



The Beauty of Biblical Womanhood
May 11, 2013, *Happy Mother's Day!* ☺

Note:

This message, with subtle tweaks, is a "re-preach" from last Mother's Day. As I thought this week about CRCC ladies, and considered the difficulty of preaching, and for some, receiving the message on head coverings last week, it felt like a review of this kind was in order. So, the text and principles are the same as last year, and I pray this review is a blessing! --CCM

Text: 1 Peter 3:1-7

As I've said in previous years, each *Mother's Day*, we bring back teachings on biblical womanhood in one way or another. It has become a pattern for us, and one I feel is much needed. Ladies, it is because **WE HONOR YOU and LOVE YOU** that we work so hard on these principles.

We are so grateful for the women of this church! To be at CRCC:

- It takes a woman who is absolutely in love with Christ.
- It takes a woman who is sold out and committed to the Word. It takes a woman who is willing to put aside cultural norms and embrace biblical principles.
- It takes a woman willing to escape feminist shackles that she might be free and embrace strong, anointed, dominion-taking biblical womanhood!
- It takes a woman committed to holy singleness or the covenant of biblical marriage despite what media and culture says.
- It takes a woman who is not ashamed of motherhood and caring for children!
- It takes wives not ashamed to submit to their own husbands!
- It takes a woman who, although she is strong, can nevertheless rest in the loving protection of the men in her personal life, her elders within the church, and/or the mature holy men in the body of Christ!

CRCC women...WE HONOR YOU TODAY!!

Something else we say year after year: **At CRCC, we view the role of women and the call to motherhood in such high esteem that our entire church has changed because of it!** Why?

- The first reason is to honor the Scriptures and therefore be obedient to God's ordained order: *But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1Co 11:3 ESV)* This wonderful Scripture implies...
- Our second reason: to increase the **love, support, protection,** and **provision** for the women and children among us! "Women and children first" may sound old fashioned to some of you but not to us. *We are calling men to lead not for the sake of domination, but for deliverance; not to be served, but to serve; not to be catered to but to be trained to give his life for his wife, sisters, and children!*
- We believe every woman is to be cherished and nurtured, treated with special gentleness and care, provided for, and protected at all costs. In order for this to happen, we are **trying to go back to Scripture** to re-learn a few things.

Thoughts on Peter 3:1-7

- Biblical Womanhood is beautiful, and it should be seen that way!
- We've said often that culture fights against both godly womanhood and manhood, and it's true. Ladies, see yourself the way God sees you! You are fearfully and wonderfully made! Without you, life is not possible! Without you, marriage is not possible! Without you, children aren't nurtured and cared for the way God

designed. You have a beautifying role, adding graceful strength to the home and church (Ps 144:12; Prov 31; 1 Pet 3:4).

- Even though Peter is referring to wives, the principles give us a framework for biblical womanhood...
 1. She is **submitted**. (v1)
 2. She is respectful and **pure**. (v2)
 3. She is **modest**. (v3-4a)
 4. She has a gentle and **quiet** spirit. (v4b)
 5. She embraces **biblical** models of womanhood. (v5-6)
 6. She understands she is the **weaker** vessel. (v7)
 7. She rejoices that she is a **joint** heir of the grace of life. (v7)
- Already one can see how a biblical, New Testament framework for womanhood isn't what we see in today's culture!
- But may I ask...how's that working for us? Are our homes, children, marriages, single lives, emotional health, and financial stewardship any better due to the indoctrination of societal norms?
- These pillars of biblical womanhood come right out of a book called *Feminine by Design*, written by my friend Elder Scott Brown. Here is a wonderful excerpt from the introduction...

"The world needs Christ loving, husband helping, home making, dominion taking, kingdom making women. The Bible not only teaches women to be possessors of gentle and quiet spirits, it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous and strong and distinctively feminine. They are supremely secure and are not frightened by any fear. They are brimming with confidence in the future and are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They are happy because they fear the Lord and love His ways. Their worth is far above rubies, and they bring gain to their households. They are girded with strength and their clothing is of fine linen. The law of kindness is upon their lips. They do their husbands good all the days of their lives. They are "pillars sculptured in palace style" (Ps 144:12) with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place."

- Friends, the goal today is to paint a picture of what a godly woman, wife, and mother looks like, celebrate that vision, and encourage you wonderful sisters not to be ashamed of it! And may we raise our daughters this way!
- *"Only women can be mothers. Have we forgotten this fundamental? Only a woman can carry in her body an eternal being which bears the very image of God. Only she is the recipient of the miracle of life. Only a woman can conceive and nurture this life using her own flesh and blood, and then deliver a living soul into the world. God has bestowed upon her alone a genuine miracle — the creation of life, and the fusing of an eternal soul with mortal flesh. This fact alone establishes the glory of motherhood. This is one reason why the office of wife and mother is the highest calling to which a woman can aspire. This is the reason why nations that fear the Lord esteem and protect mothers. They glory in the distinctions between men and women, and attempt to build cultures in which motherhood is honored and protected."* – Article from the National Center of Family Integrated Churches

12 Reasons Biblical Womanhood is Beautiful:

1. She is beautiful because she is an **Image-Bearer!**
 - a. *Gen 1:27 ESV - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
 - b. "What we believe about who a woman is...matters. In other religions and cultures women are devalued. In atheism, she is a random collection of atoms; in Hinduism, she is a liability; in Islam, she is property; in China, she is of less worth than a male child and might be killed at birth. BUT, within the pale of Christian orthodoxy, **SHE IS HELD IN HIGH HONOR!**"

- c. A woman, like a man, bears the image of God! She has an immortal spirit and is, if she is saved, a joint-heir in Christ!
 - d. She is so esteemed in fact, that God designed protections around her for her whole life! A father when she is a child, a husband if she marries, a church commanded to help her and cover her otherwise! She should NEVER be without protection in some form! And may I ask every woman who hears this for forgiveness if you've ever felt like you were without protection.
2. She is Beautiful because she is a **Woman**, not a **Man!**
 - a. *Gen 2:21-23 ESV So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (22) And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*
 - b. **Ladies, your gender is "one of the beautiful expressions of the wisdom of God." You are fearfully and wonderfully made according to the plan of God, who doesn't err. Your femininity is designed to bless society, homes, and children. An aspect of the glory of creation is lost when women abhor their design.**
 - c. Your place in creation order is according to the wisdom of God! You were created to "help" (Gen 2:18). And here is the thing...if you don't "help," our homes AND the world hurts!
 - d. *1Co 11:3 ESV But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.*
 - e. The above Scripture, our text, and many others (ex. 1 Timothy 2:11-14, 1 Cor 11:8-9 etc.) outlines and ratifies creation order. A godly woman understands her God-given role and flourishes in it to the glory of Christ!
 3. She is Beautiful when she is a **Disciple** of the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - a. Is there anything more precious than observing and learning from a godly woman?
 - b. Our Text reminds us that a woman is every bit of an heir of the grace of God in Christ Jesus as a man. Orthodox Christianity places no distinctions on ontological worth between men and women.
 - c. Although our roles and functions are different, we are equally disciples and equally heirs together according to the promise!
 - d. **A woman who walks with the Lord, studies the Scriptures to show herself approved, is secure in her femininity, and who understands her design contributes much to the body of Christ!**
 4. She embraces the beauty of her role as a member of the **Church!**
 - a. A godly woman knows she is a valuable part of the church and has been since its inception!
 - b. **Like a home, the church loses much of her beauty and tenderness without the faithful, God-fearing daughters of Zion.**
 - c. Again, although her role is different, it is beautiful and given to her by the Lord. (1 Tim 2:12-15)
 5. She is a demonstration of unfading **Beauty!**
 - a. See our Text again, verses 3-4. I love what Elder Brown wrote: "There is no neglect of beauty in Christianity, for God would have the daughters of Zion be beautiful."
 - b. This beauty is not merely outward; it is cultivated inwardly! This is why it is unfading; it isn't about just looks. It is about a gentle and quiet spirit...which is called PRECIOUS in the sight of God!
 - c. This beauty is a MODEST beauty (1 Tim 2:9). A godly woman doesn't dress "to be seen;" rather she dresses with a wonderful humility to please Christ, and if married, honor her husband (1 Cor 11:5).
 6. She sees the beauty of being a **Helpmeet!**
 - a. *Gen 2:18 ESV Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*
 - b. This is another reason why today's perverted, androgynistic culture is an abomination. The beauty of a wife's "helping" role is anathema (hateful) to many modern minds. But without it, much that is precious and commanded goes undone! (Prov 31)

- c. One of saddest situations in modern life (please take this in the right spirit) is a woman who uses all of her “helping energy” someplace other than where it is designed for. There are many reasons for this (beyond the scope of a single sermon), but this is sadly true nonetheless.
7. She is beautiful because she is a **Respectful** and **Submissive** wife!
- Eph 5:22 ESV Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
 - Eph 5:33 ESV However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*
 - For those ladies who are married, “help” starts at home. A godly wife understands that, “*The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.*” (*Pro 14:1 ESV*)
 - Godly husbands take note: you cannot do what God commanded without her help! NO CHANCE! But with her help, you both with accomplish much!**
8. She sees the beauty of **Keeping** her **Home!**
- Tit 2:4-5 ESV and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, (5) to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*
 - One of the wonders of biblical womanhood is its effect on the home...its atmosphere, beauty, discipline and teaching, food, cleanliness, warmth, and economy!
 - When she refuses to revile or blaspheme God’s Word, homes change! The word for “reviled” in Greek is “blasphēmō.”
 - This mindset is mocked, laughed at, and hated today even by Christians. But our homes are in disarray and our children lost.
 - Ladies, you and your husband (as appropriate) make your own decisions concerning the pragmatic implications for you...but this I know: Satan loves an unprotected, un-nurtured home with un-disciplined children. Is there something better than God’s plan?**
9. Is a domestic **Entrepreneur!**
- Proverbs 31:10-31 describes this mindset perfectly. Please read it! These verses give wonderful context to what it means to biblically “keep” a home!
 - A godly woman is an absolute “go-getter!” Business, family wealth, property ownership, agriculture, clothing lines, teaching children, etc. She is serious! ☺
 - “Her hands are always moving and her lamp does not go out at night. She is a happy woman with a big, full life!” –Scott Brown
10. She is beautiful because she as a fruitful bearer of **Children!**
- Gen 1:28 ESV And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply...”*
 - A godly woman loves children and embraces God’s call for them! Even if she doesn’t have any of her own yet, she desires to see more of them, sees them as precious, and wants to aid in their development in the Lord!
 - How different is this from the current, cultural mindset of limiting children, being freed from the burden of children, seeing noisy children as a nuisance, or even insisting on the “right” to kill precious, helpless little babies in the womb.
 - The message “be fruitful and multiply” in the Scripture is unmistakably clear. In Scripture, children didn’t limit “career choices;” on the contrary, they were the reason FOR a strong work ethic! God’s plan provides not only for the protection of women, but for the continual nurture and training of children by their mother!
 - Psa 127:3 ESV Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.*
11. She is beautiful because she **Teaches** the next generation!
- Deu 6:7 ESV You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
 - A godly woman invests time in teaching her children and grandchildren and many times assists other moms with their children, for example in her church. It’s hard to imagine a more critical role!!
 - Pro 1:7-8 ESV The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (8) Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching...*

12. She is beautiful because she is a godly **Mentor!**

- a. *Tit 2:3 ESV Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good...*
- b. Scott asked a question in his book: "Where are the older women to mentor the younger?"
- c. It is a good question. He wrote, "God's life cycle design for a woman is that she would begin as a daughter, proceed to become a wife, then a mother and grandmother, and finally a godly mentor of younger women."
- d. Yes, each life is different, but this pattern is worth thinking about at least. Where are the seasoned "mothers" that mentor young moms? Mature ladies and mothers...YOU are so needed!
- e. ***The life of a godly woman is FULL...from youth to gray hair...with working, teaching, raising children, helping, entrepreneurship, discipling, managing and growing wealth, serving the church, and eventually showing another generation of women how to do the same!***

Final Thoughts:

Elder Brown said it well, and I agree: "We live in an environment where many Christian parents and leaders act as if the words and phrases and principles in the Bible are simply relics of an ancient culture **rather than a representation of the heart of God**. This is travesty against womanhood, against the family, against the church and the state."

Our families and societies aren't just crumbling because men are out of place; they are crumbling because women are as well. May Christ have mercy and reform our thinking concerning the **beauty of womanhood and motherhood**.

Again, Happy Mother's Day!!!!

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:30 ESV)