

The Value of a Godly Wife

She was not unattractive, yet nothing in her demeanor drew one's attention. Her eyes would divert if cheerily greeted in the hallway; a mousey soul whom caused one concern. In time, a change took place. Her smile brighten, she was more confident and outgoing. The young single mom's child followed his mother's lead and likewise increased in confidence. Like any foundling, the "rescued" woman had been validated by someone's love, concern, and deferment.

The syndrome of fragmented families adrift is shamefully becoming more and more common in modern society. Single moms are an outwardly expressed ramification of an inwardly centered society where relationships are viewed from narcissism and not the loving selfless vantage point of the Lord. The evidence that marriage has become expendable litters our schools, churches and work places.

A healthy, life-long, God-centered marriage is something that the Lord has his children pursue with vigor (*The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD. Proverbs 18:22, New Living Translation*). A Godly wife is a treasure (*A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Proverbs 31:10, New International Version*).

The Lord has such high aspirations for the institution of marriage that he uses the carnal earthly relationship as an illustration for the divine (*For as a young man takes a virgin for his wife, so will your maker be married to you: and as a husband has joy in his bride, so will the Lord your God be glad over you. Isaiah 62:5, Bible in Basic English*).

A woman's self esteem is solidly tied to the relationships that populate her life. A woman literally intertwines her heart and soul with those she loves. Her family, friends, and hopefully, God form the foundation of who she is. There's an old story that serves to illustrate this concept. A rich man who wished to buy a bride visited the village of his youth looking for a suitable mate. Many lovely young women tried to catch his eye, but they weren't quite what he had in mind.

To everyone's surprise he chose a maiden whom the villagers considered unattractive, certainly not wife material for an important, rich man. The rich man went to the woman's father, who was happy that anyone would want his gangly daughter. The father suggested a dowry of one cow, but the rich man was appalled.

He told the astonished father that the young woman was much too beautiful to be purchased for only one cow and insisted on a bridal price of 100 cows. This was an exorbitant fee, a previously unheard of price. The two were married and it is said the first gift the rich man gave his bride was a mirror, so she could look at her beauty.

A few years later the rich man and his wife once again visited the village. The people were shocked by the unbelievable loveliness of the wife and couldn't believe she was the same unattractive young woman who had once lived among them. But she was. The woman had become the person her husband had seen all along, a woman of incredible inner and outer beauty. In time she began to see

herself through his eyes, a bride fully worthy of the extravagant price of 100 cows, and was transformed (*Look at you! You are beautiful, my true love! Look at you! You are so beautiful! Your eyes are like doves!* Song of Solomon 1:15, GOD'S WORD® Translation).

Every woman has beauty as she is a creation of the Almighty God. A godly wife is to be sought after, pursued, loved, protected, and held in high esteem. A woman flowers best supported with an uplifting hand.

How many cows is your wife worth?

Evan Todd Yeager, Ed.D.