What is a woman’s work in the church?

► Intro:
- sometimes asked: “Men have a lot to do in the church. What do women do?” - esp. advent of feminism
- this lesson: “What is woman’s role in the church? – 20 minutes, go fast, not exhaustive
  - future: planning for girls training classes, at same time of boys training
  - future: next series for young people, Sunday evenings, split into young men and women, training lessons

► Women have an equally important role of men in the church! – but different
  - Eph. 4:16 work for everyone, all equally important to growth of congregation
  - song #620 Room In God’s Kingdom – there is work that we all can do

► - illus.: Rom. 16:1-2, 6, 12, 15 Phoebe, Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis, Julia workers in the church

► Why can’t women participate in leadership roles in the church?
  - 1 Tim. 2:11-14 God’s plan: men lead in the church
    - as Christians we respect God’s will

► - in society, women can lead as well as men
  - Acts 16:14 Lydia: seller of purple
  - Pr. 31:16, 18 virtuous woman: buys field and plants vineyard, gain is good, sells garments to tradesmen

► One of the most important works women can do is pray!
  - What is most important thing you can do for another person? – pray

  - 1 Tim. 5:5 godly woman, entreaties and prayers night and day
    - some women aren’t able to do many things, but diligently do the most important - pray for others
Women teach others (evangelism) – women can reach some people men can’t
- 1 Pet. 3:1 can win a husband to Christ without saying a word – power of wife over husband
  - illus.: Melany and Mark NeSmith, Mark now elder

- Tit. 2:3-5 older women teach younger women
  - some things women can teach about things men can’t – inappropriate, men don’t know
    - illus.: ladies teach ladies’ class and girls’ class
    - can’t be a strong church if women aren’t teaching
    - illus.: marriage counseling, always ask Beth to meet privately with woman to communicate some things that are better coming from a woman

- women teach children in the church
  - God-given qualities often make them better teachers of children than men
  - much time and hard work

- qualifications of elders and deacons: lawfully married
  - demonstrate the importance of a godly woman’s work – no godly women, not elders and deacons
  - godly wife is a co-worker, helpful in the word
    - illus.: Beth invaluable co-worker with me
    - illus.: Rom. 16:3-5 Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila: all churches of Gentiles thankful for their work, now had church in their house

A category of activities that fits the God-given nurturing instincts of women is encouraging others.
- greeting others when we assemble
  - Rom. 16:16 greet one another
    - illus.: Polly and Irene, walking in with smile, calling others, sparkplug

  - cards, email, electronic cards
    - Rom. 16:22 greeting also done in writing (ter’-tee-os)
    - illus.: Pam Raybon writes cards almost daily (Nicole), Polly said to have been the best at cards

  - helping children make cards, delivering
    - illus.: Bible class teachers, help children make cards, greatly lifts spirits of sick and shut-in

  - phone calls
    - illus.: Irene calls me just to say hi, encouragement to me

  - hosting or planning group activities
    - illus.: Melanie Trask, Charla Palmer
Visiting is a way to encourage others and see to their needs.
- *Ja. 1:27* “visit” personally go and see, attending to needs

- see to physical needs – not just charity, sometime kindness
  - *illus.: Acts 9:36* Tabitha abounded in deeds of kindness and charity, continually did

- take children or young people to visit – more boost
  - *illus.: Donna Trask* takes grandchildren, *Deanne* takes children, others

- help with household chores: difficult for elderly to do
  - *illus.: ladies* of the congregation *take food* to the sick and shut in
  - *illus.: ladies* of the congregation *transport* the elderly who can’t drive
  - *illus.: one lady* of the congregation *does Irene’s laundry* - picks it up, washes and fold, delivers
  - *illus.: ladies* have done *dishes, cleaned, taken out trash*
  - *illus.: ladies in Leesburg*, when used to go to church, get together and *clean houses, paint, etc.*

Making preparation for our assembly is an important job often taken on by women in the congregation.
- *Mk. 15:40-41* women ministered to Jesus, taking care of physical necessities
  - women often do same in church today – take care of physical

  - importance:
    - if no one did the preparation work, couldn’t assemble, assembly poorer

  - *illus.: Lord’s Supper preparation*
    - if no one did the work to prepare Lord’s Supper, could we obey God and observe
    - which like better: baked bread or crackers? – someone has to do a lot of work to bake bread

Summary / Inv.
- not exhaustive list
- easy to see women have very important work, not easy but difficult to do
  - self-starter, think what needs to be done and do it
- thanks to all the women in the church
- inv.: Christian, faithfully working in God’s vineyard