

# DRIPS

## DEALING WITH OUR RELATIONAL IRRITATIONS: POISED TO SERVE DRIPPING #9: TWO THINGS WOMEN TEND TO DO VERY WELL

### I. Consider Phil 2:3-4

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

### II. Women tend to be great encouragers

#### A. Edification:

1. Consider Eph. 4:12 “to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”
2. “Building up”: The Greek word literally means “to mend nets.” It came to describe the founding and construction of a house. It’s the idea of building up something or someone.
3. While the term does refer to the efforts of those in spiritual leadership (Eph. 4:11-16), it also refers to the efforts of every Christian. See 1 Cor. 14:12, Rom. 14:19, 1 Thes. 5:11.
4. Ultimately, edification has a purpose:

1 Cor. 10:33 “...not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”

#### B. Biblical love edifies

1 Cor 8:1 “Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”

#### C. The key is the proper use of our tongue

Eph. 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

### III. Women tend to be selfless (Matt. 16:25)

Consider the principles found in these passages:

Luke 6:35: Be kind even when nothing is reciprocated

1 Thes. 5:15: Ignore the evil done to you

Phil. 4:11-12: Learn to live “in contentment”

Eph. 4:29-32: Follow the example of Christ –

1. No bitterness, anger or slander

2. Be tenderhearted
3. Forgive one another

Some biblical examples to consider:

- A. There is a willingness to sacrifice for their family – consider Hannah in 1 Sam. 1:19-28
- B. There is a willingness to make themselves vulnerable (often to be hurt again and again). Watch Hannah in 1 Sam. 2:19
- C. There is a willingness to be separated from “home” (things familiar and comfortable) in order to serve others. Consider Ruth in Ruth 1:16-17.
- D. There is a willingness to invest themselves in the care of another (often at an enormous sacrifice). Watch Ruth in Ruth 2:2-11.
- E. There is a willingness to take an unpopular stand in pursuit of a higher goal. Consider Esther in Esther 4:16.

#### **IV. Poised for service**

- A. No drips! (“Valve wide open”) Our families will appreciate the effort.
- B. Exercise self-control. Live according to the little sign “Kindness spoken here”. The “feeling tone” of our homes will reflect that spirit.
- C. Welcome the opportunity to put others first. It’s our privilege.

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#### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. What would a “selfishly ambitious” wife/mom look like?
2. What does a humble wife/mom look like?
3. How can a wife/mom “build up” the members of her family? Give practical examples.
4. How easy (or not so easy) is it for you to be selfless? What role does humility play?