



WEEKLY  
*Summary*

**Week Twenty-one Summary:**

Over the course of our study together, many of us have come to realize that the ideas we'd been carrying around about what it means to be a woman were misguided. We now realize that we face a number of challenges that make it difficult to embrace a Biblical view of femininity. First, *real* femininity is devalued by our culture. We, as a society, now consider careerism, self-advancement, independence, and competition to be the "Supreme Pursuit" for both men and women. Women who pursue domestic roles of nurturer/helper/caregiver are thought to be wasting their potential. Secondly, for those of us who wish to pursue a domestic focus, we face the challenge of finding training in the practical skills required. Most women enter adulthood with no idea of how to plan a menu, stick to a budget, clean a house, or manage a household. The "Home Economics" classes of the past are no longer politically correct. Those in our lives who knew how to do these things got the message that "any idiot" could do it, and so they hesitated to waste our time teaching us. But perhaps the biggest challenge many of us face as we looked for training in "feminine values" is the fact that the most obvious "trainers"—our own moms—simply weren't around. Either they were completely absent because of a divorce or a death, or they were unavailable because they themselves were busy pursuing their careers. You may have noticed that these challenges form a self-perpetuating cycle. It's been spinning this way for a couple of generations, gaining strength.

As mothers, we must recognize that all the challenges to femininity that we've faced, our daughters face to a greater degree. We have the opportunity to break the cycle, to help our daughters face their challenges and overcome them and to train them in Biblical Femininity.

Contributions That Mothers Bring to Their Daughters

- Mothers are the primary feminine **role models** for their daughters. Our children, especially our daughters, form their ideas about what women are like based on what we are like...what women do, based on what we do. This is a big responsibility. "Do as I say, not as I do," simply won't work. We must "walk the walk" if we want our daughters to do the same.
- Mothers are the primary **teachers and disciplers** for their daughters. We must also be able and ready to articulate Biblical Truth about God's design for men and women. "Because I said so" is just as weak a rationale now as it was when we were girls!
- Mothers can create and participate in **ceremonies** celebrating true femininity for their daughters. While the society at large may not value Biblical Femininity, we can find like-minded people in our community to participate with us in special occasions to create memories and elevate the feminine ideal to its proper, lofty place.

One last note: Whether you are a mother or not, younger women around you are starved for role models and mentors in the area of Biblical Femininity. No matter how "old" you are, there is someone younger than you who can benefit from your time and experience. (Two High Schoolers we know are mentoring a group of Elementary aged girls.) You need not have done everything "right." Sometimes "I wish I hadn't . . ." is a good place to start a conversation. Take a risk to nurture the next generation, bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Who knows how many future generations will bless you for it?

