

Paul H. Dixon
The Cedarville College Student and His Family: The Wife's Responsibility
April 13, 1981

Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

"Being in subjection unto their own husbands, even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters ye are, as long as you do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." Sarah idolized her husband, so much so that she called him the lord of her life, the master in that home. And my application is this. I do not expect your husband to come home from work, a busy day at the office, and when he comes in the door, young ladies, for you to bow and call him lord. I would not encourage that. But he does want you to ask him how things went at the office that day, and he does want to know that you are interested in him and in his work.

I am of the persuasion that for a man, the most important relationship that he has is his relationship to his God. And then there is the relationship to his wife, and the relationship to his children, and then there is the relationship to his job, his vocation. That is a high priority. It is not a result of the fall. Work was given before the fall. And this is so important to your husband. He wants you to communicate to him that you believe he's a success.

Now again, somehow I've tried to evaluate this, and maybe I'm wrong, but I think most women have the idea, he knows he's a success. The guys tell him that he's a success. His employer lets him know. He gets raises, he gets promotions. He's very secure. I don't care if the owner of the company makes him the vice president. I don't care if they give him a 50,000, \$75,000 a year salary. I don't care what kind of letters they write him. I don't care how his peers evaluate him. Your opinion is the most important opinion to him. His boss may not even recognize him. The guys on the job may not even appreciate him. But if you think he's great, he's arrived. And I want to challenge you to work at that. Give him your attention. Find out what he's doing. Try to get down there to find out what makes him tick and try to anticipate some of the pressures that he is under, whether he is in the pastorate, and don't ...

Listen, you ladies who marry pastors don't ever think, "Oh, the deacons are reinforcing him." That's what you think. Let me just share this as a sideline. When some of you guys get out there and you become deacons, I know that when you have deacons' meetings, you have a responsibility to ask penetrating questions, and you get involved in things and so on about the church. But if you're not careful, nobody tells that pastor he is doing a good job. Yeah, you say, "He's serving the Lord." I know it, but he needs to hear it from you, too. So when any of you guys get out there and get on those deacon boards, reinforce those pastors.

But no deacon can reinforce a pastor like you can, pastor's wife. When your husband teaches at that school and he comes home from the day, and he's been facing all of the challenges, he needs for you to be there to encourage him and to let him know that you think he's the most fabulous administrator or the greatest teacher. Not only in that system, but in the state, and maybe in the country. Work at it. Well, there's much to being a wife, and we've just touched on some of the highlights. But I trust that the Lord would speak to our hearts this morning that we would recognize the importance of our attitude, your appearance, and your attention.

I'd like to conclude by reading what I happen to think is one of the greatest passages on the Christian wife, the godly wife, in Proverbs 31:10. "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 her life. She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands. She's like the merchant ships. She bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night and giveth meat to her household and a portion to her maiden. She considereth a field and buyeth

Paul H. Dixon
The Cedarville College Student and His Family: The Wife's Responsibility
April 13, 1981

it. With the food of her hands, she planteth the vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good.

"Her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands also hold distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor. Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She's not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry. Her clothing is silk and purple.

"Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen and selleth it. She delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honor are her clothing. She shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to all the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed. Her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands. Let her own works praise her in the gates."

May God speak to our hearts as we leave chapel today. Have a good day.