

CAPTIVATING Part 2

The third burning desire that every woman has is to let her beauty be unveiled. We see this in the way in which little girls play dress up. She wants to delight and be delighted in. Staci suggests that another manifestation of this desire is the twirling of skirts and such. And look at the things they play with. Hats, scarves, necklaces, clothes of all types. These all express a deep yearning to be the beauty God has designed for them to be. And as I have said before, this desire to be beautiful knows no boundaries of age.

The truth is that this desire for beauty is not limited to an outward beauty. In fact, a much deeper desire captivates the depths of women. They desire to be not only beautiful, but good. It is the beauty of the female heart and character that I am extolling here. Actually, her outward beauty would be superficial and shallow if not for the beauty of her heart. That's why we love her. Our author Staci gives some compelling examples of this. "Ruth may have been a lovely, strong woman, but it is to her unrelenting courage and vulnerability and faith in God that Boaz is drawn. Esther is the most beautiful woman in the land, but it is her bravery and her cunning, good heart that moves the king to spare her people. This isn't about dresses and makeup." This is at the core of what women were designed to be in and for the world that God created.

It is stated by our authors that woman in a real, insightful manner, is the crown of God's creative activity. Think about the Biblical account of creation and you will see that the creation of the first woman is no after thought by the Creator. She fulfills the man. She is the perfect compliment to his masculinity with her femininity. As God acts with those 6 twenty four hour periods of darkness and light that we call days, He is putting into place the absolutely perfect environment for humankind. If man is the pinnacle of God's creation, then woman is the exclamation point on His statement of creativity!

One of the most noteworthy things about the nature of women is that their whole lives are relational, in fact, the very answer to man's loneliness. In this capacity she fulfills a need for man that goes almost as deep as his need to know and love God himself. While little boys are concerned with killing one another in mock battles on the playground, little girls are talking about relationships. Who would you ask if you wanted to know how people are doing? Don't women spend hours chatting with friends in person or on the phone to discover who is dating who, whose feelings are hurt, who's been faithful, and how their children are doing?

“Most women define themselves in terms of relationships, and the quality they deem their relationships to have. I am a mother, a sister, a daughter, a friend. Or, I am alone. I’m not seeing anyone right now, or my children aren’t calling, or my friends seem

distant. This is not a weakness in women—it is a glory. A glory that reflects the heart of God.” I think the author hit the nail on the head with this observation!

God is all about His desire for a deep, intimate relationship with the people He has created. He yearns for us. He cares about us. He has a heart that is tender and true.

“But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.” “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” ...declares the Lord.” (Isaiah 49:14-15, 18)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem,...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Matt. 23:37)

God wants to be the focal point of our thoughts and the reason for our actions. He wants to be included in a wholesome way in our speech. We were made for God and our relationship to Him is a precious thing. He causes us to see this most intimate of relationships through the eyes of love. He is the Bridegroom; we are His Bride, the church. The relationship is further defined in terms of, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” This reminds us of the nurturing purpose of the umbilical connection between mother and child. “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” That is God’s promise to us, His sincere vow of faithfulness. Even if we are unfaithful He tells us, He will remain faithful.

Our relationship to God is like romance. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer. 31:3) Eldredge puts it so well, “God yearns to share a life of beauty, intimacy, and adventure with us.” He gives us such awesome examples of His love for us in the things He has created – the rivers, the glens, the meadows, the beaches, the flowers, music, a kiss. And God is jealous of His relationship with us. He wants no competition from other suitors. Just like the old saying points out, “Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned,” so also that is how God acts when He isn’t chosen.

I hope that with these insights into the soul of woman you can begin to see more clearly the pieces of the puzzle fitting into position in your life with your Creator. If you are a woman or a man, God has made you for Himself. He doesn't want to share your affections with any others. He wants us to find in Him all that we will ever need. So today be grateful that God acted so long ago to include women as such an intricate part of His glorious design for our lives.

Pray that He will keep helping you and I to discover the depth and meaning of this truly magnificent gift!