

## The Glory of Divine Design

Titus 2:5 – Cindy Lindstedt - Dec. 3/5 2022

[Older women are to **encourage** the younger women...] *<sup>5</sup> to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

### I. Divine Design: What should the church look like?

The goal is a healthy church with a strong witness, built according to our Creator's omniscient W\_\_\_\_\_ by **Divine Design**, on the foundation of S\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_. (Titus 2:1)

Two Timeless Principles:

1. Men and women are fully E\_\_\_\_\_ in **dignity, value, personhood, and worth.**
2. Men and women have different R\_\_\_\_\_ (or functions) as part of God's Divine Design.

### II. Assaults on Divine Design (Jer. 17:9)

#### A. Divine Restraints Against Evil

1. The Conscience - #1 line of defense!  
Spiritual Trifecta => "The goal of our instruction is **love from a pure heart** and a **good conscience** and a **sincere faith.**" (1 Tim. 1:5)
2. The Family
3. The Church
4. The Government (Rom. 13)

God knew... (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Mark 7:21-13)

"Hubris" vs. "Overcomers" (Rev. 21:5-8)

"Preach the Word!" Live by the Word.

#### B. Feminism

Becky's Blender

"If the time should ever come when women are not Christians, and houses are not homes, then we shall have lost the chief cornerstones on which civilization rests". – Andrew D. White

#### C. Gnosticism

Dark backdrop... Wrath of God (Rom. 1)

### III. God's Glorious Design (Titus 2:5)

- Complementarian vs. Egalitarian

- Woman - "*Ishshah*" connotes yielding readily to the touch, flexible, pliable, delicate, graceful; not loud, quietly pleasant, calm, gentle, kind, tender, compassionate, sympathetic.
- Woman was made F\_\_\_\_\_ man and F\_\_\_ man, to be his H\_\_\_\_\_.
- Cultivate the "hidden person of the heart with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit... P\_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3).
- What is the problem?

A. Older Women to the Rescue!

B. Objections: "But you don't know my husband!"

The Refiner's Fire (Progressive Sanctification)

- 1 Cor. 10 – God is faithful...
- Roman 8:28-29 – All things...
- 2 Cor. 4:16-18 - Light and momentary affliction...
- 2 Cor. 3:8 - Transformed from glory to glory!

C. Creating a Spiritual Legacy (2 Tim. 1:5)

"The hand that rocks the cradle \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_!"

- Susanna Wesley

Resources for further sanctification: 😊

- **Divine Design: God's Complementary Roles for Men and Women** – John MacArthur
- **Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together** – Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
- **The Excellent Wife: A Biblical Perspective** – Martha Peace
- **Radical Womanhood: Feminine Faith in a Feminist World** – Carolyn McCulley
- **Lies Women Believe and the Truth That Sets Them Free** – Nancy Leigh DeMoss
- **The Measure of Success: Uncovering the Biblical Perspective on Women, Work, & the Home** – Carol McCulley with Nora Shank
- **True Woman** – Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
- **Feminine Appeal: Seven Virtues of a Godly Wife and Mother** – Carolyn Mahaney
- **Who Killed the American Family?** – Phyllis Schlafly
- **Biblical Manhood and Womanhood** – (566 pages) ed. by John Piper and Wayne Grudem (contains a wealth of information refuting books and typical feminist teaching about the role of men and women at home and in the church - even if you don't read the whole book).
- **"The 30-Day Husband Encouragement Challenge"** – <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/challenges/30-day-husband/>
- **The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood** – [www.cbmw.org](http://www.cbmw.org) - The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (1987); The Nashville Statement (2017) & other excellent biblical references

## Application Questions (POA) – Women’s Study Lesson 11 (Titus 2:5)\*

**Gen. 2:8** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

- ⇒ Have I embraced my God-created design to be a helper to the man?
- ⇒ Am I willing to sacrifice my own ambitions and aspirations in order to fulfill my primary role and calling as a helper to my husband?
- ⇒ Am I providing companionship for my husband?
- ⇒ Am I completing and complementing my husband rather than competing with him?
- ⇒ How could I better help my husband fulfill God’s purpose for his life?
- ⇒ What kind of words, actions, and attitudes on my part will help Christian men around me become all God wants them to be?
- ⇒ Am I promoting healthy, godly marriages in the ways I relate and respond to other women’s husbands?
- ⇒ Am I maintaining the kinds of boundaries in my relationships with men that promote biblical standards of purity?

**11 Cor. 7** For a man... is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

- ⇒ In the way I talk to and about men, do I show their God-created worth and value?
- ⇒ Am I a responder (rather than an initiator) in my relationships with men?
- ⇒ Do I make it easy for men to fulfil their given calling to lead in the home, the church, and society?
- ⇒ Do I respond to men in ways that communicate appropriate respect and affirmation of their manhood?
- ⇒ Do I seek to protect and preserve God-created distinctions between men and women in the way that I conduct myself, in my dress, and in my various roles as a woman?

**1 Cor. 11:8** For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; <sup>9</sup> for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake.

- ⇒ Do I recognize and accept that God created the woman to complete, complement, and help the man?
- ⇒ Is my life helping and blessing the men around me in ways that promote holiness and godliness?

**Gen. 3:20** Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

- ⇒ Do I recognize and embrace my God-given calling to be a bearer and nurturer of life?
- ⇒ Do I consider it a high and holy calling to be a “mother” - whether of physical or spiritual children? Am I actively involved in bearing and nurturing life?

**Prov. 31:12** She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

- ⇒ Am I committed to support my husband in every way possible and to always act in his best interests?
- ⇒ Does my husband know beyond the shadow of a doubt that I am committed to him for life, no matter what?

**Prov. 31:26** She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

- ⇒ Do I bless my family, friends, and acquaintances by speaking words that are kind and wise?
- ⇒ Do I study and meditate on the Word of God so that I can know how to speak wise words?
- ⇒ Am I able to point people to specific Scriptures that apply to their lives and needs?

**Eph. 5:33** The wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

- ⇒ Does my husband feel that I reverence and respect him?
- ⇒ Do others know that I reverence my husband?
- ⇒ By my words, example, and counsel, do I encourage other women to reverence their husbands?

**Prov. 31:30** Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *but* a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

- ⇒ Do I live in the constant, conscious recognition of the presence of God?
- ⇒ Am I more concerned about cultivating my relationship with the Lord than being stylish or physically attractive?

**1 Peter 3:3** Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; <sup>4</sup> but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

- ⇒ Do others see in me an inner radiance and beauty that are the result of a grateful, yielded, trusting spirit?
- ⇒ Do I focus more time and effort on cultivating inner spiritual beauty than I do on matters of external beauty?