

The Modern Day Princess

*Living as a Daughter of
the King of the Universe*



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A Modern Day Princess

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CHAPTER ONE A PRINCESS IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Our curiosity about the royal family is a multimillion-dollar industry in America. We consider it charming, even romantic, consuming every book and product on Great Britain's royal family. Having never lived under a monarchy, we don't understand the sovereignty of a king. However, we're still fascinated by the concept.



The tragic death and funeral of Princess Diana in 1997 resulted in the most massive television audience viewing of a single event in history. Diana had her problems, but she invested in the lives of others, winning the hearts of millions across the globe. Neither her beauty nor her wealth caused so many to love her. Beautiful millionaires come and go, never leaving a mark on anyone but those closest to them.

Diana was different. Was she beautiful? Yes. And wealthy? Absolutely. Her poise, grace, and love for others inspired her millions of admirers. She poured her heart into the less fortunate. She wasn't afraid to touch someone with AIDS or travel into the towns and villages of Third World nations to comfort dismembered minefield victims. Diana single-handedly forced Great Britain's royal family to re-evaluate centuries of tradition through her soft, loving touch.

Christians live in such a kingdom. It has no borders and spans the entire globe. Our realm has been here forever, with neither beginning nor end. Our King has always been King and can't die or abdicate His throne, as lesser kings have done throughout the centuries. Many have tried and failed to overthrow Him.

God's Kingdom is forever, and as His adopted daughters, we have access to all the riches promised to His children. An adopted child has every legal right to inheritance, privileges, and rights awarded to a biological child. As God's daughters, we're part of His royal family, making

Him our Father and us heirs to His Kingdom. If you're born again, you're the King's daughter or a princess.

A princess is a female sovereign or a female member of a royal family, having rank or right equal to that of a prince. The royal family possesses a political system or social class considered of superior quality or nobility. Britain's royal family comprises dukes, earls, viscounts, and barons with their counterparts.

The Christian is the royal family in God's kingdom. Dee Jepsen explains it in *Women: Beyond Equal Rights*.

"The Kingdom of God is not a place—at least not yet—but rather a state of being in which men, women, and children have yielded all sovereignty to the only true sovereign, Almighty God. It is God's ruling in the hearts, minds, and wills of people—the state in which the unlimited power and blessing of the eternal Lord are forthcoming.

"The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come. He replied, "The kingdom of God doesn't come visibly, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'there it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

Representing God's Kingdom to the world is an enormous responsibility. Royal family members can't always do what they want to do when they want to do it. They do many things for the supposed good of the kingdom. They can't see just anyone or go where they want whenever they want. Their various responsibilities often overshadow their independence and privileges.

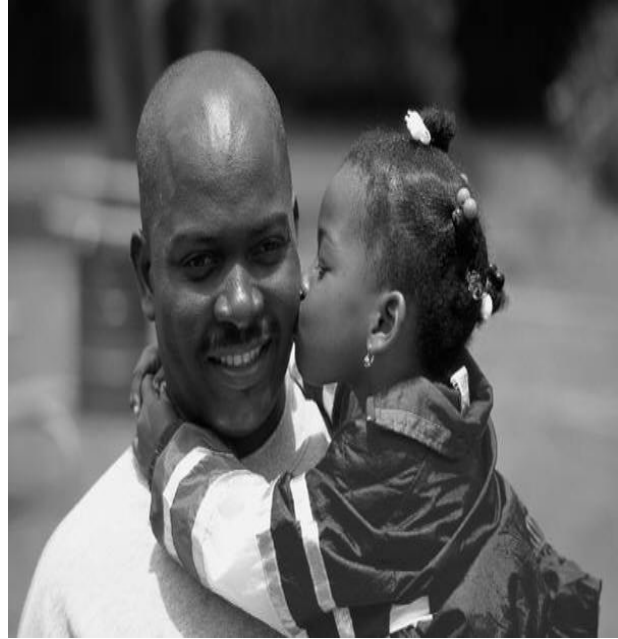
Christians do things because we understand the eternal consequences of our actions and how our example affects others. We know a princess must maintain a higher standard of conduct. Paul said, "*The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*" (*Romans 14:17*). Today's princess must accept her role in God's kingdom.

In the past, Christians knew their role in God's plan and helped to bring moral and social change. Our success-driven society has lost the sense of destiny inherent in our new birth

experience. We go from church to church, job to job, and relationship to relationship, searching for the fulfillment that only comes through knowing and understanding our royal heritage as a daughter of the King.

CHAPTER TWO DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

We all know what a daughter is, but we sometimes need a solid understanding of what a father's relationship should be with his daughter. God designed us to learn about our Heavenly Father through our relationship with our earthly father. Most of us have failed to teach our children how to be loving parents because so many of us never learned the essential relationship principles ourselves.



A few generations ago, children grew up on farms. Grandparents often lived in the same household or farm. After they married, they moved to another farm in the same community. Children learned the value of family bonds because extended families stayed close.

Today, we may live thousands of miles away from our family. Often, both parents work while babysitters, television, and after-school programs train our kids. Most children spend only a few minutes with their dad each day. Even then, they rarely have an intimate conversation; it is likely time spent rushing to do something else.

Many women grow up without experiencing a single intimate moment with their fathers. He may provide a home, food, clothes, and other basic needs, but he doesn't give her the most crucial need: affirmation.

Every little girl needs a personal relationship with her daddy because he is the first man she trusts. She learns about men from him. Lois Mowday explains the Absent Father Syndrome in *Daughters Without Dads*:

"This malady has literally affected millions of girls. It is not a disease of the body, but it can have a devastating effect on one's life and spirit. A little girl needs her

daddy to make her feel special and precious. Girls stop calling their mother "mommy" at age 8-9, while they often call their fathers "daddy" all their lives. A girl growing up with her father learns that she has a sense of "sameness" with mommy and a sense of uniqueness or "specialness" with daddy. She knows unconditional adoration from a man and the feeling of safety created by his love. Daddy is the audience of one when Mommy makes ruffles and braids or curls. When daddy tells her she is beautiful, she gets an inward glow that can last a lifetime."

Millions of women struggle with self-worth and value issues when all they need is a daddy. Suppose their father withholds this relationship for any reason. He can't give them worth and affirm them as individuals. In that case, they will struggle in their relationships all their lives. As adults, they look for affirmation in one disillusioning relationship after another. Many women go from one dissatisfying fling to another in search of this affirmation. Others marry and put unreasonable demands and expectations on their husbands.

We relate to God the same way we relate to our biological fathers. When a child feels like she can't please her father, it can cause an unhealthy fear of God. Growing up without a father because of death, divorce, or indifference can negatively affect our relationship with God. Our perception of our father's character shapes our understanding of God's character and personality rather than the truth of who God is.

Max Lucado wrote about two of his three daughters in *The Applause of Heaven*. I have quoted the entire piece here because it is a perfect example of a father teaching his daughters by example.

"Being a parent is better than a theology course. Two ten-year-old boys walked up to my five-year-old daughter on the bus yesterday, scowled at her, and demanded that she scoot over. When I came home from work, she told me about it. I wanted to cry, but I didn't. I just sat there—afraid. My immediate impulse was to find out the names of the boys and punch their dads in the nose. But I didn't. I did what was more important. I pulled my little girl up into my lap and let her get lost inside my arms and told her not to worry about those old bullies because her daddy was here, and I'd make sure if any

thugs ever got close to my princess, they'd be taking their lives in their own hands, yes sir. And that was enough for Jenna. She bounded down and ran outside.

"She came back a few minutes later, crying. Her elbow was scraped. I picked her up and carried her into the bathroom for first aid. She tried to tell me what happened., "I--sniff, sniff--"was turning in circles"--sniff, sniff--"like a helicopter"--sniff, sniff--" and then I fell doaaaaawwn," she wailed. "It's gonna be OK," I said as I set her on the bathroom counter. "Can I have a Band-Aid?" "Of course." "A big one?" "The biggest." "Really?" I stretched the adhesive bandage over the scrape and held her arm up in the mirror so she could see her badge of courage. "Wow. Can I go show Mommy?" "Sure." I smiled. And that was enough for Jenna.

Lucado continues with an incident with another daughter, Andrea. Again, we quote the whole passage so that the reader can see the point he expressed from the lessons he learned.

"Daddy." The voice was coming from another world—the world of the awake. I ignored it and stayed in the world of slumber. "Daddy." The voice was insistent. I opened one eye. Andrea, our three-year-old, was at the edge of my bed only a few inches from my face. "Daddy, I'm scared."

I opened the other eye. It was three in the morning. "What's wrong?"

"I need a fwashwight in my doom."

"What?"

"I need a fwashwight in my doom."

"Why?"

"Cause it's dark."

I told her the lights were on. I told her the night-light was on, and the hall light was on.

"But Daddy," she objected, "what if I open my eyes and can't see anything?"

"Say that again."

"What if I open my eyes and can't see anything?"

Just as I was about to tell her that this was not the best time for questions on affliction, my wife interrupted. She explained to me that there was a power failure around midnight, and Andrea must have awakened in the dark. No night-light. No hall light. She had opened her eyes and could not see anything — just darkness. Even the hardest of hearts would be touched by the thought of a child waking up in a darkness so black she couldn't find her way out of her room.

I climbed out of bed, picked Andrea up, got a flashlight out of the utility room, and carried her to her bed. All the while, I told her that Mom and Dad were here and that she didn't need to be afraid. I tucked her in and gave her a kiss. And that was enough for Andrea.

My child's feelings are hurt. I tell her she's special. My child is injured. I do whatever it takes to make her feel better. My child is afraid. I won't go to sleep until she is secure. I'm not a hero. I'm not a superstar. I'm not unusual. I'm a parent. When a child hurts, a parent does what comes naturally. He helps. And after I help, I don't charge a fee. I don't ask for a favor in return. When my child cries, I don't tell her to buck up, act tough, and keep a stiff upper lip. Nor do I consult a list and ask her why she is still scraping the same elbow or waking me up again. I'm not brilliant, but you don't have to be to remember that a child is not an adult. You don't have to be a child psychologist to know that kids are "under construction."

A survey of hundreds of children reveals the three things' fathers say most in responding to their kids. 'I'm too tired' took first place. 'We don't have enough money' was second. 'Keep quiet' was third. From this, we can easily see why we have a generation starving for affection." Christianity Today (1976).

Debbie's father was a quiet, hard-working man. He left for work each morning long before she woke up and arrived home after dark, too tired to spend time with his six rowdy kids.

She never had an intimate conversation with her dad in her entire life. As the fourth child of six, she never got her turn to sit on his lap. She struggled for years with broken relationships, divorce, and remarriage before becoming a Christian. Over forty years as a Christian taught her about God. Now she knows Him as her Father. Before understanding God's genuine character, she had to work through many things and appreciate and value her role as a Princess.

Change for her began when she forgave her father. As she sought to understand him, she understood that he didn't express love because he didn't know how. His withdrawn, aloof mother never taught him to love. Debbie couldn't remember her grandmother ever showing affection to her or her siblings in her entire life.



As she prayed and thought about her grandmother, she realized her dad had never received tokens of love as a child.

Debbie discovered an underlying principle in relationships. You can't give what you have not experienced. You can't give unconditional love until someone has loved you unconditionally. We illustrate this quality of love through example and experience. Debbie replaced her pain with love and compassion for her father when she understood this fundamental principle.

She watched the example of a loving father lived out before her through her husband and their children. Debbie is on an exciting journey of discovery. She broke free of the relationship patterns passed on by her parents with those she developed during her quest to find self-worth and value.

Even if we missed the affirmation we needed from our fathers in childhood, we can still get what we need from God. It doesn't matter what happened in our past. We can overcome anything through the right relationship with God. We can find His true nature and understand our role as princesses in the largest and most powerful empire ever.

Developing a relationship with God opens many ways of viewing the world. We can train ourselves to see people differently as we understand that they are on their own journey of discovery. This understanding gives us more patience and helps us forgive them when they let us down.

Debbie explains, "One night while I was praying, the Lord told me I was the 'apple of His eye.' It amazed me that the Creator of the universe would be so intimate with me. I studied the apple of the eye and discovered that it means a daughter. For one who struggles to learn how to develop relationships, the thought that God would personally show me this incredible revelation was almost overwhelming."

The apple of the eye is 'something most valued or dear; a person or possession highly cherished.' God feels this way about each of us. His cherishing us goes beyond a King and His subjects. It is what a mother feels for her newborn or a father for His daughter.

The apple of the eye is the pupil, the opening of the iris through which rays of light pass. The eye requires a pupil for vision and injures easily. God placed it in the skull, protected by the forehead and cheekbones. The eyebrows, eyelids, and eyelashes guard it.

He also places the "apple of his eye" in an environment that protects and develops her into the woman she will become. He gives her a family to teach her about Him and establish boundaries for her protection. He sets the context and environmental factors in her life to make her become a princess who represents His kingdom in her world.

God established a role for all His children. Through neglect, ignorance, or indifference, many fall short of their potential and never quite find their niche or standing in His plan. Only as we discover who we are in Christ can we accomplish what we're supposed to do for Him.

We can all be part of God's royal family by understanding and accepting our heritage with all its joys and accompanying responsibilities. Then, we begin a journey of discovery that unleashes our dreams and desires while harnessing the latent powers God placed within us. The Chinese sage Lao-Tze once said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." It is time to step out.

CHAPTER THREE THE HOMEMAKER

Our society treats stay-at-home moms as appendages who don't contribute to society. Our government's agenda is to treat any woman's traditional role as a 'non-person.' A recent example is replacing the name 'mother' with 'birthing-person.'

What homemaker doesn't dread the question, "What do you do?" The media stereotypes her as a fat, frumpy grouch, wearing a bathrobe with curlers in her hair and a thick white paste covering her face.

Every woman is a homemaker or 'one who makes a home.' Our home is where we live, whether with a husband and children, a roommate, or live alone. We should all do this, regardless of our profession or career choice.

Television's portrayal of a stay-at-home mom exemplifies typical negative stereotyping. A plain or unattractive woman often plays the role. If she is pretty, she is probably an airhead who received the brunt of the cruel jokes.

Two popular negative shows put the family down in the nineties and made homemakers appear stupid, manipulative slobs. Both shows ran on prime time for years and fed hate, bitterness, and false values. They influenced an entire generation of young minds. Sadly, once Christians hear the name of these two shows, they stand ready to defend them both. Many will even become offended because of their influence in their homes.

Married with Children had stay-at-home mom Peggy Bundy, whose cheap clothes, hair, and makeup made her look like she stepped out of the sixties. The program portrayed her as a



manipulative schemer who always spent her husband's money. Al Bundy played the father, a shoe salesman with little good to say about anything. He was bitter, and he hated his wife and children.

Roseanne is another program that falsely portrays the stay-at-home mom. Roseanne was bitter, with little positive to say about anything. This dysfunctional family reeked of the bitterness Roseanne injected into her television family. In most sitcoms, working women wear chick hairstyles and stylish clothes and solve the family's problems in thirty minutes. Women don't have to fit this stereotype.

Whether or not we work outside the home, we're homemakers. This responsibility typically falls on the woman. Being called a homemaker should be a compliment. There are many duties, but the rewards are sweeter than any other role. Homemaking is much more than housecleaning, cooking, carpooling, and refereeing kids.

A woman sets the tone of her home and creates the context from which her family draws strength. She should be the thermostat in the family, not the thermometer. A thermometer only reads the temperature; it doesn't control it. The thermostat sets the temperature and thus creates the atmosphere, affecting everyone who enters the house. We make an oasis so our loved ones can return home to a refuge. We all need at least one place to relax in peace; ideally, that should be our home.

A refuge is a sanctuary where one feels safe. Our world is cruel and full of dangers and pitfalls. Our family leaves home each morning to face many obstacles and challenges. Each member struggles with self-image and value issues in their world. The media, school, and culture bombard them with negative messages questioning their worth, value, and potential. A wise woman encourages and strengthens her family.

The first four minutes after a man comes in each day sets the tone of the household for the evening. The broken garbage disposal can wait a while. He will probably repair it without us nagging if he gets a few minutes to sit down and relax.

A reporter came to a fire one day where a house was burning down. He noticed a little boy standing by his mom and dad. The reporter touched the boy's shoulder, "Son, it looks like you don't

have a home anymore." The little boy courageously wiped a tear with the back of his hand, "We have a home—we just don't have a house to put it in." This little boy understood something that most adults can't recognize. People live in a house, but not everyone has a home.

We can live lives of royalty as daughters of the King of the Universe when we understand our role in God's plan. A wise woman will teach her children their royal heritage through her loving example.

CHAPTER FOUR RELATIONSHIP BUILDERS



God placed us in a family to teach us how to relate to Him and others. He uses the family as a hands-on environment to reveal His character. We learn about His nature from our parents. We understand how to interact with co-workers, colleagues, and other people from our siblings. We use these skills to interact with people at work, school, church, and other places when we know these skills.

Many of us grew up in families where several children competed for recognition, acceptance, and position, striving for equality in the ranking of importance or "pecking order." Depending on her birth order and her parents, a little girl may continually strive to find her role in the family dynamics. This pecking order affects her adult life as well. She will reach adulthood with more confidence and less baggage if her parents pay attention and help to instill self-worth and value. If not, she may search for her identity all her life.

I dreaded family events most of my adult life because I would get angry when I got around my siblings. Two of my three brothers and a sister enjoyed putting me down, finding fault, and reminding me of my childhood failures. My kids hated going to holiday events at Nanny's house because they knew I would become a crazy woman before leaving the house.

One day, I decided I wouldn't let their bullying affect me. I saw what I was doing to my poor husband and kids. My siblings were the only people who could provoke me like this. Overcoming my dread of dealing with people who enjoyed hurting me turned into a power to use in similar situations. Once freed from their abuse, family events were more enjoyable, and my kids didn't have to tip-toe around me. I just smiled and said, "Whatever floats your boat."

We learn to interact with different people through our siblings. We succeed in our work, civic, and church environments by learning to manage conflict and develop strong relationships. If we don't understand healthy conflict resolution, we'll always have problems with people who remind us of family members. We can easily project our childhood family conflicts onto others.

Many years ago, a large denomination surveyed returning missionaries to determine why 50% dropped out before completing their first two-year term. Imagine their surprise when they discovered that 80% went home early because they couldn't get along with other missionaries. Their colleagues reminded them of a member of their family with whom they had never learned to get along.

While our siblings help us learn to interact with others, our parents present and teach us the nature and character of God. We learn to respect authority and relate to God when we submit to them. That's why it is so important to spend time with our children. This time together needs to be one-on-one, where we look into each other's eyes and discuss what the child needs to share. This type of communication creates an intimacy that becomes the foundation of what they will eventually have with God.

The Bible is a relationship manual. It teaches us how to interact with God and one another. The Law of Moses is a how-to guide to getting along. God included every story in His Word to teach us what to and what not to do. We can learn from its characters what happens when we're obedient and what happens when we're not.

God designed us for fellowship. The adage, 'No man is an island,' is true. Every area of our lives involves people. Most of a woman's success comes from her ability to get along with others. Talent, skill, beauty, education, and experience are merely vehicles we use to reach our destination. People skills and getting along with others will take us farther than all of them combined. We get most of these relationship skills through growing up in a family. Even if our familial experience is hostile, we can use what we learn to know what not to do.

A healthy family is the foundation of a nation because solid families give us a platform for healthy relationships in every area of our lives. It is the strongest when seen as a single entity or a

whole. Each member has their identity and role, but all are important. Dad provides for the material needs and protects the other members. Mom takes care of the physical and emotional support. Each child contributes to improving the whole by their obedience and love.

Parents have very few years to prepare their children for adulthood. What can a woman do to help her family and give each member practical relationship skills to ensure their success? She can make memories they can draw from for the rest of their lives.

Childhood memories form an essential foundation that affects all adults. We remember events by perceiving them and the emotions we attached to them rather than the actual details. A wise mother can help her child evaluate events in his life. She can discuss them with him and unravel important information that he will remember later, thus helping to put it into perspective in the child's mind. Then, he will build his memory with more detail and facts than on faulty perceptions.

Jim and Pat couldn't understand why their oldest son, Jeff, always stayed angry. He joined the military and was away from his family for some time. Later, he moved his family a few streets away from his parents, where they started spending time together. They finally talked through some of Jeff's problems late one night.

Imagine their surprise when Jeff asked his dad why he had whipped him with a two-by-four when he was a child. He said that the two-by-four broke during the whipping.

This question shocked both of his parents. Jim spanked Jeff with a yardstick for being mean to his sister. It devastated Jeff when he realized the truth and regretted all the years he wasted in anger. In his mind, and ultimately, his memories, he had grown to believe that the yardstick was a two-by-four and held a grudge for years.

Memories can create family unity, or they can destroy its peace. A wise mother will ensure that her children's memories carried into their adult lives are reliable and heartwarming, not harmful baggage.

Adults remember whether they had quality time with their parents. Not when they were just in the same room with them. It was a time when they talked to each other.

We need to look into our child's eyes when we talk to him, use his name, and listen to his opinions. Parents who do this will have teenagers who will communicate with them later. They will also be friends with their children when making life and marriage choices.

CHAPTER FIVE MOTHERHOOD



The three most valuable gifts a mother can give her child are a close relationship with God, a personal relationship with herself, and a strong marriage relationship with his Father. If she provides her child with the opportunity and understanding of these three relationships, she has given him a foundation for life.

A mother is the most powerful witness her young child has in life. He watches her and mirrors what she does as she lives her Christian convictions before him. How often have you heard a huge, strapping man cry while talking about his praying mama? A mother is usually one of the few people who can touch him.

Sherry grew concerned when her son, David, couldn't talk by the time he was three. She tried desperately to understand his garbled attempt to form words. It frustrated him when his parents couldn't understand him. He threw himself on the floor in tears if they asked him to repeat himself.

Sherry took him to the pediatrician, who scheduled tests and helped plan speech therapy. The therapist explained that a baby learns to speak by imitating his mother's lip movement. The doctor told her that David talks normally because she acted when she did. When David was a toddler, he was extremely active and too busy to pay attention to her when she formed her words. This caused his speech problems. After two years of speech therapy, he could start kindergarten with children his age. By catching it early, David didn't undergo the pain he might have eventually experienced. We learn something as basic as talking by imitating others.

The younger we teach our children about God, the deeper we fasten the truth into their character. *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from*

it" (Proverbs 22:6). A child must learn how to pray and know God's personality and character. Parents instill this knowledge.

Sadly, some people use this Scripture to make parents feel like failures when their teenager rebels. They say the parents failed. They accuse them of negligence and mistakes, much like saying that God doesn't love you if you don't possess material wealth. It is wrong and harmful. It can cause hopelessness, guilt, and failure in the stressed parents.

This Scripture tells us that if we teach our children to know God and to pray, we will build a foundation of truth in their lives. They can't discard this foundation. A child may leave home and reject the church; he may even stumble into gross sin, but he can't erase his parent's teaching from his heart. He will return.

The second gift a mother can give is a personal relationship with her child. Tears still threaten to escape from forty-five-year-old Meg's eyes when she thinks of her one intimate childhood moment with her mother. She was six. Her brother pulled the chair out from under her as she sat down, causing her to fall backward. A toy truck flew from her hand and hit her mother. In anger, her mother sent all the kids to bed.

Meg was crying alone in her room a while later when her mother came in and spanked her. Later, her mother felt guilty about the spanking because she knew it wasn't Meg's fault. She returned to Meg's room, sat on the bed, softly apologized, and spent about ten minutes talking that night. This one event is Meg's only memory of personal one-on-one time with her mother in her childhood.

One of the greatest gifts a mother can give her child is her time. We live life on the run. We fly home from work. We run to the store. We rush to pick the kids up from school. Rush. Rush. Rush. Hurry up, get home, get dinner, get the kids to bed, and finally relax. Most Americans share this ritual daily. Slowing down and spending a few extra minutes with our children may seem complicated, but the dividends are worth it.

If a child doesn't have time alone with his parents, he will lack a sense of self-worth. Our childhood identities follow us into our adult lives. This identity includes the names people called

us, our family and teachers' underlying attitudes, and anything that created that sense of personal awareness. We make our children feel valuable by spending a few moments with them each day.

They won't always be babies. It is unbelievable how a child can go from toddler to getting his driver's license and wanting to borrow the car so fast. We find out how we did as parents when our children leave home. Who are they? What scars must they overcome?

None of us wants to think that we have left scars on our children. Our parents don't know about the scars they left on us; however, they're there. It's a normal part of life for children to suffer disappointments. We fail them. We fail them often. No one is perfect; however, we can help them avoid many pitfalls we experienced as children. Spending time with them and developing a personal relationship with our child will help him through some of the inevitable struggles life will bring.

The third gift a mother can give her child is a strong marriage relationship with his father. A child feels safe in a home where his parents show verbal and physical expressions of love for one another. Children must know their parents are in love and that divorce won't destroy their homes. Most of their friends come from broken homes. Parents can reduce their child's anxiety by verbal and physical expressions of love for one another. A child learns how to love others by watching his parents. When Mom and Dad set time aside to be together, he knows to value intimacy and communication.

Your children will grow up, marry, and leave home, leaving you and your spouse to live alone. You will only know each other if you build a healthy relationship.

Many marriages fail because couples put other things before their relationship. Children appreciate their parents' relationship. They need to know that they love each other. They enjoy bragging to their friends about how mushy their parents are. They know and appreciate what you do for them. Teaching them to love by example gives them a firm life foundation.

Mothers operate on two levels; the first is spiritual. A mother should know her child, including his strengths and weaknesses. A discerning mother often recognizes signs he is about to do

something harmful. She knows his moods. When a child is unusually withdrawn or unresponsive, a mother can pray. She can wisely ask carefully worded questions to draw him out.

A mother can serve as a buffer between her child and his father. She often has insight or knows details about a child's needs or circumstances that his father may not understand. She helps him make better choices that affect the child and family by keeping him informed.

Establishing a regular nighttime prayer is a great family activity that helps keep walls down and conversation flowing freely. Each family member has a platform to say what's on his mind as they meet each night, discuss prayer requests, and share concerns. The adage, "a family that prays together, stays together," is true.

God developed a power structure in the spiritual realm, just as in the physical world. The Centurion impressed Jesus with his strong faith because he understood this system. He knew Jesus' enormous power came from his absolute authority.

A parent's prayers are the most effective possible because of our spiritual power over our children, based on the principle of authority. Parents are like an "umbrella of protection." A godly mother can stand in the face of any spiritual enemy, taking charge of the circumstances affecting them.

The second level a mother functions at is physical. She disciplines her children physically. We establish personal discipline during childhood. Teaching our children limits results in obedience to God later.

No is one of the most important words a parent can teach her child. It helps a child set limits and needed boundaries. Without them, they feel insecure.

Years ago, a progressive school decided that a fence around the playground stifled the students, boxing them in and causing them anxiety. They removed the fence. The children ran freely before the fence came down and played in the entire schoolyard. Afterward, they stayed close to the



buildings or huddled in the center. They wouldn't get close to the busy street. The fence offered the children security they no longer felt when the school removed it. Fear caused them to avoid over one-third of the playground. The school replaced the fence.

Children need fences in their lives. They're not ready to make many of the choices confronting them. A mother knows their limits. She knows what responsibilities they can handle and what they can't. She uses discipline to guide them toward acceptable behavior and wise choices, preparing them to make decisions when the consequences are serious.

We don't get healthy, loving families by accident. It takes work. Children don't just naturally become caring adults. Parents mold them through years of toil and prayer. People notice and admire a family whose members truly love one another. A strong, healthy family can serve as a role model for the church and community. People will ask how you did it. They will call you blessed. They will also listen to what you say because they believe you can help them attain the same phenomenon in their families.

CHAPTER SIX THE VALUE AND POWER OF A WOMAN



Women had few or no rights until the beginning of the twentieth century. They couldn't vote, own land, inherit property, receive an adequate education, or hold jobs outside the home. Historically, in most cultures, including our own, women have always had a lower status than men.

The secular world is not the only place we find discrimination. The leaders of the early church were guilty of appalling attitudes about women. St. Jerome, a Fourth-Century Latin church leader, said, "Woman is the gate of the devil, the path of wickedness, the sting of the serpent, in a word a perilous object." A Thirteenth-Century theologian said, "women were created to be man's helpmeet, but her unique role is in conception...since for other purposes men would be better assisted by other men."

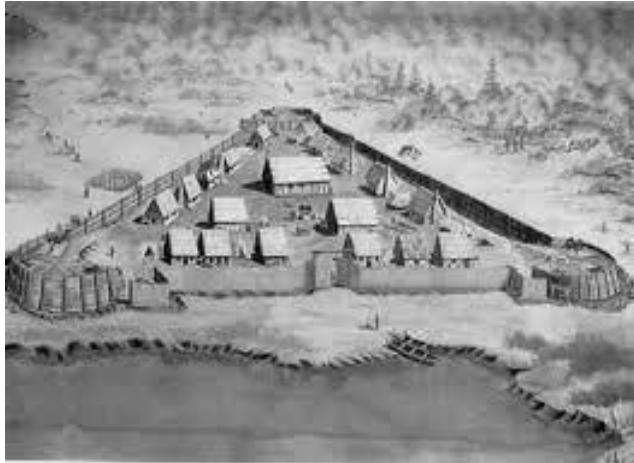
Some cultures still make a woman walk behind a man. It brings shame to the Middle Eastern family for a woman to be seen publicly with her face uncovered.

Many women give up hope and become frustrated, angry, and bitter. In response to this inequality, women have formed such extremist groups as the National Organization for Women.

How unfortunate that so many people have never read what Scripture says about God's value for women. It compares women to wisdom. Note the following passages. "*A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies*" (Proverbs, 31:10). "*Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing you desire can compare with her*" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

What a remarkable cost comparison. Rubies in Scripture were expensive. Ancient cultures prized them because of their beautiful color and brilliance. God said that a wife of noble character

is even greater than these exquisite stones. A man may be rich in things and yet be lacking without the companionship of a godly woman. Though money buys a house, a woman makes a home. There's a vast difference. Women bring a quality of life to any kingdom. The Jamestown Colony is an example of the lack of a woman's influence on society. In the early 1600s, England sent 105 men to establish a colony in the New World. Most of these men joined the expedition, searching for treasure, and were unaccustomed to physical exertion. They refused to work because they had



brought menservants to do manual labor. This led Captain John Smith, the colony's head, to announce his famous declaration, "Those who don't work don't eat."

Instead of traveling inland to higher, more fertile ground, they set up camp where they landed. They were hurrying to search for gold, their reason for coming to America.

Choosing a low, swampy marshland was only the beginning of their troubles. Not planting crops to prepare for winter and disease from the wet mosquito-infested ground soon took its toll. After eight months, only 38 of the original 105 settlers were alive. The supply ships arrived and discovered a sad lot of skeletons with sunken eyes and skin hanging loosely from their bones.

Men, without women, settled in Jamestown. They had no plans for their wives and children to join them. They didn't intend to build homes or a civilization. Their motive was money. The result was disastrous. Jamestown was the first locality to enslave blacks.

Less than two decades later, the Pilgrims came to America. They made the arduous trip with over 100 people packed on the Mayflower. They selected Plymouth to develop their settlement. It had a broad-sheltered harbor and a broad brook providing clean water. It had wooded hills for lumber to build homes and stretches of open land for farming. Although they also suffered a considerable loss of life, the Pilgrim's motives differed. They came to build homes and families. They established their colony around spiritual principles. Women planted and brought in the crops alongside the men. The presence of women made the difference in the two colonies.

While we remember Jamestown, the Pilgrims formed our country. They gave us the freedoms we cherish today with their deep spiritual roots.

CHAPTER SEVEN WOMEN'S RIGHTS OR GOD'S RIGHTS?

One reason for the popularity of the women's movement is the discrimination based on gender in the workplace. Many companies require a woman to do the same work as men, usually better, to keep a job. Yet, promotions, raises, and opportunities elude them because they're female. It is said that a man needs a job to support his family. Often, the real reason is that some men don't want women telling them what to do.



Women who militantly demand their rights have it wrong. The "glass ceiling" they reach in their jobs frustrates them. Many become bitter instead of following the principles outlined in God's Word. They feel cheated and express anger. Many women in the ministry experience this. This is especially true when dealing with pastors outside their denomination who don't accept women in the pulpit.

The idea of women having rights is ridiculous. Scripture doesn't give women rights any more than it provides rights to men. All our rights belong to God. God chose our station in life: male or female. How dare we complain because we're the wrong gender? God made us the way He wants us. We're His property. Following Him gives us the satisfaction that lets us rest in His freedom and peace.

Women can experience the peace and joy God promises us by applying His principles to our lives. We hold the position God designed for us, and we get our actual status as God's daughters or as His princesses.

We can look back into the Old Testament and see God's justice concerning women. He affirmed women's values long before championing women's issues became fashionable. *"Then came the daughters of Zelophehad. Saying, 'Our Father died in the wilderness. . . and had no sons. Why should the name of our Father be done away from among his family because he*

hath no sons? Give us, 38 therefore, a possession among the brethren of our Father." The Lord responded, "The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren..." (Numbers 27:1,3,4,7).

Women have complained about their lot in life for too long. With all their arguing, they do women an injustice. We can't legislate rights. To legislate one person's rights, you must overshadow the rights of others. To enable legislators to grant rights to me, they must take them from someone else. Once this starts, it becomes a vicious cycle.

All Christians have a life calling. Women, whether homemakers, teachers, pastors, doctors, or engineers, deserve the opportunity to fulfill this call. God places few limits on how and where we can serve Him. Obeying God's spiritual principles for relationships gives us the freedom to seek our role in His plan. Whether she works outside or is a stay-at-home mom doesn't matter to her true happiness.

Many women give up careers they love to become homemakers. Some women who enjoy the corporate world and the office routine make excellent leaders and workers for God. They make fabulous volunteers if payment is optional. Women make outstanding leaders, especially if God places a conviction in her heart. Many successful works of God started in the heart of a woman. Aimee Semple McPherson, for example, founded the Four-Square Church in 1918. The Four-Square Church now includes over 50,000 churches worldwide, with over 5 million members in 147 countries around the globe. Like Aimee McPherson, we should strive to live our life calling in our world, wherever our world is in God's Kingdom.



God told Janet years ago that he wanted her to serve Him full-time. God arranged for her departure from her job at the large law firm and started opening unimaginable doors in her life. Before He called her to preach, she served Him without receiving compensation. Her family didn't miss her income because God ensured her husband, David, had a fantastic job and could provide a comfortable living.

In one church, God sent them a woman who had a kidney transplant. She attended school with plans to graduate with a degree in business, though she couldn't hold a job. She was an excellent manager and was invaluable to Janet around the office. She kept her own hours and even stayed home if she didn't feel well. This was her ministry. She only wanted to please God. She fulfilled much of her ministry needs and lifted Janet's hefty load.

God can use a woman anywhere, whatever she does. She needs to let Christ shine through her. In his classic, *Like Christ*, Andrew Murray tells us,

"The lowliness of a work never lowers the person. The person honors and elevates the work and imparts his worth, even to the most meager service."

The key to married women fulfilling their life-calling is a strong relationship with God, their husbands, and their children. Harmony at home sets her free to serve God. A woman should always find fulfillment in her work. Her life calling is fulfilling when God is everything to her.

Using the calling of a pastor as an example, we can see how God intended for a husband and wife to work together to complete His plan for them. When he calls a man, he includes the spouse. When God moves a man to pastor a church, does he not also call his wife? She is to be the partner in their ministry. God doesn't call a man or a woman into a full-time ministry without working with both partners to bring them into harmony with his plan. Unity of purpose is the only way to fully fellowship with Him. Harmony in our life calling produces solid homes and ministries that withstand the test of time and the pressures of life.

Matthew and Monica are an essential part of the Whitaker family's ministry. As teenagers, they help their parents work with the youth in the church. Their parents, Jerry and Lilly, believe that if God sends them to a field of ministry, He will lead them and their teenage children. A lack

of family harmony would stop what God wants to do through them. They decided they would all agree on critical decisions affecting the ministry and their lives. They waited for God to reveal where they missed Him when they disagreed. Each trusted the other's judgment and valued the children's feelings and opinions. Harmony and understanding allow us to focus on what God wants.

Sometimes, God calls one partner into a field of ministry before dealing with the spouse. In Janet's family, He called her to the ministry two years before calling David. When He was ready for them to go into a full-time ministry, He first spoke to David. Janet was the pastor of their first church, and David worked as a pharmacist. This arrangement cramped them for a while; however, it freed them from having to depend on the church for their sole support and allowed them to serve in a financially distressed community.

God may call one partner before the other to guide both into harmony with each other and Him. He can use one to pray for and move the other if they're not listening.

God is not the cause of confusion. He can use this as a pressure point to reveal weaknesses in the relationship and give the family time to overcome them. When both partners are honest with God and each other, they will agree on His plan. If confusion is still there, one of them isn't listening to Him, or they're in denial of His plan for them.

God spoke to David first when He called him and Janet into full-time ministry as pastors and family counselors. He revealed part of the plan to David nearly three months before circumstances and economic conditions forced them to change direction. Janet tells us, "We had those three months from the Lord to prepare for the immense financial change we would experience. Life in the ministry wasn't very tough when we had an income ten times greater than what we received from the church where we were heading."

Janet had a hard time mustering excitement over what was ahead. She knew God would change the course of their ministry, and she accepted it. Janet testified, "If I could go back to life as it was before the change, I would never even consider it. The only place I want to call home is the center of God's will."

Sometimes, Christians get excited about a new plan and believe God is telling them to sell their furniture and home, go to China, and become missionaries. As much as God wants missionaries in China, He will never cause friction in the home. Instead, He calls both partners if they will listen. Their cooperation is essential to the success of the ministry. Christian couples who don't communicate can carelessly allow a calling to pull their marriage apart. God doesn't always lead a couple into their life calling through the husband. Each relationship is unique. We all have our own distinctive character and personality traits.

A quiet, soft-spoken man often marries a lively, powerful wife, forming a solid, working relationship. A powerful man sometimes has a soft, introverted, shy wife who perfectly complements his ministry. Either combination can do wonders for the kingdom of God.

God sometimes uses women to step out and set the tone for the ministry He has chosen for a couple. God blesses both partners when the husband is confident in himself, his masculinity, and his relationship with Christ. God achieves extraordinary things when a man trusts his wife to follow God's lead in working in His Kingdom.

CHAPTER EIGHT BIBLICAL SUBMISSION

Although God sometimes uses a woman to lead a ministry, she must still submit to her husband. Both partners bring different strengths into the relationship. The man provides headship and spiritual protection. As he stands for God, he leads the family into the paths God has chosen for them. He can look at a situation using his analytical mind and reason before making decisions through the details and facts.



The New Testament tells us, *"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3)*. This headship extends to the family. Head in this text simply means (κεφαλαε) "first into battle," not (αρχηε) "boss, magistrate, chief or ruler." This headship is for safety and guidance, not as a master or ruler.

A man also brings steadiness into the home. A woman often reacts to the environment through her emotions, while a man primarily responds with logic. This doesn't mean that emotions are harmful; we all have them. It simply means God gave each gender its own peculiar gifts. When life partners combine these gifts, they blend into an exceptional package.

A woman responds to pressure differently than a man. For example, a man usually deals with financial problems by logically working toward a solution. A woman, however, may be more likely to worry and lose her peace when she gets a call from a bill collector.

A man brings security into the home because he can usually handle pressure, thus relieving his wife from stress. When she knows she can trust him, she can relax, concentrating on the tasks God designed her for, such as helping her family spiritually and relationally.

A man brings his strength of headship, steadiness, and security into the marriage, while a woman brings her own gifts. One of these gifts is discernment. A woman knows her husband and children's needs. She recognizes their pressures and discerns how to pray for them. She encourages and helps them work through hurt and fear by sensing when they're struggling. Her soft, loving touch brings healing to their physical and spiritual wounds.

A woman can influence her husband and encourage him to become everything God intends him to be. She can also tear him down into tiny pieces and cause him to fail to accomplish God's will for her and the family. Influence is a woman's greatest gift; a wise woman will learn how to use it to inspire her husband. She can help him become the man God intended him to be.

A woman can be the spiritual bedrock, enduring tremendous trials and anchoring her family into God's Kingdom. A man is like granite when he has a strong woman to support, comfort, and believe in him.

When we understand biblical submission, we can be sure our husbands will make wise choices. Although, when he does make a mistake, we can encourage and support him and even help him find a solution. If we allow him the freedom to fail occasionally without a critical spirit, he has greater freedom to succeed.

Scripture makes a striking point about the principle of submission. *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything"* (Ephesians 5:22- 24). To be in subjection means to subordinate oneself voluntarily or to situate oneself at the disposition of another.

Submitting to God through another person sometimes shows greater faith than submitting directly. Every successful business or organization has a CEO. Why should a home be any different? In any study on biblical submission, we see what he means to their own husbands when God tells women to submit. We're not required to submit to our neighbor's spouse or the guys at work just because they're men and we're women. We submit if they're our employers, pastors, or

husbands, and only to those in the line of authority where God has placed us. He doesn't tell women to submit to all men just because they're men.

An uneasy silence settles over the room when we read Ephesians Chapter Five. The controlling husband smugly looks at 'the little woman' with an arrogant grin. The henpecked husband is in the back pew, squirming in his seat. He knows his life is out of control. His domineering wife crosses her arms and rolls her eyes, wishing someone would end this boring conversation.

Submission means "To be subordinate to another." It doesn't put the woman in a lesser role or enslave her. It simply means that when a couple has to decide an issue and can't agree on a direction, the final decision rests with the husband. However, a man rarely overrules his wife in a harmonious marriage because he trusts her opinion. True biblical submission gives a woman a delightful sense of freedom.

Not only does authority rest with her husband, but so does the responsibility for the result of his decisions. A submissive woman will allow her spouse the right God granted him to make decisions. All men have similar basic needs. When a wife fulfills these needs, her husband becomes reliable and trustworthy. She can have complete confidence in him and his spiritual leadership.

Building our home on trust and spiritual principles means conflict is seldom disagreeable. Biblical submission frees a woman to become the beautiful creature God designed. Submission to her husband is for her safety and security. A woman has much more flexibility and peace in a marriage built on this foundation. Life is better for her than for the woman who demands her rights from her weak husband.

Deep in her heart, every woman wants this protection. We need protection not only from outside dangers but from emotional and psychological damage as well. God honors His promises. When we learn the principle of true Biblical submission, He will make our husbands into spiritual giants, and we will become pampered princesses.

CHAPTER NINE WIRING SCHEMATICS

God had a purpose for placing the husband as head of the family. While God sees no difference in gender that matters in eternity, some differences do exist that are not always obvious to the casual observer. The 'wiring schematics' of men and women are different.



There are two types of power in the world: the power of position and influence. Empires rise and fall based on who has these powers and who knows how to wield them. God gave man the power of position and woman the power of influence. This doesn't mean women shouldn't be in positions of authority, and men can influence people and situations. It means that a woman has the innate ability to influence the one with the position, especially if that one is her husband.

Some of the world's most powerful leaders had ordinary intelligence and modest personal appeal and were not particularly influential leaders. Their significance depended upon who they kept company with, who had their attention, or their ear.

Queen Esther influenced the man with the position in her kingdom. As the submissive wife of the King, she influenced him in the choice he made of what to do with her people. (Notice she never lost her identity as the queen.) If she weren't the woman she was, the Holocaust would have happened almost twenty-five hundred years earlier. Jesus would have no race through which he could enter the world.

Women who understand this power can encourage their men to develop a closer relationship with God. Peter said, "*Wives, in the same way, be submissive to your own husbands so that, if any of them don't believe the word, they may be won over without talk by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives*" (1 Peter 3:1,2).

God uses women to influence the men in their lives into godly behavior. When the Israelites built the temple, they had a washbasin called a laver at the inner court entrance. The first step the priest took was to wash in this basin. This washing represented purifying and cleansing. He did this cleansing before going to God in the temple.

Exodus 38:8 describes this laver, *"They made the bronze basin (laver) and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting."* Why would they make the washbasin out of the mirrors of godly women who served in the temple? Women have a cleansing effect through their godly influence on a man's life. When a man loves a woman, he wants to be the best he can be for her.

Women who understand the power of submission can influence the men in their lives to become God's best. A wife can pray for him and be his sounding board. She can also appeal to him when he makes an unwise decision because he trusts her advice. Actual biblical submission frees a person to develop true greatness.

The reverse is also true. Proverbs warn about falling under the influence of the wrong woman. We get one such warning in Proverbs, *"Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. It will keep you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God" (Proverbs 2:11, 16- 17).*

Matt and Kim's sixteen-year-old son, Mark, learned this the hard way. They had a lock-in at their church with about forty teenagers a week before youth camp. Several older girls who were friends with some of the local church's young people came to the lock-in.

One of these girls, Tanya, was wild. She was two years older than Mark, but she wanted to date him and began putting on the moves. When she went to youth camp with them the following week, Mark and Tanya got close.

Tanya wanted to be a faithful Christian. She wanted God but lacked the strength to resist her loosened drives. She had been in several serious relationships and wasn't ready to settle down.

She struggled with her search for God in her life. By this time, Mark had made some serious choices for his future. He planned to go into the ministry. However, when he met Tanya, he forgot many things, including the ministry. All he cared about was fun. He knew she was wrong for him, but he let his hormones think for him. He made some potentially harmful choices. God was gracious and helped Mark to overcome what was happening in his life. He only dated Tanya for a few weeks, which taught him a valuable lesson.

A wise mother can protect her children from the destructive impact of a woman like this. One day, Tanya was at Mark's house, where Kim was ironing in the living room. Tanya placed her hand on Mark's upper thigh and slid it intimately up and down his leg. She looked into his mother's eyes and smiled, daring her to say anything. Kim recognized the direct challenge. If she spoke up, she would fall into Tanya's trap and create conflict between her son and the family. She wisely slipped into the bedroom where her husband, Matt, was napping. She told him what was happening and asked him to handle the situation.

She slipped into the living room and continued ironing as if nothing was happening. Matt entered the room a moment later and politely said, "You two sit up on that couch." Tanya and Mark straightened up, and Tanya removed her hand without further incident.

Anything Kim might have said would have made things worse. Because she understood Tanya's challenge, she let Mark's Father say the same thing without the hard feelings or the wall Tanya intended to build between mother and son.

Today Mark and his wife pastor a church. They have two children and a strong, happy marriage. He learned that associating with the wrong people causes serious harm to his spirit, especially someone with a powerful influence over him.

Someone once said, "All marriages are happy. It is the living together afterward that causes all the trouble." Balanced authority brings peace and harmony into a home.

This happiness comes when a man uses his reason and godly authority, and a woman uses her godly influence. She can help him make and carry out his decisions that affect the family.

God releases spiritual energy into the home and community through position and influence. We find godly authority when the one in the role of authority makes decisions and the other willingly submits to them. Of the two, though, influence is the most powerful.

We don't always understand how God wired the two genders and what makes them so different. Many things, however, divide both genders. For instance, one difference is the ways they define friendship. A woman speaks in terms of having someone with whom she can share her secrets. She needs to be understood at the heart level. An emotional attachment strengthens both friends. A man speaks in terms of having a pal with whom to share his activities. He needs someone who enjoys the same interests. He doesn't think about emotional attachments as much as shared activities.

Another difference is how both genders process information. A woman is verbal-oriented. She has about 30,000 words a day stored somewhere inside her. She gets bottled up emotionally and needs to talk about her feelings. Talking helps put her problems into perspective. Sometimes she can't identify a solution because circumstances tangle her emotions. While verbalizing her feelings, she organizes her thoughts. She can clearly define the real problem, separating the facts of the situation from the feelings she has attached to them. A man often looks at a problem and determines an answer immediately. If he doesn't, he will retire and think. He needs this time to evaluate facts and reach a decision.

Another difference is what moves each gender. Men are sight-oriented. This is experienced in the physical relationship between a husband and wife. The sight of his wife moves a man while she needs romance. The soft, loving, encouraging word her husband speaks moves her. Just thinking about her arouses him.

Men measure the quality of their marriage relationship, or their relationship barometer, differently than women. She uses communication, and he uses physical intimacy. She recognizes problems in their relationship if her husband withdraws and they go without spending time together. He, on the other hand, determines the quality of their relationship by sex. He notices a problem only when it affects them physically.

When women understand the basic principle of submission, together with influence, they can touch their world as a princess anywhere God sends them to serve. Their impact will be limited, and the world and their communities will miss out if they refuse.

CHAPTER TEN OUR WORLD AND COMMUNITY



God-created woman the same as He did man, in the image and likeness of Himself. *"So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27).* God took her out of man. *"And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because I took her out of Man (Genesis 2:23).*

The Hebrew name for a woman is ish-shah, or a feminine equivalent or she-man. Its original meaning can be "womb man" or "man with the womb" or "female man."

What does God want for women in the world and community? Scripture says He designed women to *be fruitful, multiply, and have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth, just like a man (Genesis 1:28).* *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecclesiastics 9:10).* We must fulfill these instructions in every sphere of our lives. We do this through our loving influence on anything God sets before us.

Women have always been at the heart of humanity's most extraordinary movements. Godly women have proven courage. A woman who is at peace with her world and God can stand in the face of any enemy.

Patient strength resides in a godly woman's nature. She can and will withstand anything to protect her family. She has talents and courage beyond compare. Women's spirit made the founding of our mighty nation a possibility. Standing beside her husband, she labored to build a home in the wilderness. She endured hardship, deprivation, and physical and mental suffering to create a home and keep it against attack and destruction.

Paul wrote to both men and women when he said, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13). Our spiritual mothers took these words to heart, resulting in the religious freedom we presently enjoy.

God uses His daughters to extend His kingdom through our contributions to medicine, government, nursing, education, ministry, science, engineering, etc. Women have made impressive advances in every field. We can get the same courage, endurance, skill, and bravery women engage in building their homes in any discipline area.

God has also given women gifts for the church. Paul said, *"God gave gifts to men (women) for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body"* (Ephesians 4:8,12). God called women to work in every area of the ministry. There are women evangelists, pastors, teachers, administrators, and musicians. Women operate in all the gifts of the church. A woman can lead souls into the Body of Christ as well as a man, and she can teach other believers to share their faith effectively.

A woman can do anything for the church that any other shepherd does: feed, nurture, care for, and protect. There are three stages of development here. Gifted leaders equip the saints. The well-equipped saints do the work of the ministry, thus resulting in the strengthening of the Body of Christ.

A woman can also be a powerful influence with her extended family, including her in-laws. God's and man's laws connect us to our spouses' families. A wise woman will learn to love her in-laws. Her husband's parents will always be a part of her life. When she marries him, she marries his family. To his mother, she is 'the other woman.' An intelligent woman will reach out to his family and maintain a relationship with them. They're grandparents to her children, and they will always be somewhere in her life. She must get along even if she can't be a close friend.

She shows wisdom by creating a loving bond with her child's spouse. His mate is part of the family nucleus. If she puts a wall between his companion and herself, her child will be on the other side of the wall. He must choose sides, and he will side with his spouse, devastating everyone. She loses her child and limits or cuts off her relationship with her grandchildren.

John Adams, the second President of the United States, said:

"From all that I have read of history and government of human life and manners, I have drawn this conclusion, that the manners of women were the most infallible barometer, to ascertain morality and virtue of a nation...The Jews, the Greeks, the Romans, the Swiss, the Dutch all lost their public spirit and the republican forms of government when they lost the modesty and domestic virtues of their women."

Tocqueville wrote in *Democracy in America*,

"And now that I come near the end of this book in which I have recorded so many considerable achievements of the Americans, if anyone asks me what I think is the chief cause of the extraordinary prosperity and growing power of this nation, I should answer that it is due to the superiority of their women."

As women, we have an excellent opportunity to teach the world how to be a Princess in God's kingdom. Our world is hurting. God designed us to take our place and fill our role to serve this generation. We find true greatness in the everyday things we touch in the lives of others, not in fame or fortune. Our distinction is in representing our Father and His kingdom as a princess and as His beloved daughters.

Daughters of God:
Princesses in His Kingdom
Questions

CHAPTER 1: A PRINCESS IN HIS KINGDOM

1. What is a princess? _____

2. Why must a princess understand her responsibility as a royal family member?

3. What do the following Scriptures say about God's kingdom?
 - a. Daniel 2:44 _____
 - b. 1 Corinthians 4:20 _____
 - c. Matthew 16:28 _____
 - d. Luke 23:42 _____

CHAPTER 2: DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

4. Name three positive things a daughter receives from her daddy.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. What often happens to a little girl who did not have a daddy to affirm them as individuals?

-
-
6. What does the image of our father's character do? _____
-
-
7. Why can't you give unconditional love until you've received it? _____
-
-
8. What new experiences are opened to us when we develop a relationship with God?
-
-
9. What does Webster's say about the apple of the eye? _____
-
-
10. What happens when we understand and accept our heritage with all its joys and responsibilities? _____
-

CHAPTER 3: THE HOME MAKER

11. What is a homemaker? _____
-
12. Why does Hollywood stereotype homemakers? _____
-
13. What does it mean that a woman is the thermostat in her home? _____
-

14. What is a refuge? _____

CHAPTER 4: RELATIONSHIP BUILDERS

15. Why does God place us in a family at birth? _____

16. How do we learn relationship skills from our families? _____

17. How do our parents teach us about God? _____

18. What happens if we have not mastered conflict resolution as children? _____

19. _____% of a woman's success in life is her ability to get along with people.

20. Why? _____

21. Why is it important to help our children build memories? _____

22. Why is it important to look into our children's eyes, use their names, and listen to their opinions while we speak to them? _____

CHAPTER 5: MOTHERHOOD

23. Name three important things a mother can give to her children.
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
24. What does it mean that a child must learn everything he knows? _____

25. What does Proverbs 22:6 mean? _____

26. Next to a relationship with God, what is the greatest gift we can give our children? _____

27. What do children learn by watching their parents' examples of love? _____

28. Mothers operate on two levels. What are they?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
29. What does it mean for a mother to serve as a buffer between a child and his father? _____

30. Why must a mother discipline her children physically? _____

31. What does it mean, "children need fences in their lives?" _____

CHAPTER 6: THE VALUE AND POWER OF A WOMAN

32. How does the Bible compare women to wisdom, and what is the significance of this comparison? _____

33. How do women bring quality of life to a kingdom? _____

34. Explain the difference between the Jamestown Colony and the Pilgrims. _____

CHAPTER 7: WOMEN'S RIGHTS OR GOD'S RIGHTS?

35. How do women receive true status in God's plan? _____

36. Why can we not legislate rights? _____

37. What is the one important prerequisite for God to use a woman anywhere he places her?

38. What is the key to a woman fulfilling her life ministry? _____

39. Why does God never call a woman into full-time ministry without working with both partners?

40. What does harmony in our life calling produce? _____

41. Why will God sometimes call one partner before the other? _____

42. Why would confusion remain in a ministry after God calls a couple to a field of service?

CHAPTER 8: BIBLICAL SUBMISSION

43. What happens when a couple is where they need to be in their relationship with God and each other? _____

44. What three things does a man bring into the relationship?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

45. What three things does a woman bring into the relationship?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

46. Complete the following sentence.

Submitting to God through another person _____

47. According to these Scriptures, to whom do women submit?

- a. Eph. 5:22 - _____
 - b. Titus 2:5 - _____
 - c. 1 Pet. 3:1 - _____
 - d. 1 Pet. 3:5 - _____
48. What does submission mean? _____

49. How does a woman gain a sense of freedom from true biblical submission? _____

50. What does true biblical submission free a woman to do? _____

CHAPTER 9: WIRING SCHEMATICS

51. What two kinds of power exist in the world?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
52. How can God use a woman's influence? _____
53. How can associating with the wrong people affect your spirit? _____

54. What does balanced authority bring into a home? _____
- a. _____
 - b. _____

CHAPTER 10: BEING A DAUGHTER OF GOD IN THE WORLD AND COMMUNITY

55. What does the Hebrew name for a woman mean? _____
56. What does vital mean, and how have women been a vital factor? _____

57. Godly women have _____.
58. What can a woman do for the church that a literal shepherd does? _____
59. What are the three stages of growth represented here?
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
60. How should a woman treat her in-laws? _____
61. Why is creating a living bond with your children's spouse important? _____

62. Complete the following quote from John Adams. "...I have drawn this conclusion that the

- of a nation..."
63. Complete the following quote from Tocqueville. "...if anyone asks me what I think is the chief cause of the extraordinary prosperity and growing power of this nation,
64. Where can true greatness be found? _____