

CHAPTER 11

HOW CAN A MODERN DAY WOMAN SERVE IN GOD'S CHURCH?

I. AS AN OVERALL PRINCIPLE — GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

- A. It is vital to know the job description that God has written for you as a woman.
- B. Otherwise, you may devote too much time to the lesser responsibilities and neglect the most important.

II. LISTED BELOW IS A GENERAL OUTLINE OF PRIORITIES WHICH IF CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED WILL ENABLE YOU TO LEAD A RICH, REWARDING AND FULFILLING LIFE.

A. A suggested sequence of priorities for the average married woman in God's Church.

1. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.

- a. Prov. 31:30 "... but the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."
- b. If this is not right, everything else is wrong.

2. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO YOUR HUSBAND.

- a. The woman was created to be man's helper.
- b. Gen. 2:18 "...it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him."
- c. I Cor. 11:9 "Neither was the man created for the woman; but for the man."
- d. We list this as No. 2 as a principle of government regulating the home.

3. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO YOUR CHILDREN.

- a. This can be a demanding and time-consuming job, especially if the children are young and need continual attention.
- b. But when viewed from God's perspective, it's one of the most glorious and rewarding of all earthly responsibilities.
- c. Think long range — of molding and guiding their lives and preparing them for God's Kingdom.
- d. The kind of training you give could very well affect their conversion and eternal destiny.
- e. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."

4. YOUR DOMESTIC DUTIES AS A HOMEMAKER.

- a. Prov. 31 places significant emphasis on this duty.
- b. Titus 2:1-5 "... keepers at home."
- c. The appearance of your home and overall living environment reflects the quality of your character and love for family.
- d. This point also includes food preparation and proper clothing for the family.

5. CHURCH INVOLVEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.

a. Overall principles.

(1) Before getting involved, be sure you've fulfilled your first priorities.

- (a) We're referring to such matters as not neglecting the home and children in pursuit of outside interests that appear more "exciting."
- (b) The key to remember: ALL THINGS IN BALANCE.

(2) Examine Your motives — make sure they're founded on love, not on vanity.

- (a) is your desire to serve truly genuine?
- (b) Or is it to elevate self and be seen by others?
- (c) Or perhaps to escape from domestic duties?

(3) Be a bright and shining example.

- (a) At all times and in all places.
- (b) I Peter 3:1-6 = "...the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit."
- (c) Watch your tongue and reflect a positive and sweet-natured outlook on life.

- (4) Respond to little things that need to be done.
 - (a) Don't wait to be asked when the need is obvious.
 - (b) Serving the handicapped at picnics.
 - (c) Helping to tidy up restrooms at church.
 - (d) Helping a young mother with several children.
 - (e) Spending time before and after services in getting to know others and especially in drawing out those who are shy and reticent.
- b. Getting down to specifics.
 - (1) Personal service
 - (a) General fellowship at church — radiate friendship and good cheer!
 - (b) Participating in service teams.
 - (c) Visiting the sick and elderly.
 - (d) Baking and sewing for the needy.
 - (e) Sending get-well cards.
 - (f) Writing letters of encouragement.
 - (g) Telephoning widows, shut-ins and others you feel need cheering up.
 - (h) Being hospitable — having people over and sharing your home.
 - (2) Organized church activities
 - (a) Volunteering to help with Sabbath School.
 - (b) Helping with Y.O.U.
 - 1) Fund-raising — paper drive, bake sale, etc.
 - 2) Chaperoning dances and outings.
 - (c) Women's Association.
 - (d) Women's Alliance (AICF).
 - (e) Girl Scouts.
 - (f) Church sponsored workparties.
 - (g) General fund-raising for church activities — garage sales, rose parade, etc.
 - (h) OUTREACH
- 6. Ways to Serve in the immediate Neighborhood.
 - a. Suggestions and opportunities.
 - (1) Caring for the sick.
 - (2) Having a tea for widows.
 - (3) Visiting shut-ins and the elderly — taking them out for a ride.
 - (4) Baking cookies, bread & sharing canned goods with those truly in need.
 - (5) Sharing produce with neighbors from home garden.
 - (6) Running errands.
- 7. Larger Community involvement.
 - a. General opportunities that are open.
 - (1) School volunteer work.
 - (2) Visiting nursing homes to read, visit or aid in other ways.
 - (3) Working with handicapped.
 - (4) Red Cross volunteer
 - (5) Offering services to children's institutions or homes for veterans.
- 8. Development of Special Skills & Talents in the Home.
 - a. Crafts & hobbies.
 - (1) Macrame.
 - (2) Crochet.
 - (3) Knitting.
 - (4) Dressmaking.
 - (5) Writing for fun.
 - (6) Recording information to be passed on to children.
 - (7) Poetry.
 - (8) Music.
 - (9) Voice lessons.

- (10) Gardening — raising prize-winning plants, flowers, etc.
 - (11) Collecting recipes and experimenting with new dishes.
 - 9. Continuing Education for Personal Growth & Expansion.
 - a. Suggestions on how to increase your scope of usefulness.
 - (1) Enrolling in home study courses to further education.
 - (2) Take part-time classes at local colleges.
 - (a) Knitting.
 - (b) Cake decorating.
 - (c) Flower arranging.
 - (d) Interior decorating.
 - (e) Sewing.
 - (f) Meal-planning.
 - (g) General handcrafts.
 - (3) Attend church sponsored seminars and lectures.
 - (a) Child rearing.
 - (b) Marriage relationship.
 - (c) Personality development.
 - (d) Coping with stress.
 - (e) Time management.
 - 10. Exercise & Recreation.
 - a. General suggestions:
 - (1) Ice skating.
 - (2) Roller skating.
 - (3) Ballet.
 - (4) Health Spa.
 - (5) Volleyball.
 - (6) Jogging.
 - (7) Swimming.
 - (8) Tennis.
 - (9) Bowling.
 - (10) Family picnics, camping trips, hiking, etc.
 - (11) Working with husband in planning special trips and outings.
 - b. In order to fit some of these suggestions into your schedule, you may want to exchange babysitting responsibilities with other mothers, friends, etc.
 - 11. Work or Part-time Employment (with caution and counsel)
 - a. Not recommended for mothers with small children, except in dire emergencies.
 - b. Once children are older or have left home, the active, healthy mother may want to pursue some kind of limited employment (both husband and wife should agree on this).
 - c. Many reasons:
 - (1) Send children to college.
 - (2) Buy new furniture.
 - (3) Home improvements.
 - (4) Pay off debts.
 - (5) Keep mind active.
 - (6) Explore new horizons.
- B. General Principles.
- 1. Learn to find fulfillment first and foremost in your God-given role as wife, mother and homemaker.
 - 2. Don't become ensnared by the glamour, prestige and excitement of the Women's Lib Movement
 - a. This caution is given so that young mothers won't confuse their sense of values and priorities.
 - b. Women's Lib has made a career outside the home to appear more inviting and intriguing, and has played down the role of homemaker as drab and boring.
 - 3. Launch out and try something new. Don't let indecision and procrastination hold you back.
 - a. You may want to embark on many new adventures but are having trouble in deciding what to do.

- b. The key is to start with something — you may discover it's very fulfilling.
 - c. Make out a list and try them all as time permits.
4. Keep broadening your life by adding new challenges.
- a. This will prevent you from vegetating and growing stale.
 - b. Keep your mind active and alert.
 - c. Take up reading — it's an excellent way to sharpen your mind and fill in educational gaps.
5. Continue to develop social skills and graces.
- a. Involve yourself with other people.
 - b. Share your home — learn to be a gracious hostess.
 - c. Build a balanced social life.
6. Sharpen your powers of imagination, creativity and drive.
- a. Cutting kids' hair.
 - b. Wallpapering bathroom.
 - c. Inexpensive decorations for the home.
7. After children are self-sustaining (no need for babysitter), re-evaluate your life in terms of new directions and interests.
- a. Part-time-Job (must not interfere with your spiritual life, your marriage or impair your health.)
 - b. Volunteer work.
 - c. Classes
 - d. Etc.
8. Think bigger than yesterday. Opportunities for growth are all around you.
- a. Never allow yourself to stop growing — you'll wither and grow old before your time.
 - b. You should become more beautiful, mature and complete with each advancing year.
9. Maintain a balance between basic priorities and self-improvement.
- a. Keep an eye on the day of judgment, for it's the bottom line that will tell the story of how well you've fulfilled your role.
 - b. Measure and monitor everything you do with your eternal destiny in view.
 - c. Surrender to God and seek His guidance so that the whole of your life is pleasing to Him.

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