The Victorian era in the United States saw significant changes in the social, domestic and religious roles of women. This period, from shortly after the Civil War until the First World War, marked a shift for women from traditional middle-class female responsibilities to more domestically challenging ones. This study examines late Victorian Protestant church community cookbooks as moral and cultural guides written by women for women, documenting the domestic roles and Christian practices of women in the years before and after the turn of the twentieth century. It considers the influence of Protestant Christianity on expected female social roles and examines church community cookbooks as uniquely viable and valuable historical sources through which to better understand female Christian domestic practice in Victorian America. Eleven American Protestant Christian cookbooks published from 1881 to 1913 serve as case studies, illustrating the late Victorian period through the advertisements selected by the women who wrote them. I argue that advertisements from the texts offer information about the connections between gender, domesticity and religion during the era.

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