



# MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

YOUR HOUSE, GOD'S HOME

By Misty Foster



**I**t's been said "Home is where the heart is." As believers, we are citizens of heaven, our ultimate home. Jesus said He has gone "to prepare a place" for us (see John 14:2). Until then, our homes should be a godly haven for our families. Titus 2:3-5 tells women how to make our homes a place of refuge: "The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." How can you make your house a home?

- **Watch Your Tongue** - Reverence means to be honorable and respectful, so by watching our words and tone of voice, we show respect for our husbands and children. The atmosphere of the home is set by the woman. If you're in a funk, the whole family will reflect your unhappiness. On the other hand, if you're upbeat, your family will follow suit.
- **Teach Good Lessons** - We all have special gifts from God that are meant to bless others. Helping your husband organize or teaching your children crafting or cooking is time well spent and can be a rich legacy to future generations.



- **Love Your Neighbor** – “Who is my neighbor?” you might ask. Your closest neighbors live right in your home—your family members. Shower them with love, affection, and care.
- **Stay Separate and Pure** – It’s great to be known in your women’s group for your hospitality, or at work for your diligence, but not at the expense of your family. Make sure your family’s needs are met first, then share your time and talents with others.
- **Make Home Happy** – Whether placing flowers on the table or spraying freshener in the air, small touches make your family feel loved. Greeting each person with a warm smile and sending them off with “I love you” makes a big difference in how they feel about going out into the world and coming back home.
- **Be a “Yes” Woman** – Say “yes” unless you absolutely have to say no. If your kids like the crusts cut off their sandwich, cut them off! If your husband prefers a clean towel every day, what’s one more load of laundry? Why not say yes to a picnic in the backyard or letting the kids choose their own clothes (even mismatched)? Of course, you should say no to dangerous or sinful activities, but there are so many small ways to enrich our daily lives.

Even if you are single, hone your hospitality skills on your friends and neighbors. Don’t fall in the trap of thinking you have to be the perfect cook, sew your family’s clothing, or labor hours to have a showplace home. Find what works to make your husband and family feel loved, and lavish them with it.