



Christian Coffee House Ministry, Inc.

512 Public Avenue

Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Phone (608) 365-0365

MAY, 1977

THE OVERFLOW

May is the month during which we set aside a special day to honor our Mothers, so I thought it might be a good time to have a chat with you gals out there - young, old and holding. You know, God has lots to say to us ladies and the model woman of the Bible wasn't exactly like what you see running around today. The Bible mentions several things God hates in women. One of these things is haughtiness and another is pride. Isaiah 3:16 says: "Moreover the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with stretched forth necks (this means displaying the neck and elevating it as far as possible indicating pride) and wanton (seductive) eyes, (this refers to the art of alluring and seducing with the eyes. Some versions translate this as "ogling" eyes meaning to look at another with familiarity) walking and mincing as they go, (this means tripping along with short steps and so moving their bodies as to attract the lusts of men) and making a tinkling with their feet;" In Isaiah's time, the women adorned themselves with ankle rings and bells which made noise as they walked so as to call attention to themselves. Because they did these things, God's judgement was pronounced on them and they were affected with a scalp disease. Now, I'm not suggesting that you girls with dandruff are guilty of such conduct. But, the description does fit some girls I've observed, some of whom say they are Christians!! C'mon girls, be honest with yourselves. Do you dress to please the Lord or that cute guy at school? Do you always conduct yourself in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord and let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you or does everyone have to look past three or four layers of eye shadow to see who is back there. Proverbs 31:30 says: Favour (charm) is deceitful and beauty is vain but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised!

How about you married gals? Are you trying to live up to the Biblical example given us to follow if we want to please the Lord? The virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 is worth a price far above rubies. Of course, we all know that if our husbands had to hire outside help to do all the things a wife and mother does, it would cost him about twenty grand a year. But before you break a leg racing in to ask your hubby for a raise, do you really deserve it? Read Proverbs 31, verse 11 and ask yourself: Does my husband have absolute confidence in my faithfulness to him? Can he count on me not to waste his hard-earned money? Compare yourself with the lady in verse 12. How do you measure up? Can your husband be sure you will do him good and not evil all the days of your life? Are you careful about not airing all of his faults to anyone who will listen? Read on. In verses 13-19, it sounds like this lady was pretty industrious with a good head for business and she worked hard providing for her family. What a contrast to some wives who are flopped in front of the T.V. all day or attached to the phone most of the time. Then there are the women who are so busy "working for the Lord" or listening to everyone's problems that their husbands have to wadethrough a filthy and cluttered house to find some clean sox or his kids. Or how about the lady whose home is like Grand Central Station, phone ringing all the time, people in and out. She doesn't have enough smiles or time left over for her family



after giving out to everyone else all day. You say, "Oh, but I hate housework. It's such a waste of time. I'd rather be busy for the Lord all day." And, all the while your unsaved husband is thinking, "Boy! if that's what being a Christian does for the family, who needs it?" Sorry, gals. I don't mean to be hard on you. But, you are supposed to win that husband to the Lord by your godly actions not by telling him about what the Lord can do, the abundant life and the beautiful marriage you could have if only he were a Christian while you dash out the door to another prayer meeting. If we want to see people come to Christ, we have to live so the world is jealous of our life style. But, that's not the situation in many homes. The little woman gets saved and becomes a spiritual giant. Suddenly, she gets so self-righteous she can't stand her husband anymore and all the while she just wishes he'd get saved so being a Christian would be easier for her. What kind of witness is your home ladies? Is your housekeeping a credit to your husband? Do you keep house "as unto the Lord"? Is your husband known in the gates (Proverbs 31:23) because his clothes always look so nice, his house and children are clean and well-behaved or is he known by the holes in his sox and the number of buttons that are always missing from his jacket? (Have you ever polished his shoes for him?) How about your children? Are they respectful and well-mannered or do your friends cringe when they see you coming because you let your kids run through their homes like a tornado? Do your children rise up and call you blessed and can your husband find anything to praise you for? (Proverbs 31:28) Do you look well to the ways of your household or are you too concerned with everyone else's business?

Or, maybe you just sit around "Eating the bread of idleness" (Proverbs 31:27). Which reminds me of another kind of woman. Now, remember gals. We shall all stand before God someday to answer for the way we've spent his time and the way we've done the job He gave us to do as wives and mothers. Don't you dare tell Him nobody ever told you what your responsibility was.

Now, there's one gal who will be in a whole lot of hot something at the judgement. She's the one who made her boyfriend think she was the most spiritual little thing he'd ever meet. Why they could just be so effective for the Lord if they were married. He starts getting visions of having a wife who would want to minister beside him for the Lord as much as he wants to and wouldn't mind a bit if he helped out at the Cup or drove the bus to prison on Saturday. But boy! Is he in for a big surprise after he walks away from the altar! This little gem turns out to be nothing but a millstone around his neck and she sits around all day dreaming up things for him to do as soon as he gets home from work. She is always pushing to get ahead--more furniture, a better house, a micro-wave oven etc. She doesn't even want to go to church anymore because she'd "rather spend that time with him". Pretty soon he finds himself facing a hard question: How can he be a good husband and still serve the Lord, too? And she is wondering why he seems to have cooled off towards her. How about it gals? What will your answer be when you have to stand before the Lord someday and he asks you, "What have you done for me?" Will you say, "Oh, not much, Lord. Ever since we got married there just hasn't been much time so my husband had to quit working for you. I hope no one out there is guilty of any of these things, but just in case---" \*fess up to it. The only sin God can't forgive is the one you don't confess.

Say, I heard that there are a few cases of measles cropping up around the area and the Rock County Health Department has scheduled Emergency immunization clinics in some of the schools. It sure would be a help if God could schedule immunization clinics whenever he sees an outbreak of critical attitudes, self-righteousness and pride in the Body of Christ. These little dandies do as much damage as the measles. Measles can affect your hearing and eyesight and so can a critical, self-righteous and proud attitude affect your spiritual hearing and eyesight. When you listen with a critical ear, the



devil will see to it that you hear something to criticize. When you look at things through self-righteous eyes he can tell you it's O.K. to tell people what's wrong with them before you get it together yourself. Are you more concerned with whether a person measures up to your accepted standards or would you rather see them have a real experience with the Lord and let Him change their bad habits? When will we ever learn to accept the unsaved the way they are instead of having fits over what they do. The only thing we should concern ourselves with is loving them into the Kingdom of God, not all the things they should be doing or shouldn't be doing. Where do we get the idea that we have arrived and are just a little higher up on the ladder than they are anyway? My Bible says in Galatians 6:3-"If a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. In II Cor. 3:5 it says: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God". So, that kinda takes care of all those nasty little germs and diseases that infect and defile the Body of Christ, doesn't it?

The best prescription I've found for these maladies is a strong application of the Word of God, repeated as often as needed. It won't be an instant cure-all but if taken as directed it will bring fast relief and won't upset your stomach. However, when we begin to see ourselves as God sees us, it can be a bit nauseating sometimes. If the symptoms persist, contact your physician (take it to the Lord in prayer). The Holy Spirit specializes in the diagnosis of these ailments and will lead you to the truth about your particular trouble spots. All it costs you is honesty-with God and yourself and the Body of Christ will soon be on the road to recovery.

Being a Christian carries with it a heavy responsibility not only to God but to the Body of Christ as well. When we have experienced the matchless grace of God, our hearts will be filled with compassion for our brothers and sisters as well as the unsaved. When they are in need, we will not be satisfied to just let them shift for themselves, but will show a personal concern for their total welfare. Likewise, if a fellow believer is stumbling along living a defeated life or doing things that defile the Body, we are affected as parts of that Body. So it is our responsibility not to criticize or judge but to lend a helping hand and restore those who are weak in a spirit of meekness. When your brother or sister in the Lord stumbles or falls flat on his face, the last thing he needs from you is, "I told you so". From you he needs understanding and assurance that God's grace and mercy cannot be overtaxed. This assurance is evident in Hebrews 8:12-"I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their iniquities will I remember no more." God's patience might be tried but that's not your department. God will take care of that."... whom He loveth He chasteneth." Hebrews 12:6. After a person has been saved, he should do all he can to serve God for this is the purpose of his new life in Christ (Eph. 2:10) Remember, you can serve without loving, but you will not love without serving. Those of us who know the Lord are told by God to be a holy people. God isn't kidding when He says that either. This holiness is not obtained by struggling to keep the Ten Commandments. If we could do that, we wouldn't have needed Jesus to die for us. But, we are to permit Jesus to live His life through us by faith as the result of yielding the right of way to the indwelling Christ. If you trusted him to save you, you can trust Him to "clean up your act", if you move over and let Him run your life.

No matter which way you look, there is immorality looking back at you. We live in a dirty, filthy world. There are so many who claim Christ as Saviour and let it go at that. God has a far greater purpose for His own. He saved us to reveal His Son through us in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation. Are you aware of the fact that there is a high credibility gap among





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