

# Being Busy At Home

## *Titus 2 Course - Session 6*

By Carolyn Mahaney



### I. Introduction

*“Then they [the older women] can train the younger women ...to be busy at home.”*  
Titus 2:5

This phrase “to be busy at home” is only one word in the Greek. It is the compound word “oikourgous” meaning “homeworker”.

### II. Home

#### A. Home is our place to work.

*“...to be busy at home.”* Titus 2:5

*“So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes...”* I Timothy 5:14

Proverbs 31:10-31

#### 1. Not a popular place to work

“...much of the world would agree that being a housekeeper is acceptable as long as you are not caring for your own home; treating men with attentive devotion would also be right as long as the man is the boss in the office and not your husband; caring for children would even be deemed heroic service for which presidential awards could be given as long as the children are someone else’s and not your own. We must not be overcome by the surrogacy of this age, which offers even a substitute womb for those so encumbered by lofty pursuits that they cannot accept God-given roles and assignments.” *Dorothy Patterson*

#### 2. Not the *only* place to work

\* A special word to our single Moms!

## **B. Home is our place to enjoy.**

*“Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. <sup>6</sup> The boundary lines have fallen for me in **pleasant** places; surely I have a **delightful** inheritance.” Psalm 16:5-6*

1. **Boundary lines are for our good and God’s glory.**
2. **Boundary lines afford limitless opportunities and boundless rewards.**

## **C. Home is our place for ministry.**

1. **Whose home is it?**
2. **What is our ministry?**
  - a. Caring for our husband and children
  - b. Caring for the needs of the saints
  - c. Caring for the lost

*“I believe with all my heart that one of the greatest soul-saving stations in the world is the home.”*

*Dawson Trotman*

*“Just as many people were brought to the Lord through Mrs. Schaeffer’s cinnamon buns as through Dr. Schaeffer’s sermons.”*

*Anonymous*

- d. Caring through hospitality.

*“Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

*“No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.” I Timothy 5:9, 10*

### 3. What is true spirituality?

*“...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*

*“The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquillity as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament.” Brother Lawrence*

### D. Home is our place to build.

*“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” Proverbs 14:1*

A wise builder:

- Decides what she needs to build
- Draws up her plan
- Executes her plan
- Evaluates her progress
- Enjoys the end-product

### E. Home is our place to manage.

*“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.<sup>28</sup> God blessed **them** and said to **them**, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. **Rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground’.”*

Genesis 1:26-28

*“Where men are to rule the direction of life, women are to rule its quality. Whereas men provide leadership, women provide atmosphere. Whereas men control the choices, women control the environment.” Jean Brand*

*“So I counsel young widows to ...manage their homes...” I Timothy 5:14*

*“She looks well to the ways of her household.” Proverbs 31:27 (NAS)*

“His home is the home of his heart. He needs not to look into the matters entrusted to her [his wife] with suspicious eye ...Ruling in this sphere without, he encourages her to rule in her sphere within.” *Charles Bridges*

“Happy is the man who when he thinks of home while he’s working, is cheered and not weighed down.” *Anonymous*

1. **Manage the order of the home.**
2. **Manage the cleanliness of the home.**
3. **Manage the food and clothing of the home.**
4. **Manage the beauty of the home.**
5. **Manage the atmosphere of the home.**

### **III. Worker**

“Proverbs 31 is the mirror against which every Christian woman must stand and face herself.” *Matthew Henry*

#### **A. Hard worker**

*“She gets up while it is still dark...”* Proverbs 31:15

*“...and her lamp does not go out at night.”* Proverbs 31:18

*“She ...does not eat the bread of idleness.”* Proverbs 31:27

The lazy woman vs. the diligent woman:

- Proverbs 6:6-11
- Proverbs 10:4-5
- Proverbs 12:24, 27
- Proverbs 13:4
- Proverbs 18:9/Proverbs 30:25
- Proverbs 19:15/Proverbs 31:15
- Proverbs 24:30-34/Proverbs 31:27

**B. Strong worker**

*“She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.”*  
Proverbs 31:17

*“She is clothed with strength...”* Proverbs 31:25

**C. Cheerful worker**

*“She ...works with her hands in delight.”* Proverbs 31:13 (NAS)

*“She can laugh at the days to come.”* Proverbs 31:25

*“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous.”* Psalm 32:11

*“Did you know that sausages and beans taste different if the person serving them is glad to do so, or if they are hating it?”* Jean Brand

**D. Unselfish worker**

*“She brings him [**her husband**] good, not harm, all the days of her life.”*  
Proverbs 31:12

*“She provides food for **her family** and portions for **her servant girls**.”*  
Proverbs 31:15

*“She opens her arms to **the poor** and extends her hands to **the needy**.”*  
Proverbs 31:20

**E. The Lord’s worker.**

*“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”* Proverbs 31:30

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,<sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”* Colossians 3:23-24

## IV. Conclusion

### A. The dignity of homeworking

“Somebody has to be the nest maker, the artist, the interior decorator, the imaginative person with a dignity born of understanding its importance...” *Edith Schaeffer*

“Homeworking--being a full-time wife and mother--is not a destructive drought of usefulness but an overflowing oasis of opportunity; it is not a dreary cell to contain one’s talents and skills but a brilliant catalyst to channel creativity and energies into meaningful work; it is not a rope for binding one’s productivity in the marketplace, but reigns for guiding one’s posterity in the home; it is not oppressive restraint of intellectual prowess for the community, but a release of wise instruction to your own household; it is not the bitter assignment of inferiority to your person, but the bright assurance of the ingenuity of God’s plan for the complementarity of the sexes, especially as worked out in God’s plan for marriage; it is neither limitation of gifts available nor stinginess in distributing the benefits of those gifts, but rather the multiplication of a mother’s legacy to the generations to come and generous bestowal of all God meant a mother to give to those He entrusted to her care.” *Dorothy Patterson*

### B. The rewards of homeworking

*“Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup> Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all’ <sup>31</sup> ...Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”*  
Proverbs 31:28, 29, 31

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* II Corinthians 5:10

### Recommended Resources:



*Can Motherhood Survive* by Connie Marshner

*Choices* by Mary Fararr

*Confessions of An Organized Homemaker* by Deniece Schofield

*The Hidden Art of Homemaking* by Edith Schaeffer

“The Peaceful Home” 2 videos by Elisabeth Elliot

