

Discipling Young Women

Introduction: Our culture had been drifting in a vast ocean of feminism which has, very sadly, led to several generations of weak, directionless men whose status quo is to conform to the image of men portrayed on *The Red Green Show*. I have laid a huge emphasis upon discipling young men. But certainly just as heavy of an emphasis must also be laid upon discipling young women. We have not yet been able to start digging into the *gender-specific* passages of Scripture which set forth and define clearly the differing roles of men and women. We have also not yet discussed the importance of preparing young men and young women for marriage. Whether they are your own children or not, look at our young people with this thought: *In all likelihood, this young man or young woman is going to end up married to someone*. And since marriage is so easy, we can just live a godly life in front of them and hope that's enough for them to figure it all out on their own when they get there, right? [chuckle]. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to interact with lots of young people - as a camp counselor, a catechism teacher, a father, and in my day-in and day-out life and ministry. As I've gotten to know children and young people, I've often wondered how those specific children and young people will do at being *married*. The future of the kingdom of God on earth is in many ways dependent upon that very thing - how our young people do at being married. While not all people will get married, *most eventually will*. Because the establishment of new families and the raising of new covenant children is of such incredible importance to the future of the kingdom of Christ in this world, *the discipleship of young people in general and also specifically with an eye to marriage is very important*.

There is no question that gender distinctions and marriage are under assault today. We live in an ever increasingly anti-Christian culture. When President Obama gave his inaugural address, he referenced the "Stonewall Riots" in a favorable way. What were the Stonewall Riots? Here are our president's own words from his speech:

We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths — that all of us are created equal — is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through **Seneca Falls [a women's right conference in 1848]**, and **Selma [1963-64 - marches and protests over voting rights and racial discrimination]**, and **Stonewall**; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth. It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law — for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.

The **Stonewall riots** were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the [gay community](#) against a [police raid](#) that took place in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the [Stonewall Inn](#), in the [Greenwich Village](#) neighborhood of [New York City](#). They are widely considered to constitute the single most important event leading to the [gay liberation](#) movement and the modern fight for gay and lesbian rights in the United States

How the mighty have fallen! The founders of his nation would have listened in shocked horror to such a thing coming off the lips of an American president. We now have perversion and the profanation of marriage being trumpeted to the world from the highest office of the world's most powerful nation.

If we truly desire that Christian young people embrace a Biblical worldview which includes a righteous and holy understanding of their gender, of marriage, and of what a family is, then *Biblical worldview training*

and discipleship must be an undertaking of the highest priority and importance in our minds! Will our young people in our churches withstand this tidal wave of wickedness, or will they like so many other children be swept into the arms of the world because of their naivete and less than Biblical worldview?

In some ways men and women are the same and in other ways we are different.

How men and women are the same (3 ways):

1. **Both are created in God's image – Genesis 1:26-27** "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
2. **Both are baptized disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and full members of His church – Acts 8:12** "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."
3. **Both are teachers of their own children – Deuteronomy 6:4-7** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one! [5] You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. [6] "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." **Psalm 78:1-9; 2 Timothy 3:15 (remember where Timothy learned the faith? (2 Timothy 1:5).**

Passages specific for women:

1. **Women are to be the "helper" to their husband – Genesis 2:18**, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Voddie's illustration: God pronounced "good" upon everything he made - the animals, the firmament, the birds, the fish - good, good, good, good... and then he came to Adam and said: "He ain't gonna make it." That's a bit of humor, but God looked at Adam's *alone-ness* and said: "it is **NOT GOOD** that the man should be alone."

Application: Men need help.

Illustration: God puts a man on the earth to cut down a forest, but all he is by himself is an ax-handle. His mission is to cut down the trees, but all he can do is wear himself out hitting the trees with the ax-handle accomplishing nothing. But if he gets a razor sharp, stainless steel ax-head - the trees don't stand a chance. That's how I envision men - or certainly myself - before marriage. I needed a helper. And without a helper, I could not do what God wanted me to do.

Remember: The way Jonathan Edwards found Sarah – he was spellbound by her godliness. She was his spiritual equal. And *that's* what made both of them *as individuals* so much a force for greatness in God's kingdom.

Application to discipling young women: When speaking with young women about what they should consider in potential husbands, we must emphasize and ingrain into their thinking: *You are looking for a man whose goals in life you can make your own*. Obviously, a young woman needs to find a man who will truly love her (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:7), who will put her first, who will lay down his life for her, who will study her so he knows how best to love her and bring out her gifts and enable her to blossom. She needs to be very *clear-minded* in considering who that man will one day be. He needs to have a life, a vision, plans, and goals that *she will want to help him achieve*. And young ladies need to be equipped to be able to discern as much as possible with the help of their fathers especially and/or mothers, or even the elders in their local church the character of young men.

I say this because of this little nugget of Biblical truth we must *likewise* do everything we can to bury deeply into the souls of our young ladies:

Proverbs 30:18-19 [18] There are three *things which* are too wonderful for me, Yes, four *which* I do not understand: [19] The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.

Charles Bridges captures the meaning here so very well: “Not less mysterious is the way of a man with a maid. Eminently practised is the seducer in ‘the depths of Satan,’ and a thousand arts does he employ to allure the affections of his unwary victim. And it is often as difficult to penetrate his designs, and to escape his snares, as to race the way of the eagle, the serpent, or the ship. Let this be a warning to young and inexperienced females, not to trust to their own purity, or to the strength of their own resolutions, or to place themselves in unprotected situations.”

Question: The Hebrew term for “wonderful” in v18 does not mean *wonderful* in a good way. It means wonderful as in “a source of wonderment,” or “impossible to comprehend.” Why is the way of a man with a virgin described this way in Scripture – as something too filled with wonder to understand?

Application: When properly motivated, there are few things more cunning and manipulative than men who are interested in a young lady. And yet, many if not most women will eventually get married and we need to disciple them with this in mind. God created them to ‘help’ men. Why? “It is not good that man should be alone.” Men can be charming, and they know women like to be complemented, made to feel important, listened to, etc. But we must help young women to look past charm to see *character and purpose*. “If I am to be this man’s lifetime helper, what is it that he is wanting me to help him accomplish if anything?”

[End of “helper to her husband”]

Caveat - There is legitimate calling to perpetual single life. In fact, Paul commends it:

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; [9] but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord. [33] But he who is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please his wife. [34] There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please her husband.

However, most will probably get married.

2. **What is True beauty in God’s sight? – 1 Peter 3:3-4** **“Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- [4] rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”** Proverbs 31:25-26, “[25] **Strength and honor are her clothing**; She shall rejoice in time to come. [26] **She opens her mouth with wisdom**, And **on her tongue is the law of kindness.**”

Application: Scripture gives us some *striking* contrasts between godly women and ‘immoral’ or ‘strange’ women.

The Godly Woman – 1 Peter 3:3-4; Prov. 31:25-26	The “Immoral” or “Strange” Woman – Prov. Ch. 5&7
“a gentle and quiet spirit” – 1 Peter 3:4	“She was loud and rebellious” – Prov. 7:11 “So she caught him and kissed him” – Prov. 7:13 “she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword” – Prov. 5:4
“Strength and honor are her clothing” – Prov. 31:25	“the attire of a harlot” – Prov. 7:10

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness” – Prov. 31:26	“the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil” – Prov. 5:3
“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her...” – Prov. 31:10	“her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell” – Prov. 5:5 “Remove your way far from her; and do not go near the door of her house.” – Prov. 5:8
“The wise woman builds her house,” – Prov. 14:1a	“But the foolish pulls it down with her hands” – Prov. 14:1b
“Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit” – 1 Peter 3:3-4	“As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion [i.e. feeling, discernment, or sense].” – Prov. 11:22
“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband” – Prov. 12:4a	“But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones” – Prov. 12:4b
“Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord” – Prov. 19:14b	“Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.” – Prov. 21:9; 25:24; 27:15-16
“She does him good and not evil all the days of her life” – Prov. 31:12	“For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men.” – Prov. 7:26

Review / Summary

1. We began by taking a look at the cultural slide towards complete gender confusion and the profanation of marriage - and the resultant great need we have to disciple men to be men and women to be women according to the Word of God.
2. We look at the ways in which men and women are the same:
 - ⇒ **Both are created in God’s image**
 - ⇒ **Both are baptized disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and full members of His church**
 - ⇒ **Both are teachers of their own children**
3. We looked at passages that specifically describe God’s intentions and design for women:
 - ⇒ **Women are to be the “helper” to their husband**
 - ⇒ **What is True beauty in God’s sight?**
 - ⇒ **The chart of contrasts between the godly woman and the immoral / strange woman**

Next time we’ll continue on with more of the gender-specific passages for women. I’d like to close with the opening paragraph in the introduction to Scott Brown’s book: *Feminine by Design - 12 Pillars of Biblical Womanhood*:

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, but it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous, 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, sculpted in palace style” with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place (1 Peter 3:6; Proverbs 31; Psalm 144:12; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15).

There are so many confusing and diabolical messages for young women today. Because every culture of the world is at war with God we must communicate to our daughters that if we follow the common culture, we will be embracing its rebellion against God. This is why God commands us NOT to “learn the way of the Gentiles” (Jeremiah 10:2), or to walk “in the statutes of the nations” (2 Kings 17:8), or to “learn to follow the abominations of those nations” (Deuteronomy 18:9) but to “be saved from this perverse generation” (Acts 2:40).

I believe that daughters should be prepared from their youth to fulfill the biblical vision. They should honor the Lord their God by learning *from Him* and being satisfied in Him. He has designed rich and fulfilling roles for them and it would dishonor God and harm them to self-consciously mix the ways of the world with His ways. I encouraged my daughters to love His ways and cleave to His ways even though the voices of the world are always screaming for a different way. I would tell them that the ways of wisdom “are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.” (Proverbs 3:17-18).