

Lessons for Ladies

How I Act

Lesson 1

Introduction

Theme Verse: “*Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*”

Proverbs 14:1

INTRODUCTION: As a wife and mother, the *temperature* of the home is usually set by the woman of the house. According to Proverbs 14:1, the success or failure of the home is in the hands of the woman. Bickering, criticism, complaining, whining, or an overall bad attitude will all be instruments used to pluck down a house. A woman can single-handedly cause a bad spirit in the home and make life miserable for all who live there. On the other hand, a happy, well-adjusted, close-knit family will be the result of a woman who wisely guides her home by building those within the walls through love, confidence, virtue, and encouragement.

Through these eight lessons, each woman will see herself at one time or another. The purpose of these lessons is not to *fill time*, but to be a help in any area of the home - and outside the home - that needs improvement for the sake of Christ. Ask yourself at the end of each lesson, “*Is this HOW I ACT?*”

Proverbs 9:1 - “*Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:*”

I THE KITCHEN

Proverbs 31:15 - “*She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household. . .*”

The days of having to rise while it is night to begin cooking the meals for the day are just about gone, unless it is to pack the ice chest for setting out for vacation! BUT, the principle that God has set down in this entire chapter of Proverbs is the provision the woman makes for the home. It is up to her to provide healthy, balanced meals for her family. The occasional eating out

and fast food are to be just that, occasional and not the norm. It is a sign of the decline of the family when there are advertisements on television to encourage families to eat together at the table. The evening meal, when most families are all at home from work and school, is the very best time to *summarize* the day and find out with what - and who - your children are involved.

*What are your actions concerning the “*kitchen*” in your home? Are you aware of what all your husband does at work? Do you know who your child’s friends are - have you ever seen their friends? Have you noticed any subtle changes in your family’s behavior? Daily time together as a family will keep your relationships strong. When trouble does come, your family will be able to weather it all together as a strong unit built upon Christ.

II THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Proverbs 31:21 - “. . .for all her household are clothed with scarlet.”

Proverbs 31:27- “*She looketh well to the ways of her household. . .*”

The statement has been said, “*Cleanliness is next to godliness.*” Though God did not say this statement Himself, He has certainly taught in His Word the importance of being a good testimony for Him. Teach your family to be clean! This includes hygiene and neatness in all areas of life. Keep their clothing clean, teach them to change their underwear, comb their hair, brush their teeth, use deodorant, and take a bath. Teach your daughters feminine hygiene. A well-kept body, will usually reflect a well-kept home. Require a child to clean his room on a regular basis. Do not allow messiness habitually in any area, including school work and study habits.

*What are your actions concerning “*the laundry room?*” Are you concerned with how your family looks? Are their clothes clean and pressed? Are buttons sewn on shirts or pants hemmed? Do you complain at the mounting laundry, or the towels piling up? Someday, those mounds of dirty clothes will be very small as your children leave home to begin a home of their own. Will they know HOW to make a home just from what they learned in their home?

III THE GUEST ROOM

I Peter 4:9 - "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*"

Because of this fast-paced society in which we currently live, hospitality seems to be a lost art. Yet, the Bible is still true and is still to be obeyed. Hospitality is seen throughout God's Word as folks opened their home to serve others in any capacity. Entertaining guests does not have to be a huge ordeal, but one of simplicity and enjoyment. If you cannot have guests for a meal, invite them over for coffee and cookies or something simple. The importance is the fellowship and the encouragement given through this Christian fellowship. Part of discipling Christians will include hospitality - opening yourself and your home to others.

*What is your attitude toward hospitality, or opening your home to guests? Is it done grudgingly if at all? Part of obedience to God's Word is hospitality.

IV CHILD'S ROOM

Proverbs 29:15 - "*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*"

Due to the need of two incomes in a family, many times the children are at home

on their own for periods of time, with a sitter, or in daycare. When this cannot be helped, extra measures must be taken to keep children growing in the *nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" Restrictions must be made on video games, movies, TV shows, music, and even books that are set before the young eager eyes of children. If children were able to make decisions on what they should or should not be involved in, they would not need parents! God has set children in the home to be raised according to His Word by the parents. (Eph. 6:4) Slacking on the duties given to parents in raising their children, is disobedience. A child left to make his own decisions, or one that uses a mom as his maid, "*bringeth his mother to shame.*" Being a "*cool mom*" is nothing more than laziness on the part of the parent. It takes work to instill in a child right from wrong, love, respect,

work, and the fear of God.

*How do you respond to the demands of raising a child? Do you take on an apathetic attitude toward discipline? Do you give up when trying to make a child obey? Teaching a child to obey a parent also teaches him to obey God which will deliver his soul from hell and keep him in the center of God's will. (Prov. 23:13-14)

V THE ENTERTAINMENT ROOM

Psalm 101:3 - "*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. . .*"

Sin that would normally not be allowed into the lives of your family, or yourself, is too many times overlooked under the heading of "*entertainment*." Just because it is a "*game*" or a "*book*" does not negate the sin that may be threaded throughout. Video games, in moderation, are fine and sometimes helpful to children. But, video games with cursing, scantily clothed figures, violence or gore are wrong. Never would a parent allow that same child to watch a TV show with the same theme, yet when it is a "*game*" parents do not take a closer look. The internet is an amazing tool for all kinds of information. But, it is a dangerous tool for ALL KINDS of information. Regulate what is set before the eyes of your family. Most moms realize they must control the television, movies, books, magazines, etc. But, mom, what do YOU set before your eyes after the children have gone to bed? Because you are a parent, does not make you immune to the influences of the internet, romance books, or magazines. Maybe you set only good things before your eyes, but HOW MUCH of it do you take in? Time is a precious commodity, but so much of it is wasted by spending time on the computer with instant messaging, searching the web aimlessly, not able to function without the television on, or so involved in a book that your work goes by the wayside.

*What is your attitude toward video and computer games? Do you pass it off as a "*fad*" that your child will "*out grow?*" (What about the adults that play video games - it isn't something they "*outgrow.*") Is the television an easy "*babysitter*" that allows you to get your work finished? Do you regulate the

amount of time spent in these areas?

VI THE BEDROOM

Proverbs 31:11-12 - "*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.*"

Proverbs 31:12 gives a pretty tall order for a wife. Yet, it is the standard that God expects a wife to follow. A wife is basically her husband's cheerleader. When he has a cheerleader, he does not have to cheer for himself. It is up to the wife, as we have said, to set the temperature of the home. An unsubmitive wife may be great with the children, but has a very unhappy husband. The children learn from this attitude and will pass it on in their home. So many times, the "*others*" that we put before ourselves include everyone from friends to strangers, but not our husband. By the time he comes home, there is no kindness left for the husband who has worked all day to provide for the home he has entrusted to the wife. It goes against all that is taught in a worldly society for a woman to submit to her husband, to center her life around him and HIS career, and to change things in her life to make him happy. But, this is a godless society which cannot be expected to understand the things of God.

*What is your attitude toward your husband? Do you do things just to please him? When it comes to decisions in the home, do you follow your husband even if you disagree? Is your husband treated second-class in your home? Do you disagree with him in front of the children? Do you whine and carry on to get your own way? Do you withhold any physical relations as "*punishment*" if you are angry? Do you have room for improvement in this room of the house?

VII THE BATHROOM

Proverbs 31:25 - "*Strength and honor are her clothing. . .*"

Just about the ONLY place a mom can have any time alone is in the

bathroom - after the kids are all in bed. Alone time - a sigh of relief - a moment to catch a breath - a time to be alone with God. It has been said that you are your REAL self when you are alone (not necessarily in the bathroom, but at any time alone!). No one knows you like God knows you. The clothing of strength and honor are real, not a front put on for all to see. The REAL you will eventually be seen.

*Who are you when you are alone? What do you watch, read, or sing when you are alone? If no one knew you, what kind of person would you be? Does the Word of God regulate what you do in a crowd AND alone, or do YOU regulate when to set yourself under the Word of God? Are you completely yielded to God and His will for your life? It all comes down to who you REALLY are in order to function in any of the other areas of your life. Who are you - really?

CONCLUSION: With the rooms of your house in mind, let us see HOW I ACT given the different areas of life. In any given situation either a positive or a negative action will occur. Both actions will cause results to a situation. It will be up to you as to what kind of result you will cause.