

**Sermon
Delivered on the occasion
of the
Marriage Blessing
Between**

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(Sabbath, 10th June, 2017)**

Title: The Blessing of Married Life

Marriage enhances a Woman's Life

The celebration of the godly wife is a Biblical theme we are all acquainted with. The godly wife is said to be “a crown to her husband”, but she that “maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones” (Prov. 12:4).

Moreover, she's characterized as a “wise woman” who “builds her house”, in contrast to “the foolish woman” who “plucks it down with her hands” (Prov. 14:1).

And, yes, the godly wife humanizes the house, turning it into a nest of love and care, making it a real home full of warmth.

But marriage does not only serve the interests of the man and the children alone. It also enhances a woman's life, giving her a sense of purpose and fulfilment.

That's why the Apostle Paul recommends that Christian young women marry and manage the home. Although given in the context of a recommendation to young widows (who might at a point in time have a desire to re-marry in contravention of their earlier pledge of faith to stay devoted to Christ in a renewed chastity), it's a sound advice which will serve any young Christian lady well. Indeed, it should whet their appetite for marriage because the unmarried state could potentially endanger their spiritual and social wellbeing.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Pastor Timothy in 1 Tim. 5:11-15:

“But refuse to enroll younger widows [in the list of widows under the care of the church], for when they begin to feel natural passions that alienate them from the Messiah, they want to get married.

“This brings them under condemnation for having set aside the trust they had at first.

“Besides that, they learn to idle, going from house to house; and not only idle, but gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn’t.

“Therefore, I would rather the young widows get married, have children and take charge of their homes, so as to give the opposition no occasion for slandering us.

“For already some have turned astray to follow the Adversary” (CJB).

The point is well made. Singleness has pitfalls Christian maidens would avoid by getting married.

First, marriage makes otherwise ‘carefree’ young women more responsible, curing the tendency for them to be busybodies and lazy. Their time is better spent as married women unlike previously when they had enough time to spare which they passed in gossips, poking their (long) noses into people’s affairs!

They are no longer the ubiquitous party girls and all too familiar faces at every funeral in the neighbourhood and beyond, whether or not it’s for a relative or anywhere in between! Not to mention the hundreds of Ghana Cedis saved on classy funeral cloths and their accessories which are immediately discarded after that high-class funeral!

Nope, they now have a sobering responsibility to serve a husband and look after a home. Marriage has ‘domesticated’ them more, making them less footloose and more focused on the things which count in life. Time and resources are put to a better use. As the saying goes, the devil finds work for the idle hand.

But woe betides the man whose wife carries over her girlish exuberance and carefree lifestyle into the marriage!

She would have missed her role as a married woman and hence the blessing of it.

And that is exactly the point of the message – that in playing their God-given roles as wives young women stand to reap a personal and enduring benefit from their married lives.

Get a Life – as a Wife!

So the young women should get down to it – marry, bear children and manage the home – instead of passing time in unproductive activities or, in contemporary terms, endless social media activity – whatsapping, facebooking and taking selfies compulsively!

It’s not only a man who gains by marrying a woman, making his life more complete and blissful. The same is equally true for women. It’s also not good for a woman to be alone since she was created by God out of a man for man (1 Cor. 11:8-9) – so that she might partner him in marriage!

So a woman also gains tremendously from marrying a man – emotionally, spiritually and socially. It’s common knowledge that many women attain success in life by partnering their husbands in building a home and a life together, quite apart from the sense of completeness and worth their husbands give them.

That is why brides are the happiest when they are getting married. The man fills the void in their lives, and the nightlong cries to heaven for 'Mr. Right' suddenly fall silent!

Therefore, as a young woman don't delude yourself that you do not need a man in your life. Your feminine instincts will betray you sooner or later! Also, don't unnecessarily play hard to get, unduly delaying your answer of consent or refusal to a marriage proposal. Men have little patience at such times!

So if a marriage proposal comes your way, pray over it and if the Lord approves of it by a positive sign in a vision or dream, be like Rebecca. Don't hesitate to grab it. When asked by her people the day after the marriage ceremony if she was ready to go to her husband (who had been represented at the ceremony) immediately, her swift answer was, "I will go" (Gen. 24:54-58). Rebecca did not hesitate because in the words of Laban and Bethuel, her uncle and father, "The thing [marriage proposal] proceedeth from the LORD".

Once married, a natural result ordained by God (ordinarily speaking) is childbearing. This was a blessing pronounced on Rebecca by her relatives as they sent her off:

"And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them" (Gen. 24:60).

In other words, may your children succeed in every area of life against all odds!

Yet this will not happen in a vacuum. Childbearing entails child rearing which must be attended to with dedication and sacrifice. A mother's life is a busy life, but it's worth it. It fills her time with purpose, meaning and satisfaction. She's raising a generation for the future who will in time "call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28).

Although dads are to discipline the children and instruct them in the way of the Lord, much of the character-building work in the children especially falls to the mum. Because she's much closer to the children and spends more time with them, she stands the chance of exerting greater influence (positively or negatively) on them than their father.

And what a fantastic job a godly mother could do with her child! What a saintly person she could make of her child!

Such was Timothy's mother, Eunice – in contrast to his father who was an unbelieving Greek (Acts 16:1-3).

Timothy's life spoke volumes about his mother's godly traits and the dedicated motherly training she gave him in the Lord. The Apostle Paul commends Timothy's mother and the godly training she gave him in two separate scriptures in 2 Timothy:

“I recall your sincere trust, the same trust that your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice had first; and I am convinced that you too now have this trust” (1:5 CJB).

“And recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua Messiah” (3:15 CJB).

It runs in the family; it’s a generational blessing of godly reverence passed down from mother to daughter to grandson! Timothy did not become acquainted with the truths of the Holy Scriptures by default. His mother taught him the scriptures just as his grandmother had taught her mother, laying a solid foundation of faith for him to be used by the Lord in the ministry.

Motherhood is a fruitful occupation for which there are endless rewards and benefits for the mother herself, the father and the society at large.

Thus earnestly occupied in the fruitful work of a wife and a mother, which detractor, or group of detractors, will have any more ammunition to fire at her or the church on account of some lousy behaviour like gossiping?

The enemy who would otherwise label the sister a gossip, lazybones or a busybody with alacrity will be silenced.

Meanwhile, the sister herself will put down roots in the church. It’s an open secret that many of the young sisters who turned back to the world did so because an unbeliever showed an interest in her, whereas no brother would seek her hand in marriage.

So then, brothers do look inwards for a life partner, “the wife of your youth”. Don’t cast your net too wide; it might not catch quality spouse. You, young ladies too, make yourself available. Don’t string along the brothers who propose – if only the answer is yes! Don’t appear to refuse to cry later!

In line with God’s purposes, marriage is one sure way to keep a young woman in the faith as well as enrich her life.

The Apostle’s recommendation is worth supporting. Let’s keep the weddings coming. God bless us all!