

Pebbles or Gems

Think about what you're thinking about.

I was sitting next to “Angela” one Sunday morning while she excitedly told me about her experience at a singles conference she had recently attended. She came back with these wonderful ideas of what she needed to do to prepare for a mate. Not really knowing her that well, I just sat and politely listened to her talk about how she began taking sewing lessons, the cooking lessons she’d taken at the vocational school, and a few other skills she had acquired along the way that she felt necessary to have in preparation for a mate. I mean this lady had a long list of things that constituted a Proverbs 31 woman. I’m not saying pursuing these extracurricular activities is wrong, but not one time did she ever mention the heart of God regarding her and marriage. She was doing all the things that she believed defined being a good wife – externals. God is more concerned with our character than He is with blessing us with a husband – internals.

Needless to say, after that conversation I found myself thinking long and hard about image. WHAT DOES A PERFECT MARRIED WOMAN LOOK LIKE? It all boils down to what we believe.

“Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. Romans 12: 2 (AMP)

God tells us to renew our minds. He does not tell us to renew our behavior or our emotions. We will never be able to change our behavior or our emotions without God changing our minds. The problem is with our belief system. How we live speaks volumes about what we believe, not necessarily about what we know. To be knowledgeable of the truth is one thing, to believe the truth is something else entirely. We live by what we believe. If we believe that to be happy, we must be married, 20 pounds thinner, and blonde or brunette, we’re going to do everything possible to get married, lose weight, and change our hair color...sometimes at the expense of compromising our Godly principles.

So what do I believe about marriage? I believe that, if I surrender my will to God concerning marriage, while He cleanses my heart and fashions my thoughts He will lead me to do what is necessary in order to be a ‘perfect’ mate for the man He has chosen. I may not need to take cooking lessons because my husband may be a chef, or learn to sew because I married a tailor. Bottom line - if we delight ourselves in the Lord by focusing our attentions on Christ, the rest will follow.

What do you believe makes a great mate? Let’s take a look at Jesus. According to the Bible He was not a gorgeous hunk of a man...so I’m almost certain women weren’t fawning all over Him. (Find that scripture in Isaiah.) **Nevertheless**, He was a king walking around in shepherd’s clothing. What I’m trying to say is - don’t overlook the heart of a man. I have met some nerdy looking guys who started dating nice girls and their

whole outer appearance changed. Where once you never noticed him, now you're thinking "Wow, this man is handsome." My mama used to say that God don't always give you what you want but He certainly gives you what you need. Cute don't pay no bills.

So, while keeping your standards, ask God to reveal to you the lies you believe. Reject those lies and replace them with God's truth. Also, keep an open mind by re-directing your thoughts to reflect your new beliefs. God just might surprise you. *Shimmer*.

Grab It!

1. List the characteristics of a 'perfect' woman according to Proverbs 31.
2. How would you define the perfect wife? Does your definition agree with scripture?
3. What are you willing to do to be the perfect wife?

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