

Ladies Home Journey

Role Call for Daughters

The ladies on ABC's *The View* have a segment called Hot Topics during which they discuss, well, the hottest topics in the news as it relates to women and women's issues.

Ladies *themselves* are a 'hot topic' in churches all over the world! That's because there are varying views and lively debate on what is commonly called 'The Role of Women.' Should women be elders and pastors? Can a woman teach men? Is there room for women on the church board?

You get the idea.

As I see it, there needs to be a discovery of both the *role* of women in the church and the *roles* of a woman as a Christian. In fact, the more we understand the various roles a woman is called upon to fulfill during her lifetime, the more ready we will be to understand and embrace God's overall role for women.

Even though we should really discuss roles first, I know that your curiosity is peaked and you want to know, right now, what we believe, biblically, to be 'the role of women' in the church.

The staff at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA, in conjunction with their pastor, John MacArthur, Jr., have published what they call a 'Church Distinctive' that delineates their position, as a church, on what the Bible says about the role of women.

While we here at Calvary Hanford have no written distinctive on this topic we find the Grace Community Church distinctive to be informative and biblical.

I'm including a copy of the distinctive for you to read. As you go through it, look up the biblical references for yourself. You should come away from your prayerful, careful reading of both the distinctive and the Bible with an understanding that God has a high calling for women.

Be aware, too, that though we think Grace Community Churches approach is biblical, we are not in full agreement with all their conclusions. For example it is my understanding that they would teach against women working outside the home. **We have no doctrine or distinctive at Calvary Chapel of Hanford that prohibits women from working outside the home.** We try hard not to communicate condemnation for women who find it necessary or prudent to work outside the home, either to support or to supplement their family. (More on this in our study of wives).

We've gotten way ahead of ourselves! Let's set 'the role of women' in the church aside for the next several weeks and look at the **roles** of a woman as a Christian throughout her lifetime as she journeys to Heaven.

If we look at a woman's journey homeward, what we are calling the 'Ladies Home Journey' to Heaven, we can identify at least six (6) roles (or potential roles) she is called upon to fulfill in her lifetime:

1. A woman starts off as a daughter.
2. As she grows towards adulthood she becomes a young unmarried woman.
3. Unless gifted with celibacy she will become a wife.
4. In most cases she will become a mother.
5. Her children grown and gone, she passes into the role of an older woman.
6. At some point in this journey she will arrive home, to Heaven, and be among the bride of Jesus Christ.

Each of these roles has its own unique responsibilities to learn and to apply. In the next six weeks we hope to discuss these roles and discover the responsibilities in order to promote God's high calling for women. We'll look at the roles and, whenever possible, suggest role models that are provided in the Bible.

I realize that there are variations within each of these roles. Broken homes, fatherless homes, divorce, single moms, etc., etc., add different elements. I'll trust you to distill the biblical information in such a way that it applies directly to you in your unique situation. You should feel no condemnation from the Lord, or from us, if your life has not or is not following the 'perfect' course through each of these six stages. *Almost no one's life does!*

One thing is for sure: You started off as a **daughter**. This one is a little tough to discuss in terms of its responsibilities because so much of your early life really depends upon your parent(s) and the spiritual quality of your upbringing. So let's look at it this way. How should you look upon your daughter(s) in terms of communicating their role and responsibilities?

In other words, Are you raising your daughters to fulfill their biblical role?

The classic passage on daughters would have to be the teaching of Paul about both sons and daughters in Ephesians 6:1-3.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:

Ephesians 6:3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

Children, and that of course includes daughters, have the responsibility to be both *obedient* and *respectful*.

- “Obey” (obedience) is the act.
- “Honor” (respect) is the attitude

I don’t need to tell you that these do not come naturally! They must be taught and your daughter must be trained in them.

Let’s talk for a moment about the act of obedience. We might first compare what Paul wrote in Colossians 3:20. Ephesians and Colossians are basically commentaries on each other. They are complimenting each other. In Colossians 3:20 he doesn’t say, “Children, be obedient to your parents in the Lord.” He says it a different way. He says, “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things.”

“All things” always refers to those things that God would be honored with. The verb is present imperative which is a command to do this at all times.

He goes on to say, “for this is right.” *Dikaios* is the word. It refers to that which is correct, that which is just and that which is righteous. You could define *dikaios* another way as that which is exactly what it should be.

One thing I take away from this is that you ought to expect your daughter(s) to obey. Even though it does not come naturally to them, your expectation ought to be that your teaching, your training, your discipling, and your disciplining, will produce a daughter who acts obediently.

You know that your daughter(s) will disobey because of the sin nature. But you can and should expect them to obey and train them up in the way of obedience.¹

What about the attitude - honor? Anybody can accomplish the action. It is the attitude that you have behind the action that makes all the difference in the world. The real way to obey is out of love and respect, out of honor.

Again, this is something that must be taught. It won’t come naturally because of the sin nature.

It also means you must discipline your daughter(s) for their attitude when it is rebellious and sinful.

If you are raising a daughter, this is her basic role in your family. She is to act obediently with an attitude of respect, honoring God’s order for the family.

¹ We have stuff we can suggest to you regarding parenting! Just ask.

There are two other responsibilities that come to mind when thinking of Christian daughters: *modesty* and *chastity*.

The only time our English word “modest” appears in the NKJV is in First Timothy 2:9

1 Timothy 2:9 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,

One author suggested that perhaps the best way of talking about modesty is to do so indirectly. The Bible talks about the lusts of the heart, and specifically how a man can look upon a woman to lust after her. Although you might say that this is a problem for men to resolve, a godly woman recognizes the reality of it and will not want to wear anything or act in a manner that could stumble a brother in Christ or attract attention from a nonbelieving man. Daughters need to be made aware how their physical appearance affects others and, thus, prefer modesty.

We’re using chastity in the sense of keeping one’s self sexually pure until marriage. Abstinence is saving sex until marriage. Chastity goes beyond that and emphasizes a commitment to a pure lifestyle that is the basis for abstinence.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 4:4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

1 Thessalonians 4:5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

Sure, it’s getting more-and-more difficult to go against the flow in our immoral culture. But that’s our calling. We don’t want to just be a little better than our nonbelieving neighbors. We want to pursue holiness. The world will do its best to desensitize us but you can remain focused on what truly pleases God.

Obedience... respect... modesty... chastity. Instill these in the heart of your girl(s).