

WIC: What's a Woman to Do?

You, O God, will never disappoint us if we put our trust in you. Lead our lives, guide our hearts, and let us prosper under your authority. Amen.

Lesson Three/Four: June 19 and 26 Our True Identity

The Helper Design

- God created Adam alone and incomplete intentionally because He intended to create Eve as a helper, a "completer".
- This helper/completer concept carries over to the church – the supportive ministry of women is as crucial to the completeness of the church as it was Eve's presence in Eden.
- When women fulfill their God-given design as helpers, they contribute to the firmness and stability of the Church. As men and women fulfill their biblical gender role and utilize their individual gifts the ministry of the church is enhanced and made complete.

Hebrew word translated "helper" – ezer – is frequently used to refer to **God as our Helper**

(The scriptures give us insight into the functions of an ezer – the words used are strong, compassionate, relational, life-giving)

- When man and woman sinned, Woman lost her ability to be a true helper. Her rebellion caused her to become a life-taker.
- However, God gave HOPE. Gen. 3:15 – offspring would crush Satan's head.
- Adam renamed his wife "Eve" which means "life-giver" (3:20). "Woman's redemptive calling is to be a life-giver in every relationship and circumstance.

	HELPER/LIFE-GIVER	HINDERER/LIFE-TAKER	
Exodus 18:4	defends	attacks	
Psalms 10:14	sees, cares for the oppressed	indifferent, unconcerned	
Psalms 20:2	supports	weakens	
Psalms 33:20	shields, protects	leaves unprotected and	defenseless
Psalms 70:5	delivers from distress	causes distress	
Psalms 72:12-14	rescues poor, weak, needy	ignores poor, weak, needy	
Psalms 86:17	comforts	avoids, causes discomfort	

- Women are called to lovingly protect, support, shield, sustain, deliver, comfort, give hope, bless – all strong verbs.
- If/when we devalue the supportive ministry of help, we devalue the importance of God's ministry to help us! It is not an inferior role, but simply – a different role. We need to get the world's ideas of "submission" out of our heads.
- NOTE: Men are also to be helpers. Mutual support and help among ALL believers is a basic scriptural principle (Galatians 6:2; Romans 15:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

What is our motive to be helpers?

Why were we created?

WSC #1. What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to GLORIFY God and enjoy him forever.

Isaiah 43:6b-7

Psalms 34:3

John 17:22-23

Romans 11:36-12:1ff

We cannot truly be helpers, giving assistance and support to others, unless our focus is on glorifying God. If our focus is not on God then it will be on:

- people and we will be discouraged, disappointed, hurt
- circumstances and we will become overwhelmed, frustrated, hopeless
- ourselves and we will become self-absorbed (self-interest, self-promotion, self-centeredness)

Another problem: women often define their identities in terms of their roles, abilities, circumstances, opportunities. All of these things limit us, and can change in a moment – and when that happens – confusion, disappointment, anger....

But when our purpose in life is to glorify God, all those things become a platform for display God's glory.

Glorifying God is not easy – we need wisdom, energy, humility to keep our focus on Him. Satan does not want us to do this. It is not natural to deny yourself and give the glory to another.

- Jesus' example (Philippians 2:5-11)

We cannot do this apart from God's Word. We must be women who **THINK BIBLICALLY** so that we can **ACT BIBLICALLY**.

WSC #2 What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?

The Word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy

Proverbs 14:1

When we focus on glorifying God, we will have a powerful, positive influence – a "building" influence – on others.

Everyone needs help.

- Daily life: much to do, many responsibilities, heartache, physical ailments.
- Paul was no exception (2 Corinthians 11) God brought a helper into his life
- Phoebe's Example: Romans 16:1-2
 - "our sister" – a devoted and committed Christian
 - "a servant" – a deaconess, denoting one who serves any and all in the church
 - "a succorer" – a helper of many
 - in classical Greek this word was used of those who were trainers in the Olympics, who stood by the athletes to make sure they were properly trained and rightly girded for competition
 - literally means "one who stands by in case of need"

Application:

1. Serve humbly. It's not about you – it's about God's glory and His church
2. Serve continually. We don't know much about Phoebe, but she obviously had been involved in the church long enough for Paul to entrust to her the delivery of his letter to the Romans
3. Commit to pray for the church, this church, everyday this week.
 1. Pray for the Charleston Christians School – specifically for increased enrollment.
 2. Pray specifically for the women of the church. Challenge: call someone on the list that you do not know – introduce yourself, ask how you can pray for them