

## **DOCTRINAL POSITION OF GRACE BAPTIST ELDERS ON THE ISSUE OF WOMEN**

1. We affirm that homemaking is a divine assignment that God has placed upon a woman. That to be a wife and a mother is a woman's high calling which must be pursued with Christian delight, energy and skill.
2. We affirm that in marriage, God has placed upon a woman the responsibility to joyfully support her husband and his calling as she exhibits and mirrors what the relationship between Christ and the church looks like.
3. We affirm that it is a woman's God assigned role to support her husband in the educating of the children in God-centered and honoring instruction that imparts a Christ-treasuring vision of life to children. We believe that in being a woman is called to be an excellent home manager, working towards the creation of a beautiful and simple place and a living organism called a home which becomes, not only for the family, but also for the community a refuge of Christ's peace and launching pad for God's righteousness.
4. We shall encourage our women to cherish their honorable calling and to seek ways in which they can improve their knowledge of the skills of mothering and home management, all the time keeping in mind that the Word of God is the final authority in all matters of doctrine and practices.
5. We also affirm that, in being true to the Scriptures, the Bible does not issue any biblical mandate that confines the woman's role exclusively to the home. That a woman who works outside the home is not violating any biblical command from God's Word that forbids her to do so. The Scripture does not tell us that it is neither wrong, nor sinful for a mother or wife to work outside the home.
6. We affirm that the tension between to work or not to work outside the home is a matter that is resolved by each individual family, and falls under the realm of Christian liberty. Circumstances in families vary and their choices must be made in the light of the principles derived from God's Word. Christian women that have chosen to be exclusively stay-home mothers/wives must not load with guilt the consciences of those who work outside the home. And those who work outside the home must not belittle the choice of those who do not. The ultimate thing that matters is whether we are being faithful and competent in what God has called us to do. We must all pursue godliness, unity and peace in the body of Christ.
7. We further affirm that it is wrong and sinful for a woman to seek to work outside the home for selfish motives, such as to assert her equality with the husband, to run away from her responsibility as a mother, to earn money to buy expensive clothes. The family must always be put first in all decisions and choices.