

BECOMING A WOMAN

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Women are adults and not teenagers or immature children. A woman is a full grown lady who is mature to start her own home with her husband. A woman is one who is prepared by reason of training and development to take up the challenges of standing on her own and building her own home. A woman therefore is a mature person in character, self-comportment, reasoning, spirituality, temperamental control, management, housekeeping and human relationship. It is not only by age that one can be said to be a woman, the person must be mature in all the areas mentioned above.

The book of Proverbs chapter 31 gives us a good picture of a mature woman. This scripture will serve as our text in this study. Becoming a woman therefore is training oneself to the standard of Proverbs 31.

Prov 31:10-20

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. 20 She opens her arms to the poor

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A woman of noble character is hard to find. This explains why many marriages don't last long. Developing to manifest a noble character as described in the above passage is what I call becoming a woman. Becoming a woman is not just understanding and exploring the feminine features of a woman and using it to your own advantage, but working on yourself to have a positive, godly and homely character that will make you excel in life and in marriage.

The woman described in Proverbs 31 developed herself while she was growing up. It is obvious that she was not a stranger to hard work, cleanliness, needle work, farm work, housekeeping and caring for people especially her husband and children. She must have trained herself over time as she grew up. Many young ladies today are lazy and abhor housekeeping and management or anything hard work. Some are only tidy when a visitor is expected. Their dresses are always clean, but their living room or apartment is something else. This is a display of laziness. It is obvious that such will have marital problems when such issues come up in their marriage in future.

ANALYSIS

1. Noble character (good and positive personality).
2. She has great respect for her husband and as a result she is highly respected and honored by her husband.

3. She is a hard worker.
4. She is very skilled in farming, needle work and housekeeping.
5. She is very industrious and creative.
6. She is very enterprising. Looks out for anything that can be of benefit to her family.
7. She is not a heavy sleeper. She rises up very early to do her house work and provide for her family.
8. She provides food for her family at the appropriate time.
9. She does not maltreat her house helps.
10. She sees to it that her trade is profitable.
11. She cares for the less privileged around her.
12. Her house is always tidy and clean and well organized.
13. She is not quarrelsome for she has great respect for her husband.
14. She is a good support for her husband and fills the gap for him.
15. She is very spiritual and fears God.

WORK ON YOURSELF TO BECOME A WOMAN

1. EMOTIONS

You must be mature enough to handle and control your emotions. Marriage is for those who can handle emotional challenges in marriage. Develop yourself to become temperate. You must come to the place where you are able to rule your temper and not your temper ruling you.

You must come to the point where you are able to distinguish between love and lust. Some don't know the difference. If you are in this category, you are not mature at all.

You must be emotionally mature to separate emotions from facts to be able to deal with situations. Bring yourself to the point where you will have true respect and honor for elders, all those in authority over you and your husband when you get married.

Develop yourself emotionally to handle the pressures of marriage from your husband, in-laws, family members, work pressure on marriage and family life and pressure from children and dependants.

2. PSYCHOLOGY

Your thoughts determine your words, emotions (feelings) and actions. As we think, so we talk. As we think, so we feel. As we think so we act. Mind management is the first priority in the school of success. You will always relate to your spouse as you think. If you don't know how to control your thoughts in the midst of frustrations and disappointments, your hands will be full of trouble.

Psychological maturity is very essential for the success of any marriage. If you do intend to succeed, it is now that you have to start learning to control what enters into your mind and what you give your mind to. The virtuous woman has control over her thoughts and does not permit evil and negative thoughts into her mind. As a result, speaks well, acts and lives responsibly in humility to the point that her husband praises her and the community honors and speaks of her person positively.

3. BEHAVIOUR

Your behaviour reveals who you are. You may pretend for a while, but someday, the true you will manifest. Know and understand yourself. Know your habits and character. Eliminate that which needs to be eliminated. Perfect that which needs to be perfected. Adjust that which

needs to be adjusted. Clean up yourself. Like the virtuous woman cultivate godly and noble character and behaviour. It will help you in your future marriage.

Dressing and outward appearance does not make a good wife or win you real respect. For many dress well but behave terribly like children of the devil. It is a good character that is needed from godly women. This is the reason why Proverbs 31 says that a wife of noble character is hard to find. But, well dressed women are in abundance. Your character is your real person. Start working on yourself now and develop good character.

4. RELATIONSHIP

Your family is your first school of relationship. In your family, you have those who believe in you and those who don't. In your family, you learn how to love and be loved, how to bear and forgive, and how to settle quarrels. You also learn how to hate and keep malice. Good and evil that you will see in later life, you have already experienced in your family. All these are to prepare you for the world and the future.

How has your relationship with your parents, brothers and sisters been like? How has your relationship with your fellow students and colleagues been like? Can you keep relationships? Do you know how to communicate? Do you know how to communicate love and sweetness in the midst of anger and great provocation? Do you know how to communicate effectively to nourish and sustain a relationship? Have you perfected forbearance, tolerance and forgiveness? If the answer is no, then you have not become a woman yet. You need to grow up and become a good and noble woman.

Relationship is not only about "I love you" and giving and receiving of gifts and flowers. It is all about all that you are and manifest daily. Work on yourself to make yourself mature.

5. SPIRITUALITY

An unspiritual man or woman is a dead person. He or she is insensitive to the things of the Spirit of God. If you are not spiritual you won't be able to stand the test of life and marriage. It takes a spiritual person to overcome temptations and please God on earth. The fear of God keeps a man from evil and guarantees a successful life. It is Jesus in your life that will help you to manifest the godly character we have been discussing. When you marry someone who is not spiritually inclined, you will have your hands full of crisis, because the fear of the Lord will be absent.

How is your relationship with God like? Do you have respect for the Word of God? A woman will always attract her own kind. You have to be spiritual to attract and appreciate someone who is spiritual.

Romancing, caressing and sex before marriage, sleeping in your boyfriend's house, is not a sign of spirituality. If you have no respect for the word of God, there is no guarantee that you will have respect for God in your marriage.

6. MANNER OF SPEECH

Col 4:5-6

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

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Eph 4:29

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

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Have you learnt to speak wisely at all times? Have you learnt to use the right words that communicate your desire respectfully and firmly? Do you know that wrong timing can make your valuable and timely suggestion or opinion to be rejected? You have to train yourself in the art of effective communication. Learn and master the art of persuasion. Eliminate confrontation and arguments.

7. MANAGEMENT

Independence from your own parents to start your own family is a responsibility. You must be prepared to manage your home, resources, spouse, children, time etc. successfully. You cannot just be running back to your mum or dad every time there is a problem.

How are you handling responsibility that is being given to you presently at home, at school, at church and at work? Do you give feed back to your boss and parents? Have you learnt how to report back? Do you remember your assignments, or you are always reminded? Do you understand the meaning of accountability? Do you work with your whole heart? Do you manage your finances well? Do you over spend your income monthly. Train yourself in the act of management.

What do you do with your time? Could you be said to be a good manager of your time? Do you keep to time or work with time? You have to train yourself to manage time, redeem time, be time conscious and use time well. This is maturity.

Learn to be enterprising and industrious like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. Develop your skill to mastership level. Don't be lazy. Be strong and take your responsibilities serious.

SUMMARY

Becoming a woman has to do with the use, training, exercise, practice and perfecting of known and proven godly laws and principles.

Heb 5:14

14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

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Use the word of God to make yourself mature so you can have a mature marriage

The process of maturing is the knowing, understanding, believing and application of the word of God leading to renewed mentality and transformation of character.

Rom 12:2

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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Maturing involves self-analysis from time to time. This is necessary for change and improvement. Becoming a woman is progressive improvement in self-analysis, adjustments, change, and application of godly principles to measure up to the fullness of Christ who is our role model. Settle down therefore to build yourself and make yourself ready for marriage. Prepare yourself now.