
Addendum 1:
THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN & WOMEN
ON VOCATION

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I. YOUNG MEN MUST PREPARE TO BE PROVIDERS

A. Develop Biblical Convictions

1. Young men must understand it is their responsibly to provide for their wives and families from the beginning of their marriage.
 - a. Christ provides for the church (cf. Eph 4:15; Col 2:19). The church does not provide for Christ.
 - b. Adam was specifically placed in the Garden by God to “work the ground” so he could provide for his family (Gen 2:5-9, 15-17). This mandate continued after the fall but was made more difficult by the fall (Gen 3:17-19).
 - c. It is the husband’s somber responsibility to provide for his immediate family and extended family if necessary (1 Tim 5:8).
2. They must realize a wife is called to be dependent on her husband’s income. Not the other way around. Therefore a wife’s income, if she has one, should be none essential supplemental income.
3. A newly married couple must be willing to live on less and do without. They must be willing to lower their standard of living in order to pursue biblical priorities.

B. Prepare for a Career

1. Learn diligence as young man – study and work hard.
2. Trust the promises of God’s Word that he will reward diligence. When he does, don’t get entangled by “the love of money.”
3. Make preparations for a career.
 - a. Identify abilities and passions.
 - b. Talk to older men in various vocations of interest.
 - c. Study the job market.

- d. If going to college, choose a major which results in gainful employment and adequate income.

C. Make Financial Plans for College and Beyond

1. Acquire savings as a young man. Live on a budget. Don't spend money foolishly.
2. Consider early graduation from high school in order to work and save for college.
3. Pursue scholarships.
4. Attend local and affordable college when possible.
5. Avoid debt including school loans if possible.
6. Work during college years if doable – the demand of some majors will not allow for this.
7. Acquire savings after college and before marriage when possible.

II. YOUNG LADIES MUST PREPARE TO BE HOMEMAKERS

A. Be Envisioned for Role as a Wife, Mother, and Homemaker

1. Study Scripture.
2. Read good books on these holy vocations.

B. Be Trained for Roles by Godly Women

1. Pursue a relationship with your mother. Ask her to train you. Learn all you can from her.
2. Seek out “older women” who have born good fruit in their lives as wives, mothers and homemakers (Titus 2:3-5; 1 Tim 5:9-10). Pursue mentoring relationships.

C. Prepare to Marry Young If God's Will

1. Don't accept cultural norms and practices.
2. Develop character while young.

D. Don't Assume College or Career

1. Be aware of serving the cultural idol of education and career.
2. Be willing to lay aside the pursuit of higher education if marriage comes early.

3. Be willing to lay aside a career when married.
4. Think of a non-paying (but very rewarding and important) “career” in the home related to your husband and children.
5. If unmarried, consider a “feminine” vocation or job that will benefit family later.

E. Live for Eternal Rewards, Not Temporal Ones

III. REASONS MARRIED WOMEN WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

A. Necessary Reasons

1. Husband is unable to provide for his family due to illness or disability.
2. Husband is unemployed (e.g. laid off, going back to school in preparation for new career, etc.) or underemployed (e.g. part time employment).
3. Couple has unmanageable debt load (e.g. school loans, car loans, credit card debt, etc.).
4. Lack of resources or savings for buying a house. For a season, may live on husband’s income but save wife’s income.

B. Worldly Reasons

1. Lack a biblical conviction about the man’s responsibility to provide. Sometimes the husband wants his wife to help do his job of providing while also expecting her to manage the home. The husband may pressure his wife to provide additional income by working and postponing child bearing.
2. Couple does not want to depend on husband’s income or live within his income. Are not content with the necessities of “food and clothing” (1 Tim 6:8). Are convinced of need for a double income “in order to get by.” May be ensnared by the love of money which can destroy marriage and family (1 Tim 6:9-10).
3. Desire higher standard of living that comes from two incomes. Don’t adjust to a lower standard of living when getting married. Not committed to live within means. Don’t know how to live within means.
4. Lack trust in God that he will provide all they need if they seek first his kingdom and righteousness (Matt 6:25-34).
5. Lack biblical conviction about the priority and importance of being a wife, mother, and homemaker. May not want children. Children are seen as an inconvenience and financial burden.

6. Identity and fulfillment primarily in work outside the home. Not content with obscurity of being a wife, mother and homemaker. May love prestige and recognition that comes from career. Can thrive off praise, appreciation, and attention given by men in the workplace. Can live for advancement and salary increases.
7. Wife is not honored by husband and children. Does not feel valued as wife, mother and homemaker.
8. Husband and wife may think she can work outside home with little or no harm to the marriage and family.
9. Realization by a woman that it may be easier to work outside the home than in the home as a wife, mother and homemaker.
10. Pressure from parents for daughter to pursue a career or work outside the home and “make something out of her life.”
11. May feel worldly obligation to use her talents and higher education in a career given the years of study and financial investment in a degree.

III. REASONS TO CONSIDER NOT WORKING FULL TIME OUTSIDE HOME AS A NEWLY MARRIED WOMAN

A. Lack of Biblical Support

1. The husband, not wife, has the primary responsibility to provide for family (Gen 2:5-9, 15-17; 3:17-19; 1 Tim 5:8).
2. Supplemental income is occasionally provided by a wife. For instance, the home based industry of the “excellent wife” in Proverbs 31:10-31. Note however, her industry did not take her away from the home.
3. The wife is able to concentrate on marriage, children and home per the priorities of Titus 2:3-5. Is not distracted and divided. Is able to give first and best to these spheres of responsibility.
4. Wife is called “to be busy at home” (Titus 2:5) not in a career that undermines this command. This is not culturally relative but biblically normative.

B. Priority of Marriage

1. Can become preoccupied with job and not her husband and home. Full time work outside home makes it hard to develop life around husband.
2. Can result in lack of time for interaction and communication as a couple beginning to build a marriage.

3. Can have negative impact on sex life.

C. Priority of Home

1. Can result in lack of motivation for home making. Can be harder to cultivate a heart for the home.
2. Wife may be exhausted at end of day. Difficult to do much else.
3. Added pressure of work outside the home can have a debilitating effect on the woman.
4. May be tempted to careerism.
5. Not able to develop home making skills and pursue excellence. Lack of time to manage and develop the home. Domestic responsibilities may be neglected.
6. End up busy outside the home rather than busy in the home.

D. Church Involvement

1. Demands of work make it harder for couple to be involved in local church.
2. May be tempted to not be involved in small groups.
3. May be tempted to not be involved in ministries of church and serving others.

E. Financial Temptation

1. May get accustomed to two incomes. If so, it is harder to give up wife's income later.
2. May be tempted to incur "manageable" debt load. Then find they "need" wife's income to manage debt.
3. If "dependent" on two incomes and unexpected pregnancy occurs may experience financial difficulties and these may contribute to marital conflict.

F. Temptation to Careerism

1. Can be hard to lay career aside – emotionally and financially.
2. Get accustomed to working outside the home. Begins to feel normal.
3. Can be tempted to make career highest priority and lack vision for family and involvement in church.

G. Postpone Starting a Family

1. May put off childbearing for wrong reasons because of work outside the home.
2. Can lack vision for starting a family since focus may be outside the home and on advancement in job.

H. Temptation to Work Outside Home When a Mother

1. May be tempted to stay in career when children come.
2. May be tempted to use day care or other arrangements for infant or toddler.
3. If “dependent” on two incomes and unexpected pregnancy occurs may resent being pregnant.
4. May not give serious consideration to home schooling as children grow older. May return to work force for wrong reasons.

IV. THOUGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN**A. Don't Assume Work Outside Home after Children Leave or Marry****B. Great Time in Life to Train and Serve Others**

1. Younger women in church.
2. Extended family members including grandchildren.
3. Neighbors
4. Those outside the church (e.g., through volunteer or charitable work in the community).