

INTRODUCTION

In the Bible, God's loving concern for the woman is evident beginning to end.

Her duties are described and commanded, but God's compassion toward her failures comes forth strongly.

The woman sinned, transgressing God's commandments very near the beginning. But God promised that from her one would come who would bring salvation to our race.

The woman's pains in childbearing were greatly increased, but God still...

The woman would become impoverished, but God would provide...

The woman would lose her only son, but God would raise him from the dead.

The woman would be sick of a fever, but the Lord Jesus would heal her, so she could resume serving as she loved to do.

The woman would die while still a girl, but the Lord Jesus would raise her and restore her to her parents.

The woman would be bent over for years, but the Lord Jesus would loose her.

The woman would spend all she had on doctors, but still have a chronic condition, but one touch of Jesus' garment in faith would heal her.

The woman would spend her life in adultery, even harlotry, but the Lord Jesus would forgive her.

The Lord Jesus died on the cross to atone for the sins of the woman, just as for the man, and rose from the dead for the sake of the woman and the man.

The Lord Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on his disciples, men and women without distinction.

The Lord Jesus proclaimed forgiveness of sins for all who repent, for the woman no differently for the man, for as to salvation through faith in Christ, there is no male or female.

The Lord Jesus would even make the woman into the beautiful symbol for His church, calling the church his bride.

So, in the letter 1 Timothy, the Lord Jesus shows his loving concern for both the man and the woman in the congregation. In the context of describing the responsibility of the church toward women who have been widowed, the Lord's apostle gives instruction for how the woman is to conduct herself in the household, what her family duties are.

Today, we are looking to see what those duties are by learning what is meant by the apostle's instruction that the woman is to "rule the house."

Today, I am leaving out the matter of how a woman shows kindness to the poor and needy. Of course I don't mean that is unimportant. But it seems to much to take today's matter and that matter together in one address. God willing, that will be for next time.

TEXT

1 Timothy 5:14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

BODY

Learn What It Is for a Woman to Rule the House

- I. From the Opposite - 1 Tim 5:13
 - A. Being idle
 - B. Wandering about from house to house
 - C. Saying things they ought not

For a woman to rule the house means that she avoids being idle, wandering about, and saying things she should not.

II. From the Words Used

A. G3616 *oikodespoteo*

1. our word is an uncommon word, in the Bible only here, which is the verb form:
home +rule
2. there is a more common word G3617 *oikodespotes*, which is the noun, meaning
“ruler of the house” or “master of the house” or “householder” or “goodman of the
house”

B. English translations

1. TYN gyde KJV guide
2. GEN governe
3. RV, ASV, RSV rule
4. NIV, NKJV, ESV, CSB manage

C. Mr., Mrs. and Miss

1. Mr. an abbreviation for master
2. Mrs. and Miss both abbreviations for mistress
3. mistress originally the feminine form of “master”
4. still in use in that sense in some settings e.g. in theater
 - a) prop master/mistress
 - b) costume master/mistress

D. So, from the meaning of the word, we understand that the woman is to be a mistress of the house; as such she is to govern, to guide, to rule, to manage the house

1. not, of course, trying to usurp authority over the man; she willingly submits to her own husband, acknowledging that in God’s arrangement, he is over her and she is under him
2. but ruling as mistress over the children and any hired workers

E. APPLICATION - understand yourself to have the rule over your children, over other children committed to your care, and over people hired to work in your household

1. you might tell your children to do something, and say “please” out of a habit of courtesy
2. but be very clear in your mind, and make it very clear in your children’s minds, that you have the right to command your children, and they have the duty to obey
3. I have sometimes advised my dear wife not to let any child do anything that doesn’t please her

For a woman to rule the house means that instead of being idle, wandering about, and saying things she should not, she understands herself to be a mistress of her house, and, as mistress, she rules the household.

III. From the Way This Same Doctrine Is Express in Titus Chapter 2

- A. Titus 2:3-5 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, **homemakers**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- B. TYN huswyfly
- C. G3626 *oikoros* GEN keeping at home, KJV keepers at home
 - 1. house +
 - 2. guard, keeper
- D. ESV working at home, ASV, CSB workers at home
 - 1. not untrue
 - 2. I do not believe that is the right word here

For a woman to rule the house means that instead of being idle, wandering about, and saying things she should not, she understands herself to be a mistress of her house, and, as mistress, she rules and keeps the household.

IV. From the Concept in the Parables of Our Lord Jesus

- A. We do not have any other examples of today's word in the Bible. But we do have the noun form of the word several times in the gospels.
1. our word is a verb
 2. if we can look at the noun form, and see what a house ruler is doing, we can understand what the apostle means by the verb
 - a) if you don't know what it means "to box"
 - b) but you can see what a "boxer" is doing
 - c) you will understand what it means to box
- B. Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the **owner [G3617 oikodespotes]** came and said to him, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field?"
1. GEN, KJV householder ESV master of the house
 2. he is directing servants to productive work; specifically, he is having his servants plant seed in a field
- C. Matthew 21:33-34 "Hear another parable: There was a certain **landowner [G3617 oikodespotes]** who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. (34) Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.
1. GEN, KJV householder ESV master of a house
 2. he planted a vineyard
 3. he leased the vineyard to vinedressers to work it
 4. he sent servants to receive the produce
- D. Matthew 20
1. G3617 *oikodespotes* in two places
 - a) verse 1
 - (1) GEN, KJV, RV/ASV householder
 - (2) NASB, NIV, NKJV landowner
 - (3) ESV master of a house
 - b) verse 11
 - (1) GEN, ESV master of the house
 - (2) TYN, KJV goodman of the house
 - (3) RV/ASV householder
 - (4) NASB, NIV, NKJV landowner
 2. What is he doing?
 - a) directing workers to do productive work
 - b) paying workers their wages
- E. So, the master of the house directs servants and hired workers to make his holdings productive or fruitful, and pays them their wages

For a woman to rule the house means that instead of being idle, wandering about, and saying things she should not, she understands herself to be a mistress of her house, and, as mistress, she rules and keeps the household, making the household productive, and giving wages to those who work for her.

V. From the Virtuous Wife in Proverbs 31

- A. Understand that this woman is an ideal, not a real person
- B. What her motivation is said to be - 30 She fears the Lord
- C. How her rule of the house is described in general
 - 1. 12 She does him good
 - 2. 29 She does virtuously or well or excellently
 - 3. 27a She oversees or looks well or watches over the ways of her household
 - 4. 27b She does not eat the bread of idleness
- D. What she actually does
 - 1. 13 she buys raw materials, with which she then works or labors
 - a) 19 ...she puts her hands to the spindle and distaff (making raw wool or flax into yarn or thread)
 - 2. 14 she shops carefully
 - 3. 15 ...provides food GEN giveth the portion KJV giveth meat
 - 4. 16 ...considers a field and buys it...plants a vineyard
 - 5. 17 she uses her strength, increasing her strength by using it
 - 6. 18 she does good work, and works long
 - 7. 21-22 she clothes the members of her household and herself well
 - 8. 24 She makes things that can be sold
- E. How she speaks or talks 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom; the law of kindness or grace is on her tongue

CONCLUSION

For a woman to rule the house means that, fearing the Lord and wanting to do what is good for her family, instead of being idle, wandering about, and saying things she should not, she understands herself to be a mistress of her house, and, as mistress, she rules and keeps the household, working hard to make the household productive, so she can provide for herself, for her husband, and for all who live with her and work for her.

Stephen - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 29:2

Thad - Scripture Reading - Proverbs 31:10-31

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 13 "O Worship the King" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 125 "My Heart Doth Overflow"

Rita - Trinity 186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" - Andrew lead

- F. Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the **master of the house** [G3617 ***oikodespotes***] had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.
1. what he actually did: slept while his house was broken into
 2. what he should have done, had he known: watched and not allowed his house to be broken into