

Keepers of the Home

I would like to preface this article by first stating what it is not about. I do recognize that there are many woman who work outside the home, and do so because they must. This article is not condemning women who work outside the home, but rather reminding us all how important our position is in the home. Whether we are stay at home mothers, employed outside of the home, or involved in a ministry that necessitates us being away from home, we all (myself included) need to be reminded how important the home actually is in our family's spiritual and physical obedience to YHWH, and the importance of our place in it. It is my belief, that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, that the Eternal grants each of us the strength and grace to accomplish His will in our lives and in our homes.

As Natsari women, the managing of our homes under the guidelines of Torah is an awesome responsibility, and that nowhere is our potential and importance greater. Most English Bibles have translated 'keepers of the home' (Titus 2:5) to workers in the home. This is a very one dimensional translation. In the KJV the Greek word *oikouros* is translated as keeper. The Hebrew equivalent of *oikouros* is *shamar*. Both words mean to guard. Specifically, *shamar* means to guard, protect, and preserve.

Since the destruction of the Temple, the center of Jewish worship is the home. As guardians (keepers) of the home, it is our responsibility to maintain Torah in the home. For example - we are the first teachers of our children, guiding them into obedience to the Father and introducing them to the Messiah Yeshua. We also ensure our kitchens are kosher, and we guide and prepare the celebration for the Feasts. However, we also guard. We should be ever vigilant in what we allow into our homes as well. This is a responsibility that should not be considered trivial. In fact it is a foundational role, just as Torah is the foundation of our faith and walk, so is our responsibility. We all understand how important a good foundation is to a house. Without the proper one that house will over time crumble and fall apart.

Some may see this as a subservient or unimportant role, and the enemy certainly wants us to view it in this way. When we do, that allows him to come in and reek havoc. In the culture of Natsari Judaism the woman is not subservient. This misunderstanding of a woman/mother's role comes from Christianity's misunderstanding of Shaul's writings. We (the husband and wife) are two halves of a whole, working together. We have different roles but we both work together as we serve the Creator of all things and bring our homes under His authority.

We also need to remember that we should help each other. Sarah's Tent was created with this in mind, but you don't have to have a website to help other women. You may be fortunate enough to belong to a shul or home worship group, or you may only know women online, but take whatever opportunity you can to reach out to other sisters to offer them assistance and encouragement. For example if you see that young sister overwhelmed by the added responsibility of a new baby offer to help out, or if a woman is having difficulties in some area of her life, be a sounding board and encourage her. There are many women coming into Torah obedience who need guidance - reach out to them. By helping each other and sharing one another's burdens we walk in the way that Yeshua taught. As His talmidah this is what we should be doing.

Seek Yahweh, pray, study, and help one another, and with His help we will succeed at the great tasks He has placed upon us.

More on this subject in the next issue....

Hadassah