulfill God’s assignment in Titus 2, they must use their Divinely designed skills to nurture both sides of our nature. They must be “busy at home” in both the physical and the spiritual realms.

“Busy at home” in the Physical Realm

One of the greatest falsehoods being preached by the feminist movement is that a stay-at-home mom robs her family of financial security. Few things could be further from the truth. Effective homemakers actually save and create money for the family. Consider three important ways she can do this.

1. By staying home she could cut expenses. Notice the following list of money-saving advantages:

- No need to pay for daycare
- No need to pay for extra fuel to reach the daycare and then on to work
- No need to pay for an extra vehicle to take the children to daycare and

then on to work (bank note, repairs, license, insurance, etc.)

- No need to pay for a babysitter on days the children are home sick but mom is at work
- No need to pay for extra work suits, shoes, etc.
- No need to pay for lunch breaks at a restaurant (eating out is often twice as much as eating at home)
- No need to pay for the family eating out in the evenings due to both parents being too busy and too tired to cook supper

Etc.

When all the expenses are finally **taken into account** considered, then placed side by side with the after-tax income, one finds that a woman's job outside the home must pay extremely well in order for it to really be worth having at all. And, even if it does provide a profit margin, one still has to ask if the extra money is really worth the extra hassle of having both parents preoccupied and forced away from the home in order to earn it.

A full-time stay-at-home mom not only makes good spiritual sense, it also makes good financial sense.

A homemaker can be a money maker!

2. By staying home, she could more effectively manage the family budget.

Imagine the money that could be saved if families were willing to sacrifice just a little and buy only things they truly need. Go to the closet and count the number of pairs of shoes your family owns. How many of them do they really need? Now count the number of outfits that haven't seen the light of day for the last two years. In spite of this virtual thrift shop of clothing within our very own home, we still buy hundreds of dollars' worth of outfits just so we and our children will fit in. A full-time budget manager could help curb a family's vanity and pride.

How many video games, televisions, and DVD players does one family really need? We gripe about poor television content, yet we pay for cable, premium channels, and satellite dishes to beam the foul material right into our very homes.

How many cell phones, computers, and internet access points does it really take to be connected? We harp at our children because they spend too much time on the phone, yet we provide them with every new communication gadget we can find. Think of the savings a full-time budget manager could facilitate.

How many toys does one child really need? We complain about the avalanche of toys that comes tumbling out of our child's closet every time we open the door, yet next Christmas we will again spend hundreds of dollars to surround the tree with more expensive packages. Consider the savings that could open the door for a full-time domestic guardian.

How many times do you eat out each week?

What kind of exorbitant interest rates are you paying on those regular credit card purchases?

The list of money saving suggestions really is endless.

Imagine the money saving advantages that could come if someone made it their full-time job to search out and manage these expenses.

A homemaker can be a money maker!

3. By staying home, she could establish a home business to train her children and provide for her family.

In Proverbs 31:16-18 (NIV), the wise man says this about the financial advantages of a homemaker, "She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night."

Many like to argue that this passage is suggesting the virtuous woman had a career outside the home. I could not disagree more. The emphasis of this passage is on her loyalty and focus to the home. The field, the vineyard, and her trading were all part of her home management. This woman was an entrepreneur for the family from the home.

Notice Proverbs 31:24 (NIV) and the potential application for today's homemaker. "She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes." Think about the training opportunities for the children. Think of the entrepreneurial advantages they could receive from being directly involved in a home business. Consider also the financial advantages and independence offered by an in-home enterprise. All it takes is a little initiative and a lot of hard work for a homemaker to help her family become largely independent of the world's control.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV) we find these practical life instructions, "...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."

Read that last phrase again, “so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” When a homemaker provides for her family through a home business, she does much more than just save money, she also shelters them from dependence upon the world and their manipulating values.

A homemaker can be a money maker! What a Divinely inspired concept!

“Busy at home” in the Spiritual Realm

Other than Christ, the most foundational element of the church is the Christian home. Think of the impact women could have on the church if they were allowed to focus all their energy on the well-being of the home! Imagine what could happen if husbands rejected the American dream of materialistic gluttony and enforced a standard of simpler living on their families. Women would be free to become dynamic ministers of Christ. Without needing to work outside the home, women would be empowered to develop their God-given ministry within the home. Imagine what that could mean for the stability and growth of the church!

Titus 2:4 (KJV) “...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [To be] discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

This small passage says so much about the dynamic ministry of women. Think about the potential good these applied instructions could bring to the spiritual realm.

- A woman could fully dedicate herself to preparing a safe haven for her husband and her children. Every day, Christian family members must travel into a world of intense sexual temptation, materialistic distractions, and spiritual discouragement. From tanning salon billboards and online pornographic popups to sex-filled TV shows, suggestive song lyrics, and flirtatious co-workers, your family is constantly being pulled toward a very dark world of perversion. Having a safe haven to which they can retreat at the end of the day is priceless. Having a domestic guardian who understands this threat and makes it her full-time job to maintain this shelter is nothing less than Divine intervention.
- A woman could devote so much more attention to training her children how to honor God and become leaders within His church. This alone would have a dramatic impact on the 70+% desertion rate of young people from the church.
- A woman could better defend her marriage from worldly predators. Imagine the impact this highly focused sentry could have on the 50% divorce rate within the church.

- A woman could convince the world to stop blaspheming the Word of God. Through her example, she could show the world the reality of the Christian advantage.

Yes, I know. Not every woman is able to fully dedicate herself to being a keeper of the home. There are exceptions to every rule and certainly there are exceptions to this one. But when the exception becomes the common trend, it is no longer an exception. Would you say that career homemakers are the norm or the exception in our culture?

Be honest. How many husbands do you know who have enforced a standard of simpler living upon his family in order that his wife might remain at home to have such a ministry? It is time for men to step up and cut back! Be visionary. Think of all the things that could be cut from the budget if a woman's ministry was a real priority. Imagine the great good that would come to our homes and to God's church if career homemakers were the rule rather than the exception.

- She would have more time to serve the church. Romans 16:1-2 (NIV) "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me." In every growing church, women are an essential part of its success. Think of what it would mean to the church if more women were free to work like Phoebe.

- She could tend to the needs of the elderly, sick, and discouraged. Women are by nature nurturers. Who better to nurture the church's most fragile?

- She would have more time to reach out to the poor and the needy through service projects. Think of the public relations advantage it would give the church! Acts 9:36, 39 (NIV) "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor... All the widows stood around him... showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them."

Think of the dynamic ministry women could have if only they had more time to devote to their Titus 2 assignment.

Conclusion

Vision and initiative are the keys. Think outside the world's box. Do something different. Do something God sanctioned. Be the type of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, "Oh no! She's up!"

Read again the wise man's description of a woman worthy of praise in Proverbs 31:25-28 (NIV).

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." (Proverbs 31:25-28, NIV)

What woman would not want to have these words to be said of her? Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and Titus 2:3-5 together. Apply the Divine admonishments and accept the Divine assignment. This is the key to guarding against the lazy homemaker.

Whoever said "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" captured one of the most profound truths of the human experience. God has placed within the heart of a woman the potential to not only shape a child, but revive a culture and move a nation.

Some are movers,
Some are shakers,
But none compare
To homemakers!

From the very beginning, God has always placed His favor upon righteous families. One may ask, "What can we do to restore God's favor to America?" The answer is ancient and it is obvious - restore the righteousness of the family!

We created the cultural chaos and it is our job to fix it. America is dying for a new approach. Christians can help. But do we have the patience? Do we have the discipline? Do we have the necessary willpower to make the hard choices? Will we embrace God's ancient plan?

His generational approach will work! Will we?

Supplement 3

Homemaker, A Holy Terror!

Fear This!

“Be the type of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, ‘Oh no! She’s up!’”

I first saw this quote posted online and it has forever changed the way I look at the woman who stands guard over my home! She is indeed a holy terror.

Nothing is more important to the success of a Christian home than holiness. It is the key to our fellowship with God and the criteria upon which He bases our level of blessing. When a woman is free to pursue holiness, the blessing it incurs naturally flows over the entire family.

Notice the following passage.

1 Corinthians 7:14 (NIV) “For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife... Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

Although some parts of this passage may be difficult to understand, the general message is clear - a holy woman shares her holiness with her family.

1 Timothy 4:5 (NIV) tells us that a Christian impacts her surroundings by consecrating it through “the word of God and prayer.”

This important verse offers two ways for a homemaker to pass along her holiness to her family.

First, she must be a loyal student of the “word of God.” Having time and taking the time for personal Bible study is essential to a woman’s protective powers over the home. To be effective, she must know her weapon - the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17).

Many men encourage their wives to carry a gun in order to keep themselves safe. But how many men arm their wives with time at home to immerse themselves in a study of God’s Word? Imagine the impact a woman could have on her circle of influence if she just had the time to study. She could plan daily family devotionals that have real depth. She could address her family’s questions with answers from Scripture rather than opinion. She could send inspirational messages to her children throughout the day as well as notes to inspire her husband’s spiritual focus. She could conduct online Bible studies with folks

around the world and devote real time to her Sunday school classes as well as becoming an outstanding ladies' Bible class leader. She could actually challenge her family and her community rather than always playing catch-up with her faith. The possibilities are endless. With a little vision, a woman could become a very intimidating sword-wielding guardian of the family. She could literally become a holy terror to Satan and his forces! Think of the protection she could offer if only she could stay home and study more deeply.

According to 1 Timothy 4:5, the second way a woman passes on her holiness is by blanketing her family in prayer.

What if, after rushing through the insane pace of morning preparations (wake up calls, bathroom conflicts, a thousand questions about "What should I wear?!", the rush to eat breakfast and the sprint out the door), someone on the team could remain behind? What if that person was designated to collect themselves and find peace on behalf of the rest of her family? What level of protective power could this team member generate if she had the time to calm herself, then blanket her family in prayer? Imagine the great impact she could have.

In the movie "Facing the Giants," a minister made it his habit to walk the halls of a local school stopping at each student's locker and praying for a blessing. The impact was overwhelming.

What if a domestic guardian had a schedule that permitted her to do the same in her home? What if each day, before the family returned, she had the time to visit each room of the house asking the Lord to place a special blessing on that part of the dwelling? In the bedrooms, she could ask the Lord to make the room a place of peace and rest. In the living room, she could ask the Lord to guard the family from unwholesome conversation and entertainment. In the bathroom, she could seek protection from vanity. In the kitchen, she could seek wisdom for nourishing the temple of the Holy Spirit. What if every home had a security system that blanketed the entire house in PRAYER?! Think of the blessings that would flow! Every home needs a full-time domestic prayer warrior - a holy terror of prayer!

The first and most important responsibility of a godly wife and mother is the passionate pursuit of holiness. When she is given sufficient time to grow in this area, the protection and blessing she brings to her home will be limitless.

A Shelter Guardian

Proverbs 14:26 (NIV) "Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge."

Husband - Every day Christian husbands travel into a world of intense sexual temptation, materialistic distractions, and spiritual discouragement. From tanning

salon billboards and online pornographic popups to sex-filled TV shows, suggestive song lyrics, and flirtatious co-workers, your husband is constantly being pulled toward a very dark world of infidelity. Having a safe haven to which he can retreat at the end of the day is priceless. Having a wife who understands this threat and makes it her full-time job to maintain this shelter is nothing less than Divine intervention.

Few things are more important to marital fidelity than a well-managed fortress called the home. A full-time domestic guardian is essential to the maintenance of this safe haven.

Children - No one is more vulnerable to the social diseases of our culture than the children.

Insane non-stop schedules rob their minds of the opportunity to process and grow within a context of serenity and peace. Rapid sound bites, television commercials, and fast paced movie transitions push their little brains to overload. Attention deficit disorders are the result.

The temptation to be sexually active begins in grade school. Beauty pageants, enticing superhero characters, boy bands, an entire television industry targeting their young minds, robs our children of their innocence. It pushes them past their formative years without allowing them to form sufficiently. As a result, a pattern of bad relationships builds until, one day, they apply this misinformation to their own marriage. A 50% divorce rate is the result.

Materialism is also preached from every medium. Cruel competition is found in every sphere. Humanism (the worship of self) is the unabashed god of the culture in which our children must survive. Nothing is more important to their development than a safe haven in which they can discover God.

The wise man said this about the godly woman who provides her family with a safe haven. "She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ... she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. (Proverbs 31: 10-12, 21, 25)

One key word jumps out of this passage more than any other - "confidence." Why can this woman laugh at days to come? Because she knows that her home is a fortress of God. Her family has a shelter to run to in times of trouble. She is the manager of this fortress (1 Timothy 5:14) and she has made it her lifelong career to keep it strong.

An effective shelter depends upon two things, the barrier it presents to the enemy and the quality of existence within its walls. Every day, a homemaker must

assess the challenges her family will face when they leave the fort. She must then **make preparation**/prepare to encourage, console, and close the gate securely behind them when they return home. It is no less than a full-time job to make these preparations. The moral crisis within our culture demands a strong fortress. A strong fortress demands constant attention. Imagine the intimidating fortress a woman can build when she is allowed to become a full-time shelter guardian. She could truly be a holy terror!

A Game Changer!

In every game there is a moment, there is a decision that changes the momentum and the direction of the contest. Very often, it is that single moment that alters the entire game and changes the final score. Many Christians are praying for America to find that game-changing moment.

On every front, God's plan for a civil culture is being undermined. Nowhere is that seen more clearly than the attack on the home. In this great contest for America's cultural dominance, the fundamentals of a Christian home must be reasserted. The first and most important step Christian women must take on the journey toward a restored culture is this, get off the bench. America needs a game changer and, in this situation, a woman is God's star player.

Think of this book as God's way of looking down the bench, catching your eye, and calling your name as He points toward the court. It's your turn to shine. You have been chosen by THE COACH. Our team desperately needs to have the ball in your hands! Please don't wave Him off. Rush the court. Take the shot. Be a holy terror!