SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets
TITLE: Program 9 – Why Happiness Eludes The Modern Woman

THURSDAY

OPEN
What do you and I need to know as women? We need to know that as women, that we are called to one man, to one husband. And therefore we need to put out and shut out any thought that includes another man or causes us to look at our husband and look down our proboscis, look down our nose at our husband.

PART ONE
I picked up a book. It’s called “What Our Mothers Didn’t Tell Us, Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman”. And it’s by Danielle Crittenden. And in this book, she gives a list of the questions that women are asking today. Is work really more important and fulfilling than raising my children? Number two: why does my boyfriend not want to get married as much as I do? The third question: Why is the balance between being a good mother and working so elusive? Four: Why could my mother afford to stay home
with her children while I cannot? And the fifth question is this: By giving up my job am I giving my identity? And I want you to know that so many women, because they don’t know what we are as women, because they don’t understand their role, they really believe that their identity as a woman is found in their work relationship instead of in their home. The sixth question was this: Should men and women be trying to lead identical kinds of lives? Or were there good reasons for the old divisions of labor between mother and father, husband and wife? And then if so, do these divisions make us unequal? Those are interesting and very valid questions today. And you know what? The Bible has the answer to all of them. And this is what just absolutely thrills me. It absolutely thrills me that I can be your friend, that I can come, so to speak, in to your home and that I can talk to you and that I can share with you all around the world what God’s precepts and principles are for life. And that’s what we want to look at. But before we do, I want to take you to one more thing in this book. And these are the statistics about women today in addition to the statistics of the fact that 66% of the women are full time work force people. Listen, it says, we are more likely to be divorced as women or never married than all the women of the previous generation. We are more likely to bare children out of wedlock. We are more likely to be junkies or drunks or die in poverty. We are more likely to have an abortion or catch a sexually transmitted disease. And the last one is this: If we are mothers, even of infants and very small children, we are more likely to work at full time jobs and still shoulder the bulk of the housework above all that. So what’s happening? Well let’s go to the Word of God. And what I want to do, you’ve guessed it. I think you’ve got me pegged. I want us to go back to the book of beginnings. I want us to go back to Genesis, chapter 3, Precious One. So let’s look at these scriptures. Let me read them to you again. Genesis, chapter 3. And in Genesis, chapter 3, when Eve sins, this is what happens. God comes into that garden. You remember that they’re hiding. And God calls to them and asks them where they are. Then He turns and He speaks to the serpent and He tells the serpent what’s going to happen because he seduced the woman and he deceived the woman. And
the woman listened. Then He speaks to the woman. And when He speaks to
the woman this is what He says. To the woman, verse 16, He said, “I will
greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you shall bring forth
children. Yet your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over
you.” When those judgments came because she didn’t listen to God and
because now she not only knew good, but she knew evil, what God talks to
her about is the two major areas of her life: the reason that she is a woman.
She’s a woman because she is designed by God to bear children. She’s the
one that’s going to give birth to the child. She’s the one that’s going to nurse
the child. She’s the one that’s going to be at home with the child and teach
the child and train the child and love the child and nurture the child, while
the husband is off at work. And yet her focus is also going to be her
husband. You see, a woman finds her expertise in two areas. She finds her
expertise in the area of children and she finds her expertise in the area of
being a wife. Being a wife and being a mother. That’s what we as women
are designed for. And so now, with 66% of the women full time in the work
force and 91% of the single mothers full time in the work force, and 89% of
all the women 18 and above being caring takers on top of that, you can
understand the frustration. Because she cannot focus and she cannot give the
greatest energy to the thing that she was created for, to the thing that she’s
designed for and that is taking care of those children. Now what God does, is
in the New Testament, He takes us to the book of Titus. And in the book of
Titus we see God’s instructions for the woman, God’s instructions for the
older woman and God’s instructions for the younger woman, given to her,
by the way, by the older woman. Let me take you to Titus, chapter 2. Now if
you’re looking for Titus in your Bible, just know this, all the T’s are together
in the New Testament. And I thought, “Oh God, I am so glad they’re all
together.” And they all come before the book of Hebrews. So if you get to
Hebrews, you just back up. And then what He did is the longest names of the
Book come first. So you have Thessalonians, and then you have Timothy
and then you have Titus and then you have Philemon and he’s so small and
we very seldom look at him. And then you come to the book of Hebrews. So
I want to take you to Titus, chapter 2. And the book of Titus was written by Paul to Titus who was like a son in the Lord. He was on the Isle of Crete and Crete had a lot going on, on that island. I mean, the people were described as liars, evil beasts. They were gluttons. They were lazy and this was the culture that they were living in. So Paul is writing Titus and he’s saying to Titus, “Now Titus, these are the things that I want you to do.” One of the things that he wanted them to do was give them instructions, instructions to the people in the church. He wanted them to understand good sound doctrine. In other words, by sound doctrine, I mean teaching. What am I to believe? What is truth and what is a lie? Now Eve got in trouble because she believed a lie. She was seduced by a liar. John 8:44 says that, “The devil is a liar, that he is a murderer, and that he was a murderer from the beginning.” He destroyed Adam and Eve by getting them to believe a lie. He’s a liar and he’s the father of lies. So the people that were living in Crete, except for those that had come to know Jesus Christ were living under the power of the prince of this world. They had believed a lie. They walked according to their own thinking, according to their own vain imaginations, because they were cut off from truth. They were cut off from truth because they didn’t know what God was all about. They didn’t have the Word of God and if they had it they weren’t reading it. So Titus comes and he brings the gospel. He says, “Now speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.” Then he tells them what the older men are to do. And then in verse 3, this is what he says. “Older women, like wise, are to be reverent in their behavior.” In other words, there is to be a decorum in their behavior. There is to be a reverence in their behavior. There is to be a respect in their behavior. There’s to be an acknowledgement that God is God. They’re to have a fear of God before their eyes. Now fear doesn’t mean, “Oh my goodness, is He going to get me?” But fear means, “God, I recognize that You’re God and I recognize that I’m man, or that I’m woman and I recognize that You’re smarter than I am. I recognize that You’ve always been here, that You’re the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I recognize that, God. And recognizing that, I’m going to honor You as God. I’m going to behave in a proper way.”
So this is what the older women were to do. And then he says, “They are not to be malicious gossips.” Have you got that? You see, sometimes when we’re older and we get to stay home and we don’t have anything to do, then we love to hear the latest thing, I mean and the juicy things about everybody. And so then we go from house to house, but today, you know we don’t like to get in the car so we just pick up the phone and we become malicious gossips. “Not enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good…,” This is the way the older women, this is the way I’m to behave. He says, “…that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children.” So once again, now watch, it’s so beautiful the way it ties in. You have Eve in the Garden of Eden and God talks to her about her children and God talks to her about her husband. Now, here we are millennia later and God again is saying, “Older women, this is what I want you to do with the younger women. I want you teach them. I want you to teach them to love their husbands. And I want you teach them to love their children.” That’s what we as women are. We are not less than a man. We are equal with a man. But our role is distinctively different because we are distinctively male or we are distinctively female. And so a woman has a different role. And here you see the focus on the role again. He wants to teach them to love their husbands and love their children. And so what God is telling the older women is “Look, teach these women how to love their children, how to desire their highest good, how to stick with them instead of killing them.” I mean, and I say that in quotes, you know, when you get so upset, you’re just ready to scream.

PART TWO

In 1 Timothy, chapter 2, Paul is giving instructions to Timothy about what he’s to do in respect to the men and in respect to the women. And in verse 15, he says this, “But women shall be preserved.” Now it’s translated preserved in the New American Standard. It really is, “…women shall be saved.” But they don’t mean saved from hell and going to heaven. They
mean just that they will find this salvation. They will find this fulfillment that women need. “They will be preserved through the bearing of children, if…,” And that “if” is a very important “if”. “…if they, the children, continue in faith and love and sanctity with self restraint.” In other words, what are we as women? We are mothers. We are bearers of children. And if we’re going to find real fulfillment in life, part of that fulfillment is going to come through our children. It’s going to come through our children if our children turn out well. Otherwise it’s going to be a great source of grief. And I want you to know that with my oldest son Tommy and I have permission to tell this. But with my oldest son Tommy, I had years of grief, years of heartache. There were times when I thought, “God would he be better off dead than alive because he’s just disgracing your name.” I mean he called himself a Christian but he didn’t live like a Christian because he wasn’t a Christian. And I want you know that everybody that says, “Hey, I’m a Christian,” is not a Christian. If you’re truly a child of God, then you bear some likeness to your heavenly Father. There are changes in your life and sin is not the habit of your life. So I agonized over Tommy for years and years and years. And then, finally, at the age of 37, he turned around and I want you to know, he’s the joy of my heart. He is the joy. And my other two sons are the joy of my heart. But he’s my prodigal. My prodigal got tired of the pigsty and he came home. And it’s been wonderful to have him home. And then you find fulfillment. And then you find satisfaction. I was telling my boys the other day, just because they’re all three are so wonderful now. But I was saying, “You know I never ever dreamed that it could be this good.” And so, Precious One, I just want to urge you, father or mother, just to hang in there because you can learn to love your children. You can love them when they’re good. You can love them when they’re bad. You can love them with the kind of love that God has for them. And we’re going to study the different kinds of love. But that’s an agape kind of love. It’s a love that desires their highest good. So the woman finds this salvation, finds this fulfillment in life, if her children continue in faith, if they continue to believe and walk according to the precepts of God, if they continue in love, if they
continue in sanctity. And I want you know that the grief of so many women’s hearts today are their children and the children are breaking their heart because they’re not continuing in sanctity. What is sanctity? Sanctity means that you are set apart. It means that you’re set apart for God. It means that you don’t walk the way the rest of the world walks. It means that you live life on a higher plane. That you have a different code by which you go, that you don’t grovel in the debauchery of life, but that you live in a reverence and in a fear, and in a respect. Well let’s go back to Titus, chapter 2. In Titus, chapter 2, it tells us in verse 5, “That she is to teach them to be sensible, to be pure, to be workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be dishonored.” So what am I to teach a younger woman? I’m to teach that younger woman that she is to be first of all, sensible. She’s to have her head screwed on right. She’s to be thinking properly. She’s not to be flitty with life. She’s to have a plan. She’s to know what’s going on. She’s to know how to be a woman. She’s to be pure. There is to be a purity about her life. And if she’s going to be pure, then precious one, she has to watch what’s coming into her house. She has to watch what she’s watching on television. And I just want to ask you a question. Are you careful with what you see? You know I had a woman and she lived, literally, on the soap operas. From when they started in the morning, she was from Canada, until they went off in the late afternoon, she was addicted to those soap operas. And she was filling her mind with all sorts of trash, trash that was causing her to be unhappy with her husband, trash that was causing her to be immoral and impure in her thoughts. And she found me on radio. And when she found me on radio, as a result of that, that dear woman shut off the TV and she started studying the Word of God. And her life was absolutely transformed. This is what we’re to be. We’re to be sensible. We’re to keep our heads screwed on right. We’re to be pure. We’re to think pure thoughts. The Jews talked about as a man thinks in his heart, they thought of the heart as we think of as the mind. And so what is he saying? What do you and I need to know as women? We need to know that as women, that we are called to one man, to one husband. And therefore we
need to put out and shut out any thought that includes another man or causes us to look at our husband and look down our proboscis, look down our nose at our husband. And many, many times, when we look at the movies, when we turn on the soaps and we see these men that are so handsome and so charming and all this and that and many of them are such dogs. You know. And yet we’re attracted to them because we’re living with reality. That’s television. That’s a movie. That’s not reality. So as an older woman, I want to share with you, as younger woman that you need to be sensible. You need to be sensible in your thinking. You need to be pure in your thinking. And then he goes on to say, “You need to be a worker at home.” Now, earlier in the series, but I don’t know if you caught it. I told you what it means to be a worker at home. That word is spelled in the Greek, “o-i-k-o”, which means home or to dwell in. And then the rest of the word is, “k-o-u-r-o-s”, and that means that is a worker. So if you’re out there in the work force all day, and you come home, you have to carry the load of the house. Why? Because it’s built inside of us. Our husbands can help us and yet, I bet, when you’re husband helps you and you’re going 90 miles an hour, inside, isn’t there just a sense of guilt that you should be doing more? What do you do with that? How do you handle it? Well you need to learn what we are as women, what God expects of us as women and then when you and I learn this, Precious One, then you and I can get our act together and we can be what God created us to be. You say, “Kay, there’s no way out of this mess. There’s no way out of the entangled lifestyle that I’m living. You don’t know we’re up to our ears in debt.” Precious One, listen to me. There is a way out.