

Another pressure that women face today is in their choice of career. There has been a radical shift in this country concerning women in the workplace. Fifty years ago it was completely acceptable for a woman to stay home and take the role of wife and mother. However, today women who stay home as wives or stay home to mother their children are critically looked down upon. Stereotypes have now been constructed that women who choose not to work a secular job are lazy or useless. This has caused the younger generations to think that staying home with their children is not an option but they must "contribute" their portion to home by taking a secular job.

Shattering Your False Image

- 1 Self-examination is the key to determine if you have your value tied to your career. You can know by answering this question: why do you work? (By the way, this examination is just as true of men who become career oriented and try to find their value in their job).

Read Ephesians 4:28. What does God say is the reason why a person works?

- 2 **Read Titus 2:4-5.** Older women are instructed to teach the younger women certain responsibilities. Write down the six or seven things that Paul says are to be priority in the life of every godly woman:

- 3 Some have taken the instructions of Titus 2:4-5 to mean that a woman cannot work. However, the scriptures speak of godly women working. **Read Proverbs 31:10-31** and the passage below and write down all the secular work these women were doing:

**One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God.
(Acts 16:14 ESV)**

- 4 So if we read about the excellent/worthy woman who sells outside the home and Lydia in Acts 16 selling outside the home, when does having a job/career become sinful?

Establishing Your True Image

- 5 **Read the scripture below.** How are we supposed to think of ourselves?

**For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
(Romans 12:3 ESV)**

What is Paul's concern in how humans would think of themselves?

The standard by which we evaluate ourselves and think with "sober judgment" is "according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." What does this mean? How do we do this?

TRANSFORMATION:

- 1 Why is it foolish to have a self-image based on career? What will happen to your image if you lose your job? What can you do if you are experiencing pressure to put your hope in your work?
- 2 How can you think properly about your career in Christ? How can you think properly about working in the home? How can we think properly about our work as a Christian in his kingdom?