

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 138: Ex. 20:14: “marriage ... conjugal love ... diligent labor in our callings.”

Main Point of Text: A faithful wife is found working diligently to provide for her household, and her family takes notice.

Sermon Point: *Keep busy.*

Move 1: Mary and maintain your marriage with deliberate intimacy and proximity.

LC: “marriage by those that have not the gift of continency”: self-constraint, “singleness”:

- All need to trust God will give that gift should He not give marriage; or, gives difficult providence.
- Marriage designed by God, includes the only Biblical situation for sexual relations. Best for most.
- *But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.* (1 Cor. 7:9; see 39).

LC “conjugal love”: sexual intercourse keeps marital love/intimacy burning. So too conjugal visits/prison.

- If married, be busy sexually w/ your spouse to keep away idle affairs: Prov. 5:15-21;
- 1 Cor. 7:5: don't defraud one another of sexual relations.
- God created/commanded marital sex: it is good, builds Church.

LC: “cohabitation”. 1 Pet. 3:7: *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Move 2: Whether you are married or unmarried, serve Jesus diligently as His faithful wife.

LC: “diligent labor in our callings”. Prov. 31:11, 27-28: praiseworthy wife (or husband):

- Husband doesn't lack trusting her, because she is found busy taking care of family. If she wasn't around, or if she was always laying around, could be reason to distrust. But he/children honor her.
- If single, value your special calling/gift. Vss. 11/28: Jesus is your Husband (word for husband, “lord”). He needs to trust in you. He and the Church's children will praise your diligent faithfulness (vs. 28). Vs. 27: look to the ways of your household, and the household of God. Stay busy/content w/ calling. Paul models/advises singleness to be busier serving the Lord: 1 Cor. 7:1, 6-8, 32-40
- 1 Tim. 5:11-15 (esp. 13): younger women encouraged to marry so don't become *idle* busy bodies.
- Main qualities: she “keeps watch” of house (Titus 2:5: *good* keepers at home: could be a bad one). She isn't *lazy*. “Idleness”: “Sluggishness”. Enables man to be busy leader in community: vs. 23.

Conclusion:

Prov. 19:15.

Keep busy.