

Articles and Sermons :: Women adorned with Good Work - Andrew Murray**Women adorned with Good Work - Andrew Murray - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/2/10 22:14**

Women adorned with Good Work

“Let women adorn themselves; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment; but through good works. Let none be enrolled as a widow under threescore years old, well reported of for good works; . . . if she hath diligently followed every good work.”— 1 Tim. 2:10, 5:9, 10

In the three Pastoral Epistles, written to two young pastors to instruct them in regard to their duties, “good works” are more frequently mentioned than in Paul’s other Epistles. In writing to the Churches, as in a chapter like Romans 12 he mentions the individual good work by name. In writing to the pastors he had to use this expression as a summary of what, both in their own life and their teaching of others, they had to aim at. A minister was to be prepared to every good work, furnished completely to every good work, an ensample of good works. And they were to teach Christians—the women to adorn themselves with good works, diligently to follow every good work, to be well reported of for good works; the men to be rich in good works, zealous of good works, ready to every good work, to be careful and to learn to maintain good works. No portion of God’s work presses home more definitely the absolute necessity of good works as an essential, vital element in the Christian life.

Our two texts speak of the good works of Christian women. In the first they are taught that their adorning is to be not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment, but, as becomes women preferring godliness, with good works. We know what adornment is. A leafless tree in winter has life; when spring comes it puts on its beautiful garments, and rejoices in the adornment of foliage and blossom. The adorning of Christian women is not to be in hair or pearls or raiment, but in good works. Whether it be the good works that have reference to personal duty and conduct, or those works of beneficence that aim at the pleasing and helping of our neighbor or those that more definitely seek the salvation of souls—the adorning that pleases God, that gives true heavenly beauty, that will truly attract others to come and serve God, too, is what Christian women ought to seek after. John saw the holy city descend from heaven, “made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.” “The fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Rev. 21:2, 24:8). Oh! that every Christian woman might seek so to adorn herself as to please the Lord that loved her.

In the second passage we read of widows who were placed upon a roll of honour in the early Church, and to whom a certain charge was given over the younger women. No one was to be enrolled who was not “well reported of for good works.” Some of these are mentioned: if she has been known for the careful bringing up of her children, for her hospitality to strangers, for her washing the saints’ feet, for her relieving the afflicted; and then there is added, “if she hath diligently followed every good work.” If in her home and out of it, in caring for her own children, for strangers, for saints, for the afflicted, her life has been devoted to good works, she may indeed be counted fit to be an example and guide to others. The standard is a high one. It shows us the place good works took in the early Church. It shows how woman’s blessed ministry of love was counted on and encouraged. It shows how, in the development of the Christian life, nothing so fits for rule and influence as a life given to good works.

Good works are part and parcel of the Christian life, equally indispensable to the health and growth of the individual, and to the welfare and extension of the Church. And yet what multitudes of Christian women there are whose active share in the good work of blessing their fellow-creatures is little more than playing at good works. They are waiting for the preaching of a full gospel, which shall encourage and help and compel them to give their lives so to work for their Lord, that they, too, may be well reported of as diligently following every good work. The time and money, the thought and heart given to jewels or costly raiment will be redeemed to its true object. Religion will no longer be a selfish desire for personal safety, but the joy of being like Christ, the helper and saviour of the needy. Work for Christ will take its true place as indeed the highest form of existence, the true adornment of the Christian life. And as diligence in the pursuits of earth is honoured as one of the true elements of character and worth, diligently to follow good works in Christ’s service will be found to give access to the highest reward and the fullest joy of the Lord.

1. We are beginning to awaken to the wonderful place woman can take in church and school and mission. This truth needs to be brought home to every one of the King’s daughters, that the adorning in which they are to attract the world, to please their Lord, and enter His presence is—good works.
2. Woman, as the image of “the weakness of God,” “the meekness and gentleness of Christ,” is to teach man the beauty and the power of the long-suffering, self-sacrificing ministry of love.
3. The training for the service of love begins in the home life; is strengthened in the inner chamber; reaches out to the needy around, and finds its full scope in the world for which Christ died.

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/murray/working.xix.html>

On reading this, what do you all think of this:

2. Woman, as the image of 'the weakness of God,' 'the meekness and gentleness of Christ,' is to teach man the beauty and the power of the long-suffering, self-sacrificing ministry of love.

I almost deleted all 3 of those because of this one or didn't post this article altogether.

It is not only for the woman to be meek and gentle and long suffering. And to say that she is 'the weakness of God.' yes, she is the weaker vessel, but the weakness of God??? God is not weak. :p

I understand what is trying to be said, however the wording of it is bothersome. just wondering, I still however like this article.

Re: Women adorned with Good Work - Andrew Murray - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/2/11 7:24

Quote:
-----Woman, as the image of 'the weakness of God,' 'the meekness and gentleness of Christ,' is to teach man the beauty and the power of the long-suffering, self-sacrificing ministry of love.

Wellll, since a male wrote this article, he may be informing the females about the power they have over males! How do you like that? :-)

Seriously, how does one understand 'meekness'? I did an online check for a definition and there is some variety. However, the one that I would understand that would be the Biblical one is shared by Merriam-Webster: "enduring injury with patience and without resentment: mild." Someone else defined meekness as strength under control - remember Moses was called the meekest man....

Seems to me that to equate weakness with meekness, would cancel out the meek quality. God is no wimp, but humans are.

In any case, I love this article - it deserves a more thorough study by men and women: men - to encourage their wives and daughters; and women to encourage their daughters to develop a helpful mindset - a mindset that works to serve the other person, not me.

My two cents....but thanks for posting.

Re: - posted by jde_1Cor1_6 (), on: 2011/2/11 8:55

Well, I think the writer might be referring to 1 Corinthians 1:25:

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

I don't necessarily agree with the phrase 'the weakness of God' but this could be viewed this way (this is my opinion):
- The strength of women (strength stronger than men) is found in their submission.

Is submission a strength or a weakness?

Well, considering how the human race got mixed up with evil and sin when man decided not to submit on the simple command of God not to eat the fruit, submission is a great issue.

And on the reason why Eve ate the fruit, what was her motivation? Gen. 3:6 tells us she simply want to be wise (to know for herself what is right or what is wrong which only God has the right) and she even gave some to her husband even though death was the penalty. She made a decision not to submit (not necessarily to her husband but) to God.

It would have been better off if Eve stayed on the "weak" side, (humanly speaking). Nevertheless, all things work for the glory of God so there's no more argument of who's to blame. God even put the blame FIRST to Adam.

Re: Women adorned with Good Work - Andrew Murray - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/2/11 11:33

Quote:
-----Some of these are mentioned: if she has been known for the careful bringing up of her children, for her hospitality to strangers, for her washing the saints' feet, for her relieving the afflicted; and then there is added, 'if she hath diligently followed every good work.' If in her home and out of it, in caring for her own children, for strangers, for saints, for the afflicted, her life has been devoted to good works, she may indeed be counted fit to be an example and guide to others.

After reading this article and thinking more....I got inspired to write, hoping to encourage other sisters who are eager to serve the LORD.

Too many times we feel pressured to duplicate the work males are called to do because there seems to be little example of doing otherwise because after all they get so much acclaim, recognition and praise.

For starters let's us forget about doing ANYTHING that will attract attention, acclaim and praise. Once you have made that is your modus operandi you will be liberated to do what you are made to do. And what is that? That is to serve.

Before you can begin to serve you need to walk so close with the LORD that you will recognize his voice when He bids you to do the unusual, knowing full well this idea comes from God because you just naturally would not do anything quite like that. And what on earth could that be? Entertaining strangers! I am serious. Have I done it? Sure have and I promise you one thing: the blessing is mine, am not sure about the visitor, but I have been richly blessed. It is easy to extend hospitality to your friends, but strangers? No, but that is where the fun is.

My point is that wives are called to be homemakers so let us use this as a platform to reach out to those who need a meal, a drink of water, or a bed - even if it is a couch. There are other ways we can use our homes to reach out to others; what I mentioned is just a tip of the iceberg.

God bless.

ginnyrose

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/2/11 11:41

Quote:
-----Seems to me that to equate weakness with meekness, would cancel out the meek quality. God is no wimp, but humans are.

Perhaps people often equate weakness with meekness, because to the carnal fleshly worldly person, it DOES LOOK weak. BUT what they do not know or realize is that God's power shows up BEST in and through weakness. 2 Cor 12:9 2 Cor 13:4 So to the naked eye yes it looks weak, but to those who live by faith it is the power of God. (Like jde pointed out)

Quote:
-----Merriam-Webster: "enduring injury with patience and without resentment: mild." Someone else defined meekness as strength under control - remember Moses was called the meekest man....

Good definition.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/2/11 11:46

Quote:
-----My point is that wives are called to be homemakers so let us use this as a platform to reach out to those who need a meal, a drink of water, or a bed - even if it is a couch

True, but let's not limit a woman to home-making alone. :P There are several women in the Bible and many throughout church history who did more than home-making.

There's a lot of focus on the family out there, which bugs me to no end!! There's truth in it, but I am not left here to raise a family, but witness for Christ, though the Lord uses these things to be a witness for Him, let our emphasis be on Him still. And not on the carnal means of raising a family.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/2/11 12:00

Quote:
-----There's truth in it, but I am not left here to raise a family,

Not all females will marry and have a family, true. But there are many who are but will eschew it for pleasure instead. If you are not called to be a wife and mother, you are still called to show hospitality, to serve.

Quote:
-----And not on the carnal means of raising a family.

I do not understand why you would call raising a family 'carnal'. Do you consider your parents carnal for having conceived you, birthed you? Sex within marriage is NOT carnal but God ordained. Out of it comes children, essential for the sustaining of the human race. God ordained it, it is not man's idea. It is the misuse of it that is extremely carnal.

Being a wife and mother teaches one much about life, patience, forbearing. It is hard work, not carnal. We learn a lot about the mercy and grace of God because of the challenges inherent in this work.

Blessings.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/2/11 12:08

Quote:
-----I do not understand why you would call raising a family 'carnal'. Do you consider your parents carnal for having conceived you, birthed you? Sex within marriage is NOT carnal but God ordained. Out of it comes children, essential for the sustaining of the human race. God ordained it, it is not man's idea. It is the misuse of it that is extremely carnal.

I may have been a little harsh in that. Sorry!

Re: - posted by Joyful_Heart, on: 2011/2/11 12:23

It's not about working in the home or working out of the home. It's not about men or women. It's about having a passion for Jesus. A hunger and thirst to sit at His feet. To learn of Him, to worship Him, to thank Him for who He is, for His love and acceptance and forgiveness of what He did for this sinner on the cross. It's about reading, listening & being in His Presence. And hearing and obeying. Being honest with Him about our shortcomings-asking for forgiveness and for help. He is so faithful.

It's about having the fruit of the Spirit and 1 Cor. 13 and 1 Cor 14:1. When we take time to be in His Presence we are changed from glory to glory. We are filled with Him and living waters will flow out of us. There will be a meekness, humbleness, a servants heart for all mankind. A love and passion for Jesus. We will begin to see others through His eyes and have His heart.

The more we know His Words the more the Holy Spirit can speak to us and bring up a Scripture to convict or remind us and then the choice is ours if we obey it or not. ex. love your enemies..., a soft answer...love does not provoke, or is jealous, or envies, or covets. etc.

Glory to God! It's all about Jesus and having a passion for Him first. Because without that we have no fruit of the Spirit to flow out. But with it we have something to give and we no longer can point the finger at anyone.

May our Lord continue to call us to Himself, to sit at His feet, to get to know Him more and more, to be filled up with Him and allow the rivers of Living Waters flow out to everyone we come in contact with in any place. Amen and Amen!

God is weak in His love for us or He would have destroyed us in the beginning.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/2/14 20:57

Quote:

-----It's about having a passion for Jesus

Thank you sister, Joyful. :) You are a blessing!

Â'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, Â"Thus saith the Lord!Â"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How IÂ've proved Him oÂ'er and oÂ'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!

OH, FOR GRACE TO TRUST HIM MORE!

Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
Â'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, Â'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

IÂ'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,

Wilt be with me to the end.