

GOD'S IDEAL WOMAN

by

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CHAPTER TWO

ADVICE TO THE OLD MAID

ONE THING WORSE than being an old maid is getting the wrong man for a husband. It is far better to be “a Bachelor Girl,” or “unclaimed blessing,” than to have your heart crushed and home broken by an unfortunate marriage. There are plenty of women who “wish they were single again.”

Are you fighting life's battle alone while your heart yearns for a loving mate, a happy home, and little ones to care for? Are you lonely, envious, and even discouraged because some of your best friends are happily married and you seem to be left behind? Do you consider unmarried life a big problem, and is it hard to face this thing which seems to be the inevitable?

I trust that this explanation will be comforting to you. A little girl whispered to me once, “My aunt certainly likes you because you say such comforting things of the old maids, and she's one of ‘em.” I realize that I am discussing a very delicate subject, and I am praying for wisdom as I continue writing this chapter. I humbly suggest three things.

BE SELF-SUPPORTING

Every girl should make the proper preparation to be self-supporting. The majority of girls can get a good education if they have sufficient determination. It is nice to have the ability to “paddle your own canoe.” You can be happy in your work. There are plenty of activities to give scope to your gifts and an outlet for your womanhood. No girl need become a “sour old maid” or the pathetic victim of self-pity. Don't ever be foolish enough to think that you are unwanted, useless, or overlooked.

If you are in the valley of sorrow, get out at once! I remember an interesting and helpful motto that I saw in the home of a friend in England.

“Today is the tomorrow that you worried about yesterday, and all is well.”

Cultivate the art of making and keeping friends; have some good hobbies and interest others in them; stay busy in worthwhile activities; plan your vacations so that you can take some nice trips to different parts of the country, and abroad, if possible; and spend plenty of time reading good literature.

Many girls seem to have no real ambition in life. Some are resting on their oars of past accomplishments. It should be encouraging to know that you can do everything that you are supposed to do. **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”** (Philippians 4:13).

It isn't so much the thing you've done
That should occupy your mind;
It is better far to look ahead
Than it is to look behind.

Let others praise your accomplished work,
If they will, but as for you,
It isn't so much the thing you've done
As the thing you are going to do.

When you've finished a task don't think it is time
To take an unlimited rest;
Just think of the work that is coming next
And how you can do it best.

A finished job, if it's been well done,
Is a pleasant thing to view,
But always the most important thing
Is the thing you are going to do.

So look ahead, and make your plans
For whatever may come to hand;
Then start with a will to do the job,
And do it as you have planned.

You've a right to be proud of the thing you have done,
If it's done well, that is true,
But the thing on which you should keep your mind
Is the thing you are going to do.

Don't neglect your prayer life and your daily Bible reading. Have you ever read the Bible all the way through? You will find within the lids of the Bible a solution for every problem in your life. It is a very practical book. The central theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to help you in all your work. He will change your job into a position. You should think of your work not as secular, but as sacred.

When temptations come, Christ will give you power to overcome; when sorrow comes, He is near to comfort and cheer; when misunderstanding comes, He is ever present and always understands.

Others may fail you, but Christ will never let you down.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him” (Psalm 103:13).

“No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11).

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

He's helping me now — this moment,
Though I may not see it or hear,
Perhaps by a friend far distant,
Perhaps by a stranger near,
Perhaps by a spoken message,
Perhaps by the printed word;
In ways that I know and know not,
I have the help of the Lord.

He's keeping me now — this moment,
However I need it most,
Perhaps by a single angel,
Perhaps by a mighty host,
Perhaps by the chain that frets me,
Or the walls that shut me in;
In ways that I know and know not,
He keeps me from harm or sin.

He's guiding me now — this moment,
In the pathways easy or hard,
Perhaps by a door wide open,
Perhaps by a door fast barred,
Perhaps by a joy withholden,
Perhaps by a gladness given;
In ways that I know and know not,
He's leading me up to heaven.

He's using me now — this moment,
And whether I go or stand,
Perhaps by a plan accomplished,
Perhaps when He stays my hand,
Perhaps by a word in season,

Perhaps by a silent prayer;
In ways that I know and know not,
His labor of love I share.

—Annie Johnson Flint

DESIRE GOD'S WILL

I understand that boy babies die more easily than girls; therefore, the population is uneven. It seems that there are more Christian girls than Christian boys; so things are uneven again. We naturally draw the conclusion that it is not God's will for every girl to be married.

We read in II Corinthians 6:14, **"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"**

There is nothing better than being married if you are sure you are in the will of God. There is nothing more tragic than to marry out of God's will. Here is a story told me by a woman who attended one of our campaigns:

"I was converted when I was quite young. I later felt a definite call to the foreign mission field. I was selfish and stubborn, and refused the call of God. I wanted a home and family, and now I have both; but I don't have that deep peace in my heart that comes only by doing God's will. I am working in the church, trying to give my second best, but I regret that I did not give Him my first best."

Are you willing to say good-by to your selfish plans and to follow Christ by faith from day to day?

If we could see beyond today
As God can see;
If all the clouds should roll away,
The shadows flee,
O'er present griefs we would not fret,
Each sorrow we would soon forget,
For many joys are waiting yet
For you and me.

If we could know beyond today
As God doth know,
Why dearest treasures pass away
And tears must flow;
And why the darkness leads to light,
Why dreary paths will soon grow bright;
Some day life's wrongs will be made right—
Faith tells me so.

“If we could see, if we could know,”
We often say,
But God in love a veil doth throw
Across our way;
We cannot see what lies before
And so we cling to Him the more,
He leads us till this life is o’er;
Trust and obey.

GIVE CHRIST YOUR ALL

On my trip around the world I found that some of the most successful missionaries were unmarried ladies. Some of them could have been married, too, but God had a job for them to do alone. Florence Nightingale, Frances Willard, Mary Slessor and many others did not confine their love to a single household; but God used them to bless the multitudes. They have left the world richer because of their unselfish labors in hospitals, schools, camps, other vocations, and in the home and foreign mission fields.

Christ will not only be your Savior and friend; but Isaiah 54:5 says, “**For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name.**” Every Christian is a part of the bride of Christ. How wonderful to be able to sing,

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly.

I cannot think of finer, greater words than, “**Christ died for our sins**” (I Corinthians 15:3).

Though we are sinful, unworthy and unlovely, He loves us with an everlasting love. He says, “**I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,**” and He is the same yesterday and today and forever.

He loves me, He loves me,
O the wonder of such a thought,
That He loves me;

He loves me, He loves me,
I never could love Him the way I ought,
But He loves me.

Have you given Christ your all? He is anxious to lift every burden, solve every problem, answer every question, and supply your every need. He will give you power to be the spiritual mother of many. His way is the best and only way that counts for time and for eternity.

Will you pray this prayer every day? “Lord, help me to know Thy will, to love Thy will, and to do Thy will for my life.” Are you willing to yield your all upon His altar and let Him choose everything for you?

1 dare not choose my lot,
I would not if I might,
Choose Thou for me, my God,
So 1 shall walk aright.

The kingdom that I seek
Is Thine; so let the way
That leads to it be Thine,
Else surely 1 might stray.

Take Thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem,
Choose Thou my good and ill.

Choose Thou for me my friends,
My sickness and my health,
Choose Thou my cares for me
My poverty or wealth.

Not mine — not mine the choice,
In things both great and small,
Be Thou my Guide, my Strength,
My Wisdom and my ALL.

— H. Bonar

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