

# A Window For Women

God's Word and Norma's Notes

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## **The Role of the Titus 2 Woman** *Part 2*

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Thank you for your responses to last month's first topic on this subject.

We are going to get into some "ouchy" matters as we look at God's directives on the virtues of a godly woman.

God dives right in, and by His gracious admonitions via the Holy Spirit we are about to get more than our toes wet. Older women, are we ready to be used? Young women, is your sober mind open to sound and valuable counsel resulting from years of Bible study and the practical experience of older women? (I am not referring to myself. I am laying out a few thoughts, but hopefully someone that you know, or to whom He will lead you, will be your discipler.)

Is it not interesting that the first virtue is "love (your) husbands" (Tit. 2:4)? "But sometimes he is so unlovable!" That is not the point. "Love your husbands," the Bible says. It is your obedience, not his worthiness. We dwell on his negatives to a point that they are all we focus on. Then we start talking about it. Why? Can anyone make him over? Do we want sympathy? Are we gossiping? Yes! We forget that it is our responsibility to PRAY for our husbands, and it is GOD'S responsibility to make him GOOD.

I learned a lot about prayer during those 11 years I was a missionary in the Philippines with my first husband, Robert. And I am still learning. The China Inland Mission (later renamed Overseas Missionary Fellowship, then OMF International) had an appropriate principle—"God moves men through prayer alone." It works in every venue including loving your husband. Oh, yes, and it works in us wives, as well. Ooooooh!

Women have seen great things happen when they “lay off” and pray. Let me tell you of an incident. A Christian young woman came to me in frustration, aggravation and tears. Her husband had not performed as she thought he should. She was lividly mad at him. She did not want to talk to him. She did not want to be in the same house with him. Through God’s looking glass of Scripture we scrutinized her attitudes and his problems. Note where we started. Deal with me first, Lord. Search my heart. Take away the dross. Take me through the cleansing fire. How much had she figured God in all of this? Not until she went to the Word. This was an excellent opportunity for personal self-examination. Oh, it is so much easier to sit at a computer and write it than it is to live it.

The more we think about a negative, the more it becomes fixed in our minds. This is the time we should become absorbed with God and His Word and the things that are true/truth. When our minds are occupied with the awesomeness of God, the sacredness of His love and the power of His Word, many aggravations are as though they did not exist. Putrefied water and clean water cannot occupy the same pool.

When we women get emotional, we do not think rationally, and we leave God out of the equation. We are told to think on “whatever things *are* just” (Phil. 4:8). That means to “think on God’s standards.” We need to do our homework with our Bibles open, and with prayer, paper and pencil.

“I do not have time for that,” you say. It seems we can hear, “Well then, dear daughter, lose the victory.” Signed: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.

### *Part 3*

“Admonish the young women to love their husbands” (Tit. 2:4). I am wondering. In the day in which we live, would it be good that older women take a fresh look at their husband/wife relationships? There is so much to distract. So much for older women to vie for. Not much to help them grow old gracefully, let alone to grow old in a godly manner. You can see. It is all around us. Observe.

Loving our husbands is more than giving them a kiss when they come in the door. Love and respect go hand in hand. There are innumerable ways to show our husbands love/respect. I refer to William MacDonald’s *Believer’s Bible Commentary* (p. 2,140) which says it so well. The wife should acknowledge his leadership in the home, make no major decisions apart from him, keep an orderly home, pay attention to personal appearance, live within their means, forgive graciously, keep the lines of communication open, refrain from contradicting or criticizing in front of others and in front of the children. We need to examine and brush up, do we not?

To love is hard work. When we add the words “at all times” (Prov. 17:17) it is almost beyond us. Let us remember that we have God’s “I will” to depend on. With such help we cannot fail. This verse includes all interpersonal relationships inside and outside the family—husband, wife, children, in-laws, neighbors, friends, clerks, service workers and the list goes on.

Let us think some more. Your husband does not give you the romantic attention you desire. Could there be a reason? Take note. A woman came into the room where her husband was reading the paper. She was primed up—nicely clothed, makeup on, orderly hairdo, perfume. He looked up and asked where she was going. “To the gynecologist” she answered, to which he replied, “Wish I were your gynecologist.” That speaks volumes. It should sound a wakeup call. Hubby needs attention. If he goes to work at a usual time, I am one who thinks the wife should be up, pleasant, dressed, hair combed, ready to talk, coffee and breakfast ready. (Perhaps not the norm of the day, but give it some attention.) We must remember that many husbands go to work where women are attentive to them and dressed like decoys. His last memory of his wife was a frump. And we wonder why bad things happen. The eye gate is powerful.

We want our husbands to have every reason to “rise up and call (us) blessed” (Prov. 31:28). Many wry remarks have been made about Proverbs chapter 31. Maybe we are unable to function at the capacity of this virtuous woman, but let us never forget that every jot, every tittle, every word has been inspired by the Holy Spirit (cf. Matt. 5:18). We are wise to heed as God gives direction and help.

Women give many reasons for working outside the home. Some are bona fide. Others are to shirk home duties. They say, “I don’t like to cook and clean and stay home,” so they do not. Others do not go to work, but home duties are neglected while husbands go to work day after day whether they like it or not. Husbands need to know how much we appreciate them. Surprise him with his favorite meal every now and then. When he comes in the door, thank him for providing for the family. Teach the children to say “thank you” and to show gratitude to their dad in other ways. You will be surprised what their ingenuity and creativity will come up with. Then the husband will acknowledge that her worth cannot be measured in terms of costly jewels.

Two sin natures are living within the same walls. Harmony is a grace of God. Search the Word. Use a commentary. Dig deep. Obey His directives. Ask those who are modeling God’s way if they would disciple you. Strive. Your Helper is with you.

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