Godly Women In The Church

Intro: When God created man, He knew that it was not good that man be alone, thus He created an helpmeet for man, the woman. We immediately see the value God has placed upon women. Women can be the greatest blessing to man or they can be the greatest terror to man; depending upon whether she is godly or not. (Pro. 11:16 “A gracious woman retaineth [obtaineth—ASV] honour: and strong men retain riches.” Pro. 12:4 “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.” Pro. 21:9 “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” Pro. 21:19 “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.” Pro. 31:30 “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”) We can certainly profit from a study of wicked women to learn not to make the same mistakes, however we wish to study godly women and learn some lessons from them.

I. SOME NOTABLE GODLY WOMEN.
   A. Phoebe
      1. Rom. 16:1-2 “I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer [helper—ASV] of many, and of myself also.”
      2. She was a servant of the church.
         a. Servant is the Greek word διάκονος (diakonos) and has reference to a servant, minister, attendant.
         b. While we do not know the way in which she served others, she did serve, minister to the church.
      3. She was a succourer of many including Paul.
         a. Succourer is the Greek word προστάτις (prostatis).
         b. This word denotes a guardian, protectress, patroness, caring for the affairs of others and aiding them with her resources.
   B. Dorcas, Tabitha
      1. Acts 9:36, 39 “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.... 39Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”
      2. She was full of good works and charity, almsdeeds.
      3. These included making clothing for widows; James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
   C. Priscilla
      1. Acts 18:25-26 “This man [Apollos] was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”
         a. She along with her husband were worshipping God.
         b. She along with Aquila knew God’s Word and stood ready to defend it.
         c. When Apollos taught error, she, along with her husband, took him and taught him God’s Word correctly.
            (1) We often shun away from false teachers.
            (2) They “took him unto them.”
d. She did this within the realm of God’s teaching concerning the role of women.

2. Rom. 16:3-4 “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:  4Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”
   a. They helped him in providing a place for him to live; Acts 18:2 “And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.”
   b. They were willing to die for Paul.

D. Lois & Eunice
   1. 2 Tim. 1:5 “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”
   2. These two godly women taught in the home.
   3. The faith Timothy possessed was because of their teaching.
   4. They did this without the help of Timothy’s father.

E. Mary & Martha
   1. John 11
   2. Luke 10:38-42 “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. 40But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 42But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
      a. Martha received Jesus into her house; shows her hospitable nature (cf. the qualification of elders, they must be hospitable; how can they be hospitable without an hospitable wife).
      b. Mary and Martha both were use to serving, tending to the cares of the home; shows their domestic nature.
      c. Mary realized that spiritual matters came first, took priority over the cares of the home.

F. Mary the mother of Jesus
   1. Luke 1:28 “And the angel [Gabriel] came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”
   2. Why was she highly favoured and blessed?
      a. She had kept herself pure for marriage.
      b. She had been faithful to the Law of Moses.
   3. In Luke 2 when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem went with the intention of worshipping.

G. Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod’s steward, Susanna, and many others
   1. Luke 8:2-3 “And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, 3And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”
   2. They took their goods (substance) and used them to serve, minister to Jesus.

II. SOME IMPORTANT PASSAGES.
   A. The worthy woman; Pro. 31:10-31 “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 10The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 11She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. 12She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her
hands. 14She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. 15She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. 17She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. 19She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 21She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. 23Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 24She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. 25Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. 27She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 28Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. 29Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excelllest them all. 30Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

1. She is trustworthy (vs. 11)
2. She is a hard worker (vs. 13)
3. She is a cook (vs. 15)
4. She is a shopper (vs. 14)
5. She is a businesswoman (vs. 16,18,24)
6. She is a gardener (vs. 16)
7. She is a seamstress (vs. 19,22,24)
8. She is benevolent (vs. 20)
9. She is a provider (vs. 21)
10. Behind every good man is a great woman (vs. 23)
11. She is a burden-bearer (vs. 25)
12. She is a counsellor (vs. 26)
13. She is domestically oriented (vs. 27)

B. Tit. 2:3-5 “The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

C. 1 Tim. 5:9-10 “Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”

D. 1 Peter 3:1-6 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 4For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 5Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

III. LIMITATIONS ON GODLY WOMEN.
A. She is not to take a leadership position; she is to take a submissive or subjective role.
1. We observe this principle in the home.
   a. Genesis 3:16 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”
   b. Eph. 5:22 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.”
c. Titus 2:5 “To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

2. This is a general teaching.
   a. 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9 “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.... 8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”
   b. 1 Cor. 14:34-35 “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”
   c. 1 Tim. 2:11-15 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”

3. This general teaching is based upon eternal principles and thus valid today.
   a. By order of creation and purpose in the creation (woman was made for man).
   b. By order of the woman being deceived in the transgression.

B. Other than leadership roles, the woman can do anything the man can do and has the same responsibilities of a man.

1. The responsibility of all people can be summed up in three areas.
   a. A life of worship.
   b. A life of service.
   c. A life of purity.

2. Women must fulfill those responsibilities to be godly women by God’s standard.

Conclusion: Are you a godly woman by God’s standard?