

Wanted: Domestic Engineer for Human Development

Rev. John Belden

Neon Reformed Presbyterian Church is seeking to fill vacant positions with rare and valuable women to mold human beings for the kingdom of God.

Job description: Applicant must be faithfully committed to her husband. "The heart of her husband safely trusts her; She does him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:11-12)

She must be willing to subject herself to the burden of carrying a child for nine months and endure the pain of childbearing. This will include caring for a newborn through the night.

She must be willing to oversee and forge the characters of her sons and daughters. This means analyzing each child mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. It includes evangelizing with great wisdom, developing talents, instilling virtues, and patiently correcting faults. "She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness" (v. 27).

She will be expected to take great Christian principles and practically apply them in everyday affairs-doing it simply and naturally. "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness" (v. 26).

Along with all this she must be willing and able to manage the household. This involves functioning as an accountant, dietitian, housekeeper, etc. "She is like the merchant ships, she brings food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household" (v. 14-15).

She must be willing to show compassion to those who truly have needs. "She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy" (v. 20).

In summary, she must be everything to everyone at all times.

Hours: This position will require her to work twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. She will be on duty whenever the children are awake and on call when they are asleep. "She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. . . And her lamp does not go out by night (v. 17-18).

Pay: The salary is very low in the world's eyes. This position may require the family to live on one income. Applicant should not expect a lot of spending money until the kids get out of college.

Benefits: Applicant must not expect gratitude. Most of what she does will be hidden from the world. The results of her work may not even be visible until after she has labored fifteen or twenty years. The true measure of her work awaits the full maturity of her children.

Rewards: She will receive the public praise of her husband and children for her selfless love and joyful service. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" (v. 28).

She will be honored because of her diligence. "Strength and honor are her clothing" (v. 25). She will have the joy knowing she is spending her life in a worthy calling. "She shall rejoice in time to come" (v. 25).

Her labors will demand respect. "Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates" (Prov. 31:31).

She knows that "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (v. 30). And she will hear her Lord's praise, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matt. 25:21).

She will have the satisfaction of knowing that by her example she has done something to counteract the negative stigma attached to homemaking. She will influence a generation to rebuild the family God's way.

Warning: This is not a glamorous job. If you do it right, it is one of the most difficult and demanding jobs there is. The love a mother instinctively has for her children will push her far beyond what she ever thought she was capable of. Her commitment to her Savior will make her labor tirelessly to set before her family a Christ-like example of a true servant.

That is why she is so rare and valuable. "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies" (v. 10).

John Belden is the pastor of Neon Reformed Presbyterian Church in Neon,
Kentucky. For more information, please visit our web site at
<http://www.neonrpc.org>.