

WOMEN NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

Int.

1. Aim: To show the kind of women we need in the church today. A character study of some we don't need and some we do need.
2. Acts 5:14 "...multitudes both of men and women."
3. A study of Character is important
 - a. History is really nothing but biography.
 - b. As we study the lives of others we can enrich our own lives.
4. 1 Cor. 10:11 "Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.." ASV
 - a. Example - A model [for Imitation]
 - b. Or instance [for warning]
5. In this lesson we will study about Women: Those who are bad examples Those who are good examples

Discussion

I. SOME WOMEN NOT NEEDED IN THE CHURCH

- A. Women who look back like Lot's wife
 1. Fifteen words in O.T. Gen. 19:26
 2. In the N.T. there are 3 words about Lot's wife. Lk. 17:32 "Remember Lot's wife."
 3. Impression that she lived for the things of the world
 - a. Lot was rich - Gen. 13:10,11
 - b. They probably had a big house in the rich section of Sodom
 - c. When they had to flee she was warned not to look back, but she felt that she had to get one more glance at that place she loved so much.

- d. Looked back = look intently, regard with pleasure
- 4. She stands as a symbol of one who looks back and not forward.
- 5. She loved these things of the world more than the things of the spirit. She did not have the courage to leave that kind of life of ease and comfort and make the sacrifices necessary to please God.
- 6. We do not need women like her in the church.
 - a. They will put the world above the church
 - b. Unless the church is first it is useless!!!

B. Women who persecute preachers for preaching the truth like Herodias

- 1. She had John the Baptist beheaded -- Mt. 14:1-12
- 2. She is an example of a wicked heartless woman
 - a. Her life was surrounded by evil - descended from a family of wicked people
 - b. Probably a beautiful woman - physically attractive
 - c. Married to Philip and then married his half brother, Herod
 - d. John the Baptist had the courage to speak against this marriage union by saying, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." Mt. 14:4
 - e. Herod and Herodias were both angry
 - f. She schemed with her daughter and had John beheaded
- 3. She had been warned by John the Baptist about her evil life. Instead of changing her life she destroyed the messenger. She hardened her heart to the message of God.
- 4. We do not need women in the church like her!!
 - a. They do not like the message - the truth
 - b. They try to destroy the messenger.

C. Sapphira who misrepresented the truth - lied Acts 5:1-11

1. The love of money led to Sapphira's downfall
 - a. Sapphira and her husband decided to lie about what they gave - they did not have to give, it was a voluntary matter.
 - b. She was guilty of deceit - with her husband
2. She was a hypocrite
 - a. She was pretending to be something she was not
 - b. In the eyes of the people she appeared generous
 - c. In the eyes of God she was a hypocrite.
3. We do not need women in the church who will lie and misrepresent the truth.
Deceit will destroy and hurt everyone.

D. Jezebel - who was a wicked woman - I & II Kings

1. She was a daughter of a king, the wife of a king, and the mother and grandmother of kings. But she was neither a good wife and mother, nor ruler.
2. She brought evil customs to Israel
 - a. Worshiper of Baal
 - b. Brought sensuality

3. Domineering woman
 - a. Was ruler of her husband - Ahab did as she directed
 - b. Wanted to exterminate all the prophets of God - I Kings 18
 - c. Especially wanted to kill Elijah.
 - d. Contest by Elijah between prophets of Baal and himself showed that God was all powerful. He then destroyed the false prophets. Jezebel then threatened to kill Elijah.
 - e. She finally died a horrible death.
4. Jezebel is remembered as an outstanding example of everything that a woman ought not to be
 - a. Her name appears in the dictionary as a term of reproach
 - b. Her name is a synonym for wickedness

II. WOMEN WE NEED IN THE CHURCH

- A. Women of great faith like the woman with an Issue of Blood
 1. Mt. 9:20-22 Mk. 5:25-34 Lk. 8:43-48
 2. Woman with sickness
 - a. 12 years - spent all she had on doctors -- no better
 - b. Gently touched his garment and was healed
 - c. Jesus asked "Who touched me?"
 - d. Then Jesus said "...thy faith hath made thee whole."
 3. We need women like that today who have great faith
 - a. Rom. 10:17 They trust God
 - b. They therefore desire to obey God

B. Women who show hospitality to the servants of God like the Shunammite Woman - 2

Kings 4

1. She was a wealthy and influential woman
2. Showed hospitality to Elisha
 - a. Stayed there as he passed through
 - b. Asked her husband to build an extra room
3. They had a son - he died - Elisha raised him
4. She was great in her faith
 - a. When the child died she immediately went for Elisha
 - b. She was confident he could raise him
 - c. Calm in a moment of trial
5. We need women like this today
 - a. Shows hospitality = fond of guests
 - (1) To rich and poor
 - (2) To servants of God - contrast to Herodias
 - b. Have great faith
 - c. 1 Pet. 4:9 "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

C. Women who respect and are in subjection to their husband like Sarah

1. 1 Pet. 3:5-6
2. Sarah who became the mother of all nations was obedient to her husband Abraham
 - a. They left their home land They journeyed to a new and strange land
 - b. Worshiped God. In all this she was in subjection to her husband

3. We need women like that today

- a. 1 Pet. 3:1
- b. Eph. 5:22

D. Women who know how to get along with their in-laws like Ruth & Naomi

1. Naomi and Ruth were living in Moab

- a. Ruth was married to Mahlon - a son of Naomi
- b. Naomi's husband died, and her two sons also died

2. Naomi wanted to go back to her home in Bethlehem

- a. The 3 women wept as they said good by
- b. Naomi told her two daughters-in-law to go back to their home -- Orpah did
- c. But Ruth clung lovingly to her mother-in-law
- d. Ruth 1:16-17

3. Ruth could have been bitter

- a. Young and her husband has died
- b. Can't take care of that older woman - She'll just be in my way

4. But Ruth made the choice and stayed with her decision

- a. She gave up her family, her homeland, her friends
- b. She never complained
- c. God rewarded her by providing another husband - Boaz - and then she had a child [Obed] - became a part of the genealogy of Christ
- d. Ruth was loved by all because she was so loveable

5. We need women in the church like Ruth who can spread love abroad to everyone they meet.

E. We need women like Lois & Eunice who teach their children the Bible

1. II Tim. 1:5 — unfeigned = genuine, sincere
 - a. This is the only verse in the Bible about these 2 women
 - b. But it gives a complete biography of the two great women
 - c. This is the only time in the Bible that the word grandmother occurs - but she was a good one !!!
2. Why are these two women so great?
 - a. Because they realized the importance of early training of a child
 - b. II Tim. 3:15 - from a child
3. Lois and Eunice trained Timothy
 - a. Prov. 22:6 - they knew that this was true
 - b. They taught him all the O.T. stories and truth
 - c. He was prepared for life
 - d. He had the qualities of "...righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." 1 Tim. 6:11
4. We need women like this who will teach their children the Bible.
 - a. Read and study the Bible with them as babes
 - b. Make sure they attend Bible Classes
 - c. Live a good example before their own children

F. We need women who are personal workers like Priscilla

1. Acts 18:24-26
2. Priscilla and her husband Aquilla were tentmakers -- they were excellent teachers -- at two places where they lived the church started in their home.

3. Priscilla was a woman who was good student of the Bible
 - a. She had to manage her household and weave tent cloth for their work
 - b. But she found time to study the bible
 - c. She was able to “expound” the scriptures to Apollos, a man well versed himself.
 - d. She realized that Apollos was lacking in his understanding so she expounded the way of God more perfectly.
4. We need women like her today
 - a. They are good students of the Bible
 - b. They know what the Book says
 - c. They are capable and willing to teach others
 - d. They have the ability to explain truths to those who may be confused.

CONCLUSION

1. These women serve as models for women today
 - a. Some are to serve as examples of what women should not do.
 - (1) Lot's Wife - who looked back
 - (2) Herodias - who persecuted preachers
 - (3) Sapphira - who was deceitful and lied
 - (4) Jezebel - that wicked woman

b. Others serve as patterns for women to follow today.

- (1) Woman with issue of blood - showed great faith
- (2) Shunammite Woman - who showed great hospitality
- (3) Sarah - who was in subjection to her husband
- (4) Ruth & Naomi - who were able to get along with in-laws
- (5) Lois & Eunice - who teach their children the Bible
- (6) Priscilla - who was a good personal worker

2. To be ignorant of the lives of the people of the Bible is to continue in state of childhood all of our days.
3. 1 Cor. 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."
4. If we could have all the women in this congregation today who were like these good examples then this congregation would multiply.
5. We need good men and good women in the Evans Church of Christ
 - a. Faithful
 - b. Dedicated
 - c. Sincere
 - d. Good students