

Session Two: Women Who Glorify God

I. Introduction*

II. Four Big Themes in Scripture Concerning Biblical Womanhood

A. Theme One: God's Creation Design of Woman

1. GOD: Our reference point is God; we are His image bearers.

Our purpose is His glory, and our authority is His Word.

2. CREATION: Our creation design is never outdated because it transcends time and place.

Our design is bigger than any role in life, but it impacts every role in life.

3. GOD stamped His image upon us at CREATION; it's intrinsic to who we are.

B. Theme Two: The Gospel Empowers and Compels Us to Exercise Our Design

1. What we think about God empowers us:

- a. Our beliefs about ___ ___ ___ show up every minute of every day.
- b. Thinking rightly gives clarity of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ that enables us to be a true helpers.
- c. Gazing upon God's ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ empowers us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifices.
- d. Being captivated by the righteousness of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ compels us to joyfully extend love and acceptance to others.

2. What we value about God compels us:

- a. We value the calling of wife/mother but are not defined by our calling; we do not make an ___ ___ ___ of the family.
- b. We fiercely guard family but hold them loosely; we ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ God's sovereignty & love.

3. What we aim for:

- a. We aim for a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ that enables us to move with grace through life's different seasons/circumstances.
- b. We aim to be ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ for God's mercy and, as a result, we become streams of mercy and forgiveness to others.
- c. We aim to not be trapped by this world; our sights are on our heavenly ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

C. Theme Three: The Covenant Community Is the Context for Our Design

(Covenant Community = the Church; Context = the setting)

1. Women in the corporate family/the church ---

- a. _____ are equipped for relationship within the family & the church family.
- b. In the church, we are _____, and we are to care for each other.
- c. In this world, the helper design is an anomaly (a deviation from culture's standard). To the world, the helper design is _____.
- d. Women have an unique ability to bring family into home and _____.

2. Women in the immediate family ---

- a. _____ is a Gospel picture to our children, to the church, & to the world.
- b. Our husbands must be the _____ beneficiary of our community & compassion.
- c. Our children are not our own; we understand the _____-dependence of our families & the family of families.

3. God's intention for church to be the family of families ---

- a. We understand the _____ of domesticity and of hospitality.
- b. Our design equips us for making homes safe places that reflect _____.
- c. Our design equips unmarried women to be helpers in God's _____.

D. Theme Four: Headship and Submission Release Us to Fulfill Our Creation Design

1. Submission is the way God has ordered _____ in the kingdom, and it is good because He is good.
2. Submission is not legalistic actions or mindless passivity; it is more about _____ than actions. (Philippians 2)
3. Submission is not proven by logic; it is about _____.
4. Submission is a _____ that we voluntarily give to the men we have pledged to love.
5. Submission doesn't restrict us; it actually _____ us to fulfill our helper design.

III. Application of Themes in the Lives of Mary and Rebecca

A. Mary --- Luke 1

1. first glimpse of Mary

- a. Mary had clarity of purpose: Mary's because of assurance of her position.

- b. We must know God's grace is in us and His protection of us in order to be a helper.
- c. Mary was wise and humble to go, listen, and learn from an older woman. (Elizabeth ministries" result in lives that explode in praise).

2. Mary's sword in the soul

- a. sword in soul is greater than a sword in the flesh
- b. 3 causes for soul swords:
 - 1) our own sin
 - 2) sin of another against us
 - 3) providential circumstances

3. Anna spoke truth into Mary's life; another "Elizabeth ministry".

- a. Women need women to help them think redemptively, not destructively.
- b. Women encourage each other to see God's glory in every situation & relationship.

B. Rebecca --- Genesis 24, 26, 27

1. first glimpse of Rebecca --- Genesis 24

- a. responded like Mary --- focus & clarity of purpose
- b. exercised helper design --- made tent safe place; Isaac's heart was comforted
- c. knew God's plan --- promise made to the younger

2. Rebecca lost her way --- 3 explanations for why "I will go" changed to "I will take control"

- a. possibly marriage was no longer a Gospel picture as children became a wedge
- b. possibly sword in her soul had destructive rather than redemptive effect
- c. possibly became cold and insensitive others' needs
→ In sum, she seemed to forget the character of the God who promised.

C. Application --- Two Very Different Stories

1. respectful v.s. disrespectful

- a. Mary fulfilled mission; she was respectful all the way to the cross.
- b. Rebecca lost her way; her influence was diminished and contaminated.

2. Encouragement v.s no encouragement

- a. Mary was encouraged by older women.
- b. Rebecca didn't have older women to redemptively speak truth into her life.

IV. Implications for The Church

Older women should be equipped with sound doctrine so they can train younger women to love their husbands and children. This is fundamental to church life, and it transcends time, geography and life's circumstances.

I plead with the church of Jesus to call and equip women for this ministry. God is gifting His church with incredible young women, and they are a sacred trust. We must be good stewards of this gift. Speak truth into the lives of younger women. Speak to them of redemption. Show and tell them the wonders of biblical womanhood.

My prayer is that women of the covenant will be such towers of faith and hope so devoted to Christ's crown and covenant that 50 years from now our grandchildren and our great grandchildren will erect monuments not of bronze but set apart families that are steadfast and splendid for the glory of our Creator and Redeemer and the advancement of Christendom.

*Susan Hunt. "The Christian Wife and Mother." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbsayHDwInE&t=1572s>