

Becoming a Woman of Grace

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We are the recipients of God's super-abounding grace; we are at liberty to love and serve, we have divine enablement to live godly lives in this present age, therefore we need to be in the process of being known as women of grace. Because we received grace, we should now exemplify graciousness.

Created a gracious creature

Psalm 139: 14- *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*

God created Eve the same nature than Adam. He created Eve to share Adam's joys and sorrows. He created woman to share the same physiological, psychological and spiritual needs than Adam. Woman was created to be equal to men but not to be another man. Eve was created to be Adam's complement, or saying another way she was created to make Adam complete.

God Created women full of grace

The grace of Outer Beauty

Physical grace is considered as a feminine attribute.

God loves beauty. He created women with natural elements to make them look beautiful.

Can we change what we received at birth?

We can improve our appearance by

- < Wearing the style of dress that fit us the best
- < Wearing the color that enhance our beauty
- < Styling our hair to improve our image - I Corinthians 11: 15
- < Watching our diet to feel healthier
- < Breathing properly to develop a more musical voice.

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain." Proverb 31:30

The world praises women who are full of physical charm: *1 Samuel 16: 7c*

1 Peter 3: 3, 4

The grace of Inner Beauty

God Is the Giver of Inner Beauty

Grace is synonymous of: favor, kindness, mercy and compassion.

"A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" Proverbs 31:30

Understand the Plan of God in Creating Women:

God created woman to be a helper for man: *Gen 2:18*

Does being a helper mean that the women's role is inferior?

The Hebrew word "EZER" found in Genesis 2:18 is the one translated by "HELPER"

Some use of the word "ETZER" in Old Testament:

- Exodus 18:4 "My Father's God was my helper; He saved me from the sword of Pharaoh."
- Psalm 33:20 "We wait in hope for the Lord: He is our help and our shield."
- Psalm 54:4. "Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me."
- Psalm 70:5 "O God, You are my help and my deliverer."
- Psalm 86:17 "For you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me."

These verses refer to God as our helper. They clearly show that the role of helper is not an inferior role.

Men and women do have different roles in the family and in the church. No ministries should be devaluated because of their differences. In fact, the ministry of the church should become complete and perfect through our different roles.

“There is neither ... male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

God helps His people by protecting, supporting, shielding, sustaining, delivering, comforting, giving hope, and blessing.

God not only told women to be helper but He created and equipped them to become gracious. God created women to lovingly protect, support, shield, sustain, deliver, comfort, give hope, and bless.

What are the inner elements that God gave us to make us gracious?

In every brain there is a little corner that creates the difference between the personalities, that makes men different from women.

The brain is divided in two sections that are called the two hemispheres

- Every hemisphere has its specialties.
- Some studies reveal that most men use the right hemisphere while most women use the left hemisphere.
- When we discover the specialties of our inner nature and act according to them, we become more natural in our acting and consequently more gracious.

What are the gifts of the left hemisphere that produce our inner beauty?

A- *The left hemisphere is specialized in the art of speaking.*

Women like to talk. They generally excel in grammar, reading, speak more fluently and have a vocabulary richer than men.

A gracious woman speaks wisely

Kindness in speech should be a very noticeable characteristic of a woman of grace. The Scriptures encourage gracious conversation.

Proverbs 10:19 -- Proverbs 13:3

A gracious woman “opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness.” Proverbs 31; 26.

Ephesians 4: 29-32---Colossians 4: 6

“In the tongue of the gracious woman is the law of kindness; all she says is under the government of that law. The law of love and kindness is written in the heart, but it shows itself in the tongue; if we are kindly affectionate one to another, it will appear by affectionate expressions.” Matthew Henry.

Let us use the gift of speech to preach the Gospel, to say gentle words to quiet anger, kind words to bring comfort to others, and wise words to make knowledge attractive. May we learn to keep silent when it is necessary, for if **“speaking is made of silver, silence is made of gold.”**

B - *The left hemisphere is specialized in details*

- Women specialize in details.
- Be careful how we use this gift.

A gracious woman uses her ability to deal with details to see God’s faithfulness in all the events of her life

- Forget the details that can destroy friendship, love, trust, and harm others.
- Keep good souvenirs of things that will make you happy and keep you healthy - *Proverbs 15: 13.*

Let us use less time in the details for the things that will perish, and spend more time in company of Jesus, reading our Bible, studying the details of Jesus’ life, trying to understand His will for our lives, and praying; these are the only details that can help us to live in joy and make us fit spiritually. When you feel depressed or discouraged, count God’s blessings.

C – *The left hemisphere is analytic*

Women can make the difference between what people say and what people want to say. .

A gracious woman uses her ability to analyze problems to be a peacemaker at home, at church, and wherever she goes.

I Samuel 25: The story of Abigail

A gracious woman is a peacemaker -Psalm 34: 14 -- 1 Thessalonians 5: 13

D- The women's ability to perceive so many things makes them very sensitive. Women are very sensible to sound, to scent, to touching, and to their surroundings. Women like soft talking, soft touching, sweet talking, sweet perfume etc. A gracious woman uses her sensibility to pray for the victims, the fatherless, the needy, and the afflicted.

E-Women have intuition

What is intuition? It is the possibility to know or recognize something, without a logical explanation. It is the ability to answer to a danger that is felt without been perceived. It is the ability to make a complete analysis of someone's character after meeting with that person for a relatively short time.

A gracious woman has a sanctified intuition. The woman who lives to glorify God consults Him for guidance when she has an intuition

- Let us use our intuition for well doing, to give good counsels.
- Let us use our intuition to work to the success of our family and keep the purity of the church.
- Let us ask God to develop within us a greater sensitivity to the needs of those He wants us to serve.

F- . Women are determined

Because of her sensibility, women face her decisions, her activities, and her relationships as a whole. She does not make any difference between her emotion, her intellect and her physic. This makes women very determined. It is why when a woman wants something, when all her energies are oriented toward a goal, she becomes invincible.

A gracious woman is determined to go ahead and act as God lead her. She rests in God.

The story of Esther

In spite of the tribulation, there is serenity and confidence in the gracious woman who rests in God. She smiles at the future. *Proverbs 31: 25 - Philippians 1; 6, 7- 1 Peter 5: 10*

A Gracious woman uses her determination like the woman described in Proverbs 31.

"A woman of noble character whose worth is far more than rubies, a woman conducting herself in such a way that the men have full confidence in her; a woman speaking with wisdom and faithful instruction on her tongue."

Her determination to be successful is in harmony with God's will, for she can always do the task that introduce her children to the Savior and influence them to live Christianly in a non-Christian culture which is an eternal investment worthy of her time and energy.

G- Women's World is auto-centric

The way women consider everything with her intellect and her feelings make men believe that women take things too personal. Women's world is auto-centric, a world where the person believes to be the center, the focus of event and relations. Women believe that they are the queens of their homes.

The gracious woman, is thankful to God because He created her with such dignity, but she remembers also that God is the center of the universe. When she spends too much time to please others in her looks or the look of her house, that she neglects the time she has to spend with God, she needs to review her priority to be sure that she continues to be a favored of God.

H- Women are socially oriented

A Woman's self-esteem is based on how much appreciation those she loves and respects show her. Her self-esteem is measured in function of her relationship.

Ladies, there is a great danger to evaluate your success in function of what others think of you. You worth far more than what others will ever think of you, say to you, or say about you.

Believe in God and believe in yourself. Always remember that you are precious in God's eyes. God is the only one who evaluates without prejudice and He says that you are His princess.

A gracious woman knows that she is precious in God's eyes, she is His princess, and she acts accordingly.

I- A gracious woman is humble.

James 4; 6 - Philippians 2: 1-11

.Is our reputation more important than reflecting God's glory?

Humility means obedience, submission.

“Humility with regard to ourselves, then, consists in ascribing all that we are, all that we have, and all that we have accomplished to the God who gives us grace.” Jerry Bridges.

The grace of humility is revealed by:

- Obedience to God
- Obedience to the law of our country
- Obedience to the law of health
- Obedience to our husbands

A gracious woman is Humble and attains honor --Proverbs 11:16

James 4:10 - 1 Peter 5:6

Abigail, a gracious woman, became the queen of Israel and a famous woman of the Bible.

Esther, a gracious woman, obtained beyond her request to save God’s people: she became governor in her country.

“Graciousness is the fruit of godly character, springing from a heart committed to the Lord; then such charm becomes a tool for drawing others to the Savior and for service to Christ in the kingdom. Such a gracious woman retains a great honor.”

Graciousness: a complement to beauty”

The woman’s Study Bible: The New King James Version. 1037

God is the giver of all good things. He delights to lavish blessings upon us. His grace is the remarkable evidence of His generosity.

*To become a woman of grace means to be in the **process of becoming** more and more gracious.*

*Grace should be so much a part of me that **it spills over into every area of my life.***

*A gracious woman, therefore, **is a grace-giver.** She gives willingly - not just materially, but of herself:*

*Because she receives **inexhaustible grace**, she can **extend grace.***

*Because she is **deeply loved by her Father**, she can **love others.***

*Because **she is forgiven**, she can **readily forgive.***

*Because she **hears the Lord speak graciously** to her, she can **communicate with grace.***

*Because her **strength and peace are from the Lord**,*

*She can **impart a gentle and quiet spirit** to those around her.*

*Because she is **humbled by the privilege of being God’s child**,*

*She can **serve selflessly**, delighting in **bringing glory to Him alone.***

Cynthia Heald

Grace is a way of life (Lawrence O. Richards)

Grace walks in simplicity, abstains from all show of evil, shelters not herself under deceits, does all things purely for God’s sake, in whom also she finally rests. Grace faithfully attributes all honor and glory unto God.”

Thomas A. Kempis

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” Proverbs 31: 30

Prayer

O Lord, thank you for your abundant grace that you pour on me. Enable me to share your grace with others. May I become a woman of grace known for my love for you and my love for others! May I become a gracious woman who attains honor for your Kingdom! Thank you Lord! I love you! Amen!