

# Managing Your Home



*Written by Nicol M. Epple*

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**1. Prioritize** What is it that the Lord wants for us as godly women? Read Titus 2 .

What are the priorities laid out for us as godly women in Titus 2?

Did you read anything like “stayers at home”, “keepers of the home” managers of the home” as one of the priorities? Do you believe this is to be obeyed as any other scripture? Has worldly thinking formed your life to not follow these mandates? If so, what changes may the Lord be leading you to make?

A wonderful spiritual as well as practical example of the women described in Titus 2 is the woman described in Proverbs 31. Do not be overwhelmed! These things are written down as instruction to life and godliness. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty! Remember there is nothing God calls us to that He does not give us the ability and time to do. Read Proverbs 31 now and pray the Lord to show you just one area you may need to grow in.

ENJOY the life you have been given. Another way said is to “have a joyous heart while living out our daily activities”. Not just when they are completed! In John 10:10, Jesus tells us that He gives us life and that abundantly. "*That they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, till it overflows.*" *Ampl.* Again, be sure to ENJOY the life you have been given. The Lord is glorified when we do so.

Now stop and consider your life.....What is important to the Lord, your husband, you, your family...Write some of your priorities for abundant living below.

## 1. Get a vision

*"Unless the Lord builds house they labor in vain who build it". - Psalm 127:1*

We need the Lord to establish the work of our hands!

*"Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully, carefully, and accurately,*

*not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),*

*Making the very most of the time (buying up each opportunity),*

*because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish,*

*but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is."*

*-Ephesians 5:15-17*

How do we grasp the will of the Lord for our homes?

-First pray *"If any man lacks wisdom let him ask to Him who gives liberally."*

*-James 1:5*

-Pray generally Psalm 90:12 *"Teach us to number our days that we may gain*

*a heart of wisdom."*

-Pray specifically Ask for a specific focus for your marriage, homeschooling year, each child. At the beginning of each school year I ask the Lord to give me a scripture to focus on throughout the year as well as scripture for each of my

children. The verse or verses may be an admonition or a specific area for spiritual growth. This has given me continued encouragement as well as a point to pray from.

Seek God through His Word In it He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Read His Word, study, memorize it, pray for insight and wisdom; He will bless you!

## 2. Divide your time

*"Redeem the time for the days are evil." -Ephes. 5:16*

What am I called to do foremost? What are my priorities? What demands the most of my time? What demands my immediate time? Your list will probably be similar to mine.

Time with the Lord

Family

House

Additional work (Home business, help with husband's, etc.)

Service- What time can I devote to outside service? (outside of family and home)

Take some time and really think about this. I encourage you to consider your time spent for these activities on a daily basis, weekly, monthly, seasonally, and yearly. (The Planners that are available at LadiesOfVirtueOnline.org provide great charts and calendars that coordinate with this study.)

Consider all of the activities within these general groups. For example "House" can include cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry, budgeting, decorating, etc. After you have a more realistic idea of how much each activity requires of you, (you will probably be AMAZED at the many hats you wear!) reprioritize and pray.

3. Create Balance "Be well balanced, be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring, seeking someone to seize upon and devour." -1 Peter 5:8. Amp. Notice the direct connection between living a balanced life and giving place to the enemy. Extreme in any area is an open door for the devil to destroy our lives. Remember the life of a Christian is **not** all work and no play! Remember John 10:10. Remember the balance **work-play-rest**.

1. Work "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." -Colossians 3:17

Make sure that you have enough time allotted to do your work WELL.

2. Play "Laughter is as good medicine." -Prov. 17:22 We need to CHOOSE joy.

Make time for fun!

-for you and your husband (dates, movies rentals)

-for your family (family night, trips)

-for yourself (make time for things you enjoy- talk with girlfriends, movies, find humor in your life and yourself!)

3. Rest

Rest falls into two categories *sleep* and *a ceasing from activity*. Do not neglect either, nor put them on the bottom of your priority list. We live in physical bodies that require physical rest as well a mental rest.

Sleep "He grants His beloved sweet sleep." - Psalm 127:2 Remember balance! Do not over-sleep neglecting other priorities, but make sure you do get the rest that you need and enjoy it! If you have little ones this might not be possible. Nap when they are napping. (The temptation may be do get all the

work done you can, but if you need the sleep take it.) Trust the Lord to give you strength in this passing season of your life.

**Ceasing form activity-** God our Father gave us this principle from the beginning of creation. He chose activity six days and rested to enjoy His creation on the seventh. Weekly this is our Sabbath rest. If we follow this principle on a daily basis, assuming that we sleep 8 hours, we would be in activity 13.5 hours and inactivity 2.5 hours! I have found that even a ten minute retreat to my room for quiet will refresh me for hours.

Know yourself- What refreshes you? Reenergizes you?

*Time with others.....*

*Time on tasks.....*

*Time alone.....*

How can you best balance restful time considering your priorities?

As in all aspects of life we can learn from Jesus' example...

*"But so much the more the news spread abroad concerning Him,*

*and great crowds kept coming together to hear Him*

*and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.*

*But He Himself withdrew to the wilderness and prayed."*

*-Luke 5:15-16*

There were times when Jesus was surrounded with very desperate people who needed a touch from Him. Yet He knew that He needed to commune with the Father. How much more we? There may be times when the most urgent needs are before you, beckoning for your attention, yet the very best thing you could at that moment would be to retreat and pray. Not the least of all "energizers and refreshers" but the MOST important on a

daily basis to partake in is spending time in the Lord's presence. "*For at  
Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" - *Psalm 16:11*

2. Prepare & Plan Remember that your schedule/planner is there to help you manage your home. Your home does not exist to fit into the box of your planner. Be flexible.

1. Have an overview of your time then break it down into segments.

Plot all of the known activities, routines, tasks onto your planner/ calendar.

-Monthly

-Weekly

-Daily

-Hourly

2. Go back again to Balance. Fill in some blank time slots with those things that you would like to do. I still write my husband's and my "Date Night" on the calendar. It seems that if this or anything is written down then it comes to pass far more often than if I had not written it down.

3. Leave some blanks There will always be the unexpected; make time for it.

\*Above all remember that you have just the right amount of time to do what the Lord wants for you! Continually pray for wisdom and seek His will. God bless you in joyous living!

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