by Wayne Goff

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD" ~ Proverbs 18:22. The following biblical principles stand true and firm and will pass the test of time because they come from God. Unfortunately, many in America today mock or ridicule these truths. Dear brother and sister in Christ, be sure that you read, study and believe these truths:

## Wife: God's Gift To Man

Genesis 2:18-22 teaches that God made woman and gave her to man to fulfill his needs socially, physically and spiritually. She is the final creation, and is a great blessing to the world. "For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man" (1 Corinthians 11:8-9). This should not be considered demeaning to women, nor should they consider themselves inferior creatures because of it. It is simply God's plan for the home. Man and woman are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and as such are equally valuable. But each has a different God-given role to fill to make the family what it ought to be.

"Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD" (Proverbs 19:14).

## A Wife Is Subordinate To Her Husband

Because Eve was deceived by Satan, God placed her in a subordinating position in the home: "To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you'" (Genesis 3:16).

This did not change when the new covenant of Jesus Christ came into existence: "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control" (1 Timothy 2:11-14). Our society mocks, ridicules and sneers at this teaching, claiming that it makes women inferior, and unequal to men. But these instructions show the different roles of men and women in the church and home and the reason for it. Many claiming to be Christians also ignore this teaching, placing women in preaching roles in their churches. But this is contrary to plain biblical teaching.

Keep in mind also that this passage does not apply absolutely. Women can own businesses, be in positions of authority over men in business, government, etc. Do not confuse God's plan for the church and home with these situations.

## The Wife's Role In The Home

The wife's role in relation to her husband and children is one of great privilege and responsibility. The Bible speaks repeatedly of the great influence the woman has in the home. She is to "manage the house" (1 Tim. 5:14), be a "worker at home" (Titus 2:5, NASB; see also Proverbs 31:10-31), love her husband and children (Titus 2:4), as well as maintain a godly disposition of goodness, being discrete, chaste and good (Titus 2:5). All of this strong teaching suggests the power and influence of a good wife and mother in the home. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon defines "manage the house" as "manage family affairs." She sets the tone and atmosphere of the home. Practically speaking, compare the apartment of a bachelor with that of a young woman, married or single, and you will see the benefit of which the Bible speaks! Men need women to make the home beautiful, organized and comforting!

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands" (Proverbs 14:1).

So much more could be said about the wife and mother of the home. A good wife and mother is one of the greatest treasures in this world! May God give us godly women and godly homes. 361903