

# Rise Up And Build

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*"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18*

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## **Women's God-Given Rights**

By Everett Hardin

God has a purpose in all that He does. One of God's purposes in creating Eve was to provide companionship for man by giving him a helper suitable for his needs. "The Lord God said, *"it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet suitable for him"* (Gen. 2:8). The marriage relationship is a gift from God to man. It is to be a haven from the world and its problems. In the plan of God woman has a definite role. Proverbs 31:10-12 shows the value of a virtuous woman fulfilling her God-given role. Only in fulfilling this role can she achieve the exaltation and heights God intended.

Today our real problem seems to be that the home is without God, without respect for Him and His word, having no desire to use His word as their guide. When we find so much disregard for the home as God gave it, it should be little wonder that we find as well, tremendous problems and pain in the homes of our nation.

For many years women have wanted to usurp man's realm. The Women's Liberation Societies are insisting on a society without legal gender. They are demanding jobs traditionally reserved for men only, and nation-wide abortion reform — ideally free abortions on demand and round-the-clock state supported child care centers in order to free women from "involuntary servitude" at home. Some groups re making far more radical demands than these. This is having many unpleasant side effects in our society.

## **Women's Rights And the Bible**

**1. A Woman has a right to pursue a career if she so chooses.** This may be done with the help and leadership of a man, as was the case with Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3), or independently of a man as with Lydia (Acts 16:14-15). Some men and women do not desire to marry, or are not suited for marriage. Such an individual should seek a job, and not become a parasite on the family or society. The husband has the responsibility of providing for the material needs of his family (I Tim. 5:8). In some cases where the breadwinner is ill, crippled, or dies a woman must work to support herself and her children. In such cases they should be commended and appreciated for her sacrifice. When a woman must seek employment she should be treated fairly and given an

opportunity to do work for which she is qualified.

**2. God made a basic place for the woman—the home.** The woman who chooses to marry has a primary responsibility to her family. Paul commanded the older women to *“teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands that the word of God be not blasphemed”* (Titus 2:4-5). Furthermore, he taught *“the younger women to marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary, to speak reproachfully”* (Tit. 5:14). The woman should take charge of the work of the home and be a good home-maker. Such a life will not give the enemies of the cause of Christ an excuse for reproaching her life. Her glory, fame, and greatest blessings are in her role as a devoted wife and mother. *“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her”* (Prov. 31:28).

**3. Women have untold opportunities for service in the church.** Spiritual service is not confined to public acts of speaking in the church (i.e. preaching, leading in prayer, directing the singing, etc.). Christian women should array themselves in modest unassuming garments, befitting their station in life and the cause which they have espoused. *“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works”* (I Tim. 2:9-10).

Women can engage in private teaching of individuals (Acts 18:26; Tit. 2:4). There are many good works of benevolence a woman can do in the church. Dorcas is described as being a woman *“Full of good works and almsdeeds”* (Acts 9:36-42). This presented a very vivid and grief-stricken picture to see the work of her hands and to hear the widows sobbing in sorrow for the loss of their friend and sister.

**4. Women are commanded to be in subjection to their husbands.** No institution, human or divine, can function efficiently without a head, a decision maker. God has ordained that man should be the head of the house, and should *“rule over it”* (Gen.3 :16). Ephesians 5:22-23 says, *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church and He is the savior of the body; Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in every thing.”* Woman is not inferior to man, but she is in subordination to him. The woman is no more dishonored by being in subjection to her husband than the church is by being subjection to Christ. The husband who loves his wife will promote her happiness and well-being. Such mutual love and confidence will result in a peaceful, happy home, where the children will grow up to respect the law and order that prevails in the home built after God’s pattern.

**5. Women are not allowed to have authority over the man in the affairs of the church.** Some religious groups, which have abandoned God, Christ, and the Bible have women preachers, elders, deacons, etc. *“Let your women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence”* (I Tim. 2:11-12). Language could not be clearer. When women, in the public assembly, presume to teach over the man and hence act in an authoritative way, she violates the Scriptures. When the church is assembled in a mixed assembly, the

woman cannot lead such an assembly. She cannot scripturally direct the congregation in singing, lead the prayer, preach to the assembly, nor serve as an elder or deacon. These roles are forbidden by the Lord.

### **Equality in Christ**

Women were created equal with man in the level of importance, but the sphere in which she is to operate is different. Real equality for all human beings is found in Christ. *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal. 3:26-28). One’s standing before God is not determined by social position or sex. One is not accepted on whether he is a descendant of Abraham. It doesn’t matter whether one is a slave or a free man. In Christ there is no distinction made between the various classifications mentioned. They are all made to compose one group in the sight of God by obedience to the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16).

There is no substitute for God’s way. His role and place for woman is best for her, her mate, her children, and society in general. Christianity has lifted woman to a new place in the world, her children, and society in general. All those who faithfully fulfill their divinely appointed roles of spiritual service are worthy of high honor. It is time we went back to the Bible, God’s word, to learn what God intended our individual roles to be. The homes of this nation are full of heartache and problems—in part because of so many in the homes are misunderstanding or not fulfilling the place that God intended for them in the beginning. Proverbs 31:10-12 shows the value of a virtuous woman fulfilling her God-given role: *“Who can find a virtuous woman” for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of his life.”*