

A Wise Woman Accepts Her Unique Position in the Body of Christ

Chapter 9 in "Becoming A Woman Who Pleases God," Pat Ennis & Lisa Tatlock

The Body of Christ

Romans 10:9-11

1. All who are in the Body of Christ are greatly BLESSED! We all have been made complete in Christ Jesus. Colossians 2:9-10, For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, [10] and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.
2. Diversity in the Body of Christ, Romans 10:12-13
3. We are COMMANDED to LOVE one another. John 13:34-35 NASB
4. In the Body of Christ, we are COMMANDED to Glorify God in all that we do. Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:31
5. For each of us, there are different circumstances, and seasons of life. Psalm 139:1-4,

Becoming a Woman Who Pleases God

A "Wise Woman" Ephesians 1:17-20

Understanding of God's Truths (Knowledge)

Apply God's Truths (Wisdom)

Singleness in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 7:34,

"The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit.

How does The Wise Woman Thrives in her Single State?

1. She uses her days of singleness to concentrate on becoming mature in Christ. Her eyes need to be on the Lord. When we do not trust God's perfect plan, we rob ourselves of true joy.

Therefore:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5-8, Ephesians 2:10

2. Marriage and Trusting God. You will be better prepared for marriage when you concentrate on becoming mature in Christ.

Single Mothers in the Body of Christ

Isaiah 40:29 "He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power."

How Does The Wise Woman Nourishes the Single Mother?

1. James 1:27, "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."
 - a. A wise sister in Christ will possess a tender heart toward the single mother and will apply the principle of unselfishness in nurturing her.
 - b. We love our single mothers, by seeking to understand their needs.
 - c. We eagerly reach out to help meet their physical needs and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement.
 - d. We visit them in their distress. She encourages and helps her to walk uprightly in the Lord.

Childlessness in the Body of Christ
Psalm 147:3 “He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.”

The Wise Woman is Content with Childlessness, as she trusts in God

1. One in four couples will not be able to conceive a child of their own. Approximately 2.3 million couples in the US are infertile. Infertility is on the rise due to many reasons and circumstances.
2. What will I do if God does not open my womb? As you seek medical advice, and other alternatives, trust in God, even if you do not fully understand. Romans 11:33
3. God has a unique plan for women currently facing the issue of childlessness. Ephesian 2:10.
4. Your genes and your ability to bear children do not determine God’s blessing. God’s blessing is based on His grace, and it extends to all who are a part of God’s family.
5. Elizabeth, a barren woman for most of her marriage pleased God. Luke 1:6-7 “They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. [7] But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.”

Our Widows in the Body of Christ
Psalm 34:18 “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

The Wise Woman Cares for Widows.

1. God is very concern with the needs of the widows (Psalms 68:5, 146:9).
2. God established clear guidelines for their care (1 Cor 7:8, 1 Tim 5:4), from the family to the church.
3. James 1:27, “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”
- a. As sisters in Christ, we love our widows, by seeking to understand their needs. We eagerly reach out to help meet their physical needs and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement.
4. Seek to understand: The difficult role of being a widow. Grief will come and go in different stages and different waves.
5. GOD IS NEAR: God’s Word is a great source of comfort.
- a. Psalm 86:1,6-7 NASB, Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me; For I am afflicted and needy. [6] Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And give heed to the voice of my supplications! [7] In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You, For You will answer me.
6. Your loss is not a result of some sort of punishment for something you have done wrong.
7. God has a plan for your life, even in the storm.

Talking Points

Biblical Truths and Practical Applications

At any time in our life, we will need to remember God' truths. We must be careful not to be wise in our own eyes, but to trust in the Lord with all our heart, acknowledge Him, and believe that He will make our paths straight. (Proverbs 3, Matthew 4:4)

WE HAVE ALL WE NEED IN CHRIST, Colossians 2:9-10:

1. "... His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:2-4
2. "...You are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
3. 1 Peter 1:3-9
4. Your continuing peace, joy, and hope cannot be achieved by your status in the world, but only by your personal relationship with God.
5. And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23, Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 30:6, Matt 22:37-39, Mark 12:29-31.
6. "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11

THEREFORE - A WISE WOMAN...

1. Her actions reflect biblical characteristics. her value system is in the proper perspective.
2. She is capable of doing what God has called her to do. She is equipped to become involved in the work of the ministry (2 Timothy 3:17, 1 Peter 4)
3. She learns to die to self and the rudiments of the world (gal 2:20, Col 2:30, 1 Peter 1:2-4)
4. She acknowledges God's sovereign (complete control as absolute ruler) control of her life. God rules over all things (Psalm 115:3), He does according to His will (Daniel 4:35, Proverbs 21:1, 30)
5. "Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, [2] make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. [3] Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; [4] do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. [5] Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:1-5
6. What she believes in the light, do not doubt in the dark. (Psalm 23, 1 John 1)
Romans 8: (a) She knows that she is loved by God. (b) As God's child, she acknowledges that nothing can separate her from His love. (c) She knows God is working all things for her good.
7. Her strength to deal with Satan's temptations develops as she matures in Christ (Ephesians 6). She does not affirm her value as a person from the world, but from God.
She does not believe the lies: (a) I am not valued because I am not married, do not have children... (b) My life is not complete because I do not have a husband, I do not have children...
8. She refuses the idol of motherhood, the idol of marriage. While motherhood will be the primary calling for most women, it should not be the source of joy and contentment. (John 15:11, Philippians 3:1, 4:4).
9. She refuses Self-pity, which leads to anger and bitterness. She cultivates a heart of thankfulness for God's many blessings and maximize her time in serving the Lord
10. She does not presume on God's will for her life. She is open to the Lord's perfect and best plan for her life. She does not become God's counselor by assuming she must have children to be fulfilled. Romans 11:33-36, Psalm 8

RESPONDING THOUGHTFULLY TO LIFE DEMANDS

1. **Deal with your heart issues:** Life challenges can cause sinful reactions: Anger, self-pity, resentments, ... Deal honestly with the emotions of your heart and confess any known sin. When we are sorry for our sin, and seek a clean heart (Psalm 51), God grants forgiveness (1 John 1:9-10. We will not prosper if we cover our sin (Proverbs 28:13).
2. **Commune with God:** There is a temptation to react fleshly and eliminate personal time with the Lord. The very thing we eliminate is the very thing we need to respond appropriately to life's demands! 1. Renew our minds daily, Psalm 92:1-2, It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; [2] To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night. 2. Mediate on God's Word, God's person, God's works.
3. **Communicate with others:** 1. God never intended us to live in isolation from other believers. Rather, He commands us to bear on another's burdens. The strong are to help the weak. 2. Many of us allow our own pride to prevent us from honestly sharing our needs. Your proper response allows others to help bear your burdens.
4. **Seek Godly Counsel:** Mentors, Pastors, Individuals with expertise in particular areas such as finances.
5. **List and Prioritize all Demands:** You need to know what obligations are making demands on your time and energy before you devise a plan.
6. **Recognize the Superwomen Syndrome:** You cannot do it all, and you are not meant to do it all! Do not succumb to the world's view of women that places demands on us that God never intend us to bear. Ask yourself, In light of eternity, what are my priorities?
7. **Develop Management Strategies:** 1. Eliminate the extras, 2. Delegate where possible, 3. Take time before committing, 4. Do not procrastinate, 5. Learn to Multitask (Dovetail), 6. Maximize your most effective time slots, 7. Take Action, actually complete the work.
8. **Consider the needs of others:** People are more important than tasks. (Phil 2) Reaching out to others while experiencing personal difficulties can be an encouragement and remind us that everyone has a burden to bear.
9. **Take care of yourself Physically:** Beware, when we are under pressure, we start eating poorly, and stop exercising and sleeping. We must remind ourselves our bodies are the temple of God.