

D2: The Home—Bearing God's Image in Singleness and Marriage

The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Review from Biblical Womanhood:

1. Man—created in God's image

Genesis 1:26-27

2. Jesus—displays God's image

Colossians 1:15; Philippians 2:6-8; John 10:30

3. Man—fallen from God's image

Genesis 3

4. Man in Christ—restored to God's image

Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:9-10

Whose we are

Titus 2:14; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Ro. 6:22; Mk. 8:34; 2 Co 5:14-15

Joy in the Lord

Ps. 16:2, 11; 27:4; 34:8; 36:8; 73:28

The greatest relationship is that which we have with Jesus!

“When I have God for my treasure I have all things in One. Many ordinary treasures may be denied me, or if I am allowed to have them, the enjoyment of them will be so tempered that they will never be necessary to my happiness. Or if I must see them go, one after another, I will scarcely feel a sense of loss, for having the Source of all things I have in One all satisfaction, all pleasure, all delight. Whatever I may lose I have actually lost nothing, for I now have it all in One, and I have it purely, legitimately, and forever.”

A. W. Tozer, *Pursuit of God*

5. Bearing God’s image as a single woman in Christ

a. Jesus’ prayer—John 17:20-23

b. Marriage isn’t always better—Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 7:7; Romans 8:28

c. Singleness and marriage as gifts—1 Corinthians 7:1-7

d. The privileges of singleness—1 Corinthians 7:34-35

e. Challenges of singleness—Romans 15:13; Lamentations 3:19-33; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

f. Some examples of undistracted devotion to the Lord

- Ruth
- The excellent woman/wife—Prov. 31:10-31
- Tabitha (Dorcas)—Acts 9:36-40
- Lydia—Acts 16:14-15, 40
- Anna—Luke 2:36-38
- Mary Magdalene—Matthew 27:56, 62; 28:1; Mark 15-16, esp. 16:9; Luke 8:2-3; 24:10; John 20:1, 18
- Mary and Martha—Lk. 10:38-42; Jn. 11:1-12:2

6. Bearing God's image as a married woman in Christ

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18-24

Ephesians 5:22-33

Exodus 17:8-16

1 Peter 3:1-4

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15; Acts 16:1-3—Lois and Eunice

Implications of God's design for us to bear His image in singleness

D1—the heart:

1. God's design calls for ongoing shepherding of our hearts with God's Word to fuel an undistracted devotion to the Lord (1 Cor. 7:35).
2. God's design elevates personal purity and holiness in body and spirit (1 Co. 7:34).

D2—the home:

3. God's design strengthens our commitment to growing in unity, love, and service with those in our home and family.
4. God's design encourages hospitality and ministry in our home (inviting others in).
5. God's design humbles the single woman to seek the wisdom and protection of Christian parents, church leadership (e.g. elders, small group leaders), and/or older women in the church.

D3—ministry:

6. God's design underscores the importance of relationships with the body of Christ, in fellowship, service, and other expressions of the NT's "one anothers." In particular, it keeps smallgroup involvement a priority (John 17:21; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Heb. 10:24-25).
7. God's design challenges us in seasons of singleness to prayerfully and intentionally live out biblical femininity—godliness, holiness, industriousness, purity, a quiet and gentle servant's heart—in every sphere of life.

Implications of God's design for us to bear His image in marriage

D1—the heart:

1. God's design calls for ongoing shepherding our hearts with God's Word to fuel a submissive, respectful, quiet, and gentle spirit towards our husbands, driven by reverence for Christ (Ep. 5:22-33; 1 Pe. 3:1-4).
2. God's design keeps Jesus absolutely at the center of marriage.

D2—the home:

3. God's design sweetens every act of humble service in marriage, whether we are married to a believer or not.
4. For those who are not currently married, God's design excludes marrying or otherwise entering into a close relationship with a man who is NOT in Christ or to whom she would be unwilling to biblically submit.
5. God's design restricts consideration of divorce to only those cases where it's biblically permissible; even at that, it's ONLY a LAST resort after she has exhaustively and earnestly sought restoration.

D3—ministry:

6. God's design underscores the importance of relationships with the body of Christ, in fellowship, service, and other expressions of the NT's "one anothers." In particular, it keeps smallgroup involvement a priority (John 17:21; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Heb. 10:24-25).
7. God's design elevates the purpose and reason for marriage—that others might see a living picture of our great self-giving God.