

Godly women – Living with Jesus as Lord

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome:

Opening Psalm & Prayer:

Hymn: MP 506 O Lord my God.

Reading: Isaiah 25

Prayer

Notices: Members meeting next week

Reading: Titus 2:1-15, Proverbs 31:10-31. (1Ti 5:11-15, 1 Peter 3:1-7)

Hymn: MP 1141 You're the word of God the father

Sermon: Godly women – Living with Jesus as Lord

Hymn: MP 367 Jesus is Lord.

Blessing

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_05_23.mp3](#).



Welcome and pray

What do you do when the message from all around - is the opposite to what you read here in the Bible? i.e. what do you when there's a conflict between what the **world** says - and what the **word** says? Let me give some examples:

- When the world around says we should provide food for everyone in need without judging - Paul says to the Church in Ephesus: **For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."** ^{2Th 3:10} note: It is not can't work, but won't, "If he will not work, he shall not eat."

When the world around says any fund we have to support the elderly shouldn't discriminate one from another: The Bible says: **No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 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.** ^{1Ti 5:9-10} If she hasn't done that then don't put her on the list for the church's extra support.

Everywhere people are saying churches are to be inclusive. The Bible says No, we are to **"Expel the wicked man from among you."** ^{1 Cor 5:13} Christ's Holiness demands it.

When the world around says eat all you want - Christians fast. Members were called to fast on Thursday to concentrate prayer for our brother Jomo

- ✚ What do you do when there is a conflict between what the world says and what the Bible says??

If you have declared that **"Jesus is Lord"** of your life, then there will be a conflict. **"Jesus is Lord"** is the most profound statement, it is a moral statement, it's a social statement, and it's a political statement like no other. For the person who has **Jesus as Lord** there is a new and different attitude to authority, a different attitude to yourself, a different attitude to money, to morality, to the world around, to entertainment, to work, to relationships; to your neighbour, to those of the opposite sex, to your family, to your children, to your husband or wife, .. and to the home. We see this clearly in today's passage which says to women: if you have declared Jesus is Lord then that will show in that you **love your husband and children**, you are **self-controlled and pure**, you are **busy at home, kind, and subject to your husband**.

The message everywhere is the opposite: be **kind** yes, but **to be busy at home!** What a cheek, how restrictive, what of my career? **to be subject to their husbands**. Where's the equality? In this day and age that is insulting. What of

my right to choose? If **Jesus is Lord** it is not your choice – it is His choice, and he has spoken!

Here then is the test for you, will you go God's way? x2 And trust him?

Being a Christian is not about telling me or anyone else you believe in God, that is an almost meaningless phrase, **even demons believe that – and shudder** No - people can see you are a Christian because you serve a new master and obey Him, you serve One who commands and enables you to love God - and to obey His word.

These days there is no clearer way to show that you have rejected the world's way to now follow Christ than in the area of sexual morality and the family. These things are close to God's heart. That is why the enemy the devil continually attacks these areas. In the UK he is having a field day. He has now made our country not just ambivalent to these things but downright hostile. Hostile to Godly sexuality - and hostile to the Godly family. This is your battlefield.

Therefore, how you and I live at home shows to others whether we love God

Women are **to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands**, and why? what is the point of this? **so that no-one will malign the word of God.**

In other words, before others your conduct will either commend Christ - or condemn Him.

- I am currently going through the words to be said by a couple as they prepare for marriage.

The Church wedding ceremony is a good example, it is a public declaration before God that this marriage is based on His precepts: it is for His honour, ...and for the good of the couple, for the good of the children, and for the good of our society at large.

When the couple embark on this new married life their love is characterized by commitment and dedication to one another - that is what Godly love is.

v4 women are to **love their husbands and children**, Paul isn't that obvious? Yes, - but he has to say it because it is not happening.

How are they not loving their husbands and children? Well do you remember how the Cretans are described? **"Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."** Tit 1:12

There are two problem areas we can identify **lying** and **lazy** x2

The next two phrases seem to support this firstly lying is the fruit of a dishonest heart and it looks like these women were not being faithful.

They are to be v.5 **to be self-controlled and pure or chaste.**, i.e faithful to their husbands.

It was as counter-cultural then as it is now. The UK say's it's not important. Yes it is. God calls for purity.

- We have a pandemic of immorality and pornography. The more the government ramps up sex education the worse the number of teenage pregnancies become. And they have no idea what to do about it!

Impurity before marriage will make it harder for faithfulness in marriage. x2

Learn the lesson of Dinah. Gen 34 She became restless at home, she wandered off to see what others were doing, she ended up in the godless city of Shechem and being easy prey was taken advantage of.

These Christian women in Crete are those newly out of a godless way of life – and still affected by it – and surrounded by those still in it. They, as we as Christians today need all the help we can get to live the new way of Christ.

To make a marriage work they need **to be self-controlled and pure.**

We haven't had discussion groups or seminars on this much here at KNBC.

Paul is telling Titus to address this 'from the front'. This is a good place for it. In Heb 13:4 we read **Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.**

– **honoured by all** Whether you are married or not, it is all our responsibility

God sees and knows all things. For everyone who has been dishonest, or unfaithful it is time to change - and that requires repentance.

If you have failed here - then seek Christ for forgiveness, change direction, and by his power you can. The **CROSS** is where you begin – there is power in his blood. Those who have Christ have power, and it shows in holy living

✚ **"Don't listen to the world - listen to what God clearly tells you to do"**

The next thing these women are to be is homemakers

Homebuilders

to be busy at home, to be kind, or good (and hospitable?)

Secondly there is the national trait of laziness. Laziness is never good. Don't confuse laziness with resting. Laziness is a sin and is to be repented of.

Anyone who knows the good he should do but doesn't do it sins. Rom 14

I wonder if they had fallen into the same trap as those over in Ephesus. Those women were busy - but they are not busy at home. They are busy with their tongues, they got **into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.** Their tongues are busy. Jesus is not Lord of their tongues, and as the saying is true: **“If Jesus is not lord of all - then he is not Lord at all”**

With hearts and minds drawn away Paul has to say: **So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.**” 1Ti 5:11-15 - That is they had given way and failed in their profession of Christ Jesus as their Lord.

In a prayer letter recently one young woman was honest about her struggles:

- Becky, a student writes, ‘I feel like there’s a hole in my life that I need Jesus to fill but I don’t allow him to, so I fill it with things of the earth and that mainly means to be on my phone. My screen time was 9 hours and 54 minutes yesterday. That is the highest I’ve ever had it. (how is your screen time?) Please could you pray for me as I need help with self-control and forgiveness?’ So many students are struggling with similar temptations. (From Festive prayer points Monday 15th February.)

How will she be when the time comes to be a homebuilder, what will her husband find her doing when he comes in? Women are **to be busy at home.**

Godly women are to be homebuilders, Other translations have: **keepers of the house, workers at home, good housekeepers, keep a good house, home-lovers, keepers of their own houses...** etc

.... And that means work! Yes there was certainly more work – and hard work - to be done in those days that there is today. With all the mod cons there is now less to do - but the point here is to make sure the home is the centre. The man may be better at house DIY but you are the home builder.

- ✚ As someone said: **“So build well and do your husband good, and not evil, as long as you are alive don’t begrudge it.”**

Bethan, Martin Lloyd Jones’s wife, though a newly qualified Doctor once they were married (her daughter says) **“never considered work, she saw her place to support him and build the home”.**

How different that is from what you hear. Everywhere it is **“Be independent, you chose, why not pursue your career, it is your life.”** Often it is right to

have a career, but how many mums are torn, how many have regretted being away from home and children. children **“here’s the key”** [The latch key kids.](#)

So Guard and Guide the home, make it a source for good.

A home is a great asset and to be used for others.....

- Older brothers and sisters in Turkey constantly being offered hospitality. That was standard fare all over the world years ago. Not now.

Peter says to Christians **Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.**
1Pe 4:9

Remember at the beginning Paul said one of the signs of good works was **showing hospitality.** *So don’t have a home with the drawbridge always up!* Do have everything so arranged that is it just unsuitable to welcome the visitor. Coming to some homes, not only are you immediately invited in, but you know you are welcome inside, sadly not with others.

Women are to be kind, helpful, and charitable; as Dorcas, who lived **in Joppa and was always doing good and helping the poor.** After she died the mourners stood around, **crying and showing the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.**” Ac 9:36-39

Some women spend time making jams, cookies or cakes, - and for one purpose only – to share with others, will you do that? And be like Dorcas.

Remember how active the woman in Proverbs 31 was...

- There’s a lady who contacts me about every week – **“I have some things in the porch to collect for BCM”.** In the winter it was handmade hats and scarves. Groups had got together to knit. She said **“I have three groups of ladies that I contact”** and then collect from, please let me know what is most needed” and we will make it / collect it together.

Is Jesus your Lord? Then the time you have is for him not yourself. Mantra

- ✚ **“Don’t listen to the world - listen to what God clearly tells you to do”**

Lastly they are to be **subject to their husbands**

1. The first section was about purity and self-control those key inner qualities,
2. the second was about being busy and active in homebuilding.
3. This last one is both, it is both an attitude and an action.

Women are **to be subject to their husbands**, submissive to their husbands.

How opposite this is from every message you will hear around you. Paul tells the women in Ephesians how they are to live godly lives: **Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as**

Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Eph 5:22-24

To the husbands here, we are to love our wives sacrificially. Wives you are to love your husbands submissively. In this don't become hard, resistant, manipulative, don't try to take your husbands place or make it harder for him. Help him. Where there is true love this will not be a difficult command

✚ **Those who see will take note. It will be very obvious - and impressive.**

Are you a woman who wants to be attractive? This morning – at no extra cost to you - you can have some free tips on the best beauty treatment.

Here is the secret. **“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, ... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.** 1 Peter 3:1-7

■ Advertisers, the papers and TV always like to show beautiful girls, but here they speak or look into their lives, and they are not beautiful at all.

Think you have lost the beauty battle? Here is hope - by nurturing a submissive heart you can become more and more and even more beautiful!

This then is how you become attractive, and you then make the word of God attractive. x2

Paul says the same about the attitude of slaves to live, **so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive** v10

So to conclude - the whole point of all of this?

so that no-one will malign the word of God.

✚ **Professed faith? If Jesus is your Lord - it will show in your home life.**

Christian married women are to find their sphere of service in the family and the home as good wives and mothers, submissively recognizing their husbands as the head of the house, lest the God-given gospel be reproached. Then says Paul **“God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered.”** 1Ti 6:1

I have been into some very smart homes, obviously someone has put a lot of time and effort – and money into it. But what of the relationships in the house? Are they just as good? Is the husband loving his wife by putting her needs before his own? And of the wife is she – are you - subjecting yourself to your husband and submitting to him?

Note the order here today – to be a homebuilder you need first build the relationship. Build well on faithfulness and purity a Godly home is the result

The world will go to great trouble to squeeze you into its mold. Stand by Christ’s word and heed the warning **“don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?”** Jas 4:4-5

Ask the question: “Is my home bearing witness for the Lord?” Are my attitude and actions causing people to look positively towards Jesus or to look down on him? Is it **‘Attracting or repelling?’**

Becoming a Christian immediately produces a conflict of wills – but if **Christ is Lord** my natural will is submitted to Christ’s will.

✚ **For God is at work in those who seek to honour Him.**

Will you now - when the teaching of the Bible opposes to the teaching of the world around – which is usually does? Will you agree that it is God who sets the rules and it is He who sets out what is right for you – no one else. x2

Paul tells the church in northern Greece how the Christians should live in themselves, in relationship with each other, and here in relationship with the world around. **“Make it your ambition he says to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”** 1Th 4:11-12

A Godly home is a happy home, for children, for everyone in it. And it is a welcoming home, a strong home, a place of peace and love.

Henry Van Dyke said:

The Crown of the Home is Godliness; The Beauty of the Home is Order; The Glory of the Home is Hospitality; The Blessing of the Home is Contentment.

May that be true for each of our homes. Amen _____end