

What is a woman's work in the church?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **sometimes asked:** "Men have a lot to do in the church. **What do women do?"** - esp. advent of feminism
- **this lesson:** "What is woman's role in the church? – 20 minutes, go fast, not exhaustive"
 - **future:** planning for girls training classes, at same time of boys training
 - **future:** next series for young people, Sunday evenings, split into young men and women, training lessons

➤ Women have an equally important role of men in the church! – but different

- **Eph. 4:16** work for everyone, all **equally important** to growth of congregation
- **song #620** Room In God's Kingdom – **there is work that we all can do**

➤ - **illus.:** **Rom. 16:1-2, 6, 12, 15** Phoebe, Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis, Julia workers in the church

➤ Why can't women participate in leadership roles in the church?

- **1 Tim. 2:11-14** God's plan: men lead in the church
- as Christians we respect God's will

➤ - in society, women can lead as well as men

- **Acts 16:14** **Lydia:** seller of purple
- **Pr. 31:16, 18** **virtuous woman:** buys field and plants vineyard, gain is good, sells garments to tradesmen

➤ One of the most important works women can do is pray!

- **What is most important thing you can do for another person? – pray**

- **1 Tim. 5:5** godly woman, **entreaties and prayers night and day**

- **some women aren't able to do many things**, but diligently do the most important - **pray for others**

- **Women teach others (evangelism)** – women can reach some people men can't
 - **1 Pet. 3:1** can win a husband to Christ without saying a word – power of wife over husband
 - **illus.:** Melany and Mark NeSmith, Mark now elder

- - **Tit. 2:3-5** older women teach younger women
 - **some things women can teach about things men can't** – inappropriate, men don't know
 - **illus.:** ladies teach ladies' class and girls' class
 - can't be a strong church if women aren't teaching
 - **illus.:** **marriage counseling**, always ask Beth to meet privately with woman to communicate some things that are better coming from a woman

- - **women teach children in the church**
 - **God-given qualities often make them better** teachers of children than men
 - **much time and hard work**

- - **qualifications of elders and deacons: lawfully married**
 - **demonstrate the importance of a godly woman's work** – no godly women, not elders and deacons
 - **godly wife is a co-worker**, helpful in the word
 - **illus.:** Beth invaluable co-worker with me
 - **illus.:** **Rom. 16:3-5 Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila:** all churches of Gentiles thankful for their work, now had church in their house

- **A category of activities that fits the God-given nurturing instincts of women is encouraging others .**
 - **greeting others when we assemble**
 - **Rom. 16:16** greet one another
 - **illus.:** Polly and Irene , walking in with smile, calling others, sparkplug
 - **cards, email, electronic cards**
 - **Rom. 16:22** greeting also done in writing (ter'-tee-os)
 - **illus.:** Pam Raybon writes cards almost daily (Nicole), Polly said to have been the best at cards
 - **helping children make cards, delivering**
 - **illus.:** Bible class teachers, help children make cards , greatly lifts spirits of sick and shut-in
 - **phone calls**
 - **illus.:** Irene calls me just to say hi, encouragement to me
 - **hosting or planning group activities**
 - **illus.:** Melanie Trask, Charla Palmer

➤ **Visiting** is a way to **encourage** others and **see to their needs**.

- **Ja. 1:27** “visit” personally go and see, attending to needs

➤ - **see to physical needs** – not just charity, sometime kindness

- **illus.: Acts 9:36** **Tabitha** abounded in **deeds of kindness and charity, continually did**

- **take children or young people to visit** – **more boost**

- **illus.: Donna Trask** takes grandchildren, **Deanne** takes children, **others**

- **help with household chores: difficult for elderly to do**

- **illus.: ladies** of the congregation **take food** to the sick and shut in

- **illus.: ladies** of the congregation **transport** the elderly who can't drive

- **illus.: one lady** of the congregation **does Irene's laundry** - picks it up, washes and fold, delivers

- **illus.: ladies** have done **dishes, cleaned, taken out trash**

- **illus.: ladies in Leesburg**, when used to go to church, get together and **clean houses, paint, etc.**

➤ **Making preparation for our assembly** is an **important job often taken on by women** in the congregation.

- **Mk. 15:40-41** women ministered to Jesus, taking care of physical necessities

- **women often do same in church today** – **take care of physical**

- **importance:**

- if no one did the preparation work, couldn't assemble, assembly poorer

- **illus.: Lord's Supper preparation**

- **if no one did the work to prepare** Lord's Supper, could we obey God and observe

- **which like better: baked bread or crackers?** – someone has to do a lot of work to bake bread

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **not exhaustive list**

- **easy to see** women have very **important work**. not easy but **difficult** to do

- **self-starter**, think what needs to be done and do it

- **thanks** to all the women in the church

- **inv.:** Christian, faithfully working in God's vineyard