

“A Woman’s Contribution To The Local Congregation”

(Part Two-Continued from last week)

Women often possess skills through which benevolence can be rendered. Remember Dorcas made clothes for needy widows. Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Helping with cooking, baby-sitting, ministering to the sick, extending hospitality, etc. These are all important things that women can do and are probably more skilled at than men.

I know that it has been helpful and much appreciated when the women of this congregation have helped members by bringing food to the houses of those who have sick spouses. Or those that have suffered the loss of loved ones.

1 Timothy 5:9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

Any work that a woman does in the area of benevolence is a powerful contribution to the work of the local church. Women also contribute greatly in edifying the Lord’s church. Edification is an essential work. Edification involves the building up of the church, the body of Christ, and it is the work of every member.

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement).

Women do much to edify the church through the formal teaching of others:

- A. Grandmothers and Mothers can teach children, as Lois and Eunice taught Timothy.
- B. Older women can and should teach younger women.
- C. Especially where there are people who come into the church without the benefit of godly mothers or grandmothers. Then Christian women can be surrogates.

Women can edify through informal words of encouragement:

- A. Men are supposedly natural producers and women are natural nurturers.
- B. Since there are so many dysfunctional families and families with emotional problems today, the gift of nurturing and encouragement possessed by many women in the Lord’s church is essential.
- C. Many teachers and preachers have been helped by godly women encouraging them in their work.

There is a special need for the women in the Lord’s church to see themselves as teachers

of young people and other women, and as encouragers of men in their work of preaching the gospel and living in a godly way.

Women also have a part in the work of evangelism. Evangelism is a required work. It is the Great Commission given to the Apostles and to the church.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^{al} the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The gospel explains God’s plan of Salvation, so it must be shared with everyone.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Mark 16:15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

This is a work that can be done by everyone. It doesn’t have to involve preaching from a pulpit, or during an assembly of the church!

Acts 8:1 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

What can women do in the area of Evangelism? They can help support those who preach the gospel.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna are examples of women who did this for Jesus.

Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others.

Lydia provided hospitality for those preaching the gospel- Acts 16:15. Women can also tell others about Christ. Consider the example of the Samaritan woman, who was instrumental in bringing many to Christ- John 4:28-31 and 39-42. Consider all the work that Priscilla did with her husband in helping to spread the Gospel. She provided a place for Paul to stay while he was in Corinth- Acts 18:1-4. She converted Apollos at Ephesus- Acts 18:24-26. Priscilla hosted a church in their home-1 Cor 16:19 and Romans 16:3-5.

Even without a single word, godly women can lead others to Christ, including unbelieving husbands- 1 Peter 3: 1 Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

Many churches have been started, and saved through the evangelistic efforts of godly women!!!!!!

So we can see that there is certainly much that women CAN DO to contribute to the work of the local church.

We of course must not forget praying as one of the ways that women can contribute. Praying for the sick and those in need is always important.

There is a wide range of activities women can engage in without going beyond the limitations placed on them in public assemblies. The true measure of a local congregation is NOT ONLY defined by what occurs in assembly, but also by: What its members do day by day, in the home, in the workplace, in the world.

It involves benevolence, edification, teaching, and evangelism on a daily, personal basis. When godly women are involved, and active in the service of the Lord, using their talents, and the opportunities given them souls are saved. Souls are strengthened in the Lord, and they are cared for in times of need.

Through these efforts the church is made stronger, and the kingdom of God is expanded here on earth.

I pray that the men here at Northwest Valley will never take for granted, nor look down at the work our Sisters here do for all of us. Let us thank them and always encourage them.

THANK YOU! Ladies.

Arnold (Arne) Kohl