

## A War on Women

7-27-14

There are a number of Godly women of great importance in the Bible. Sarah by faith brought forth Isaac. Rahab's righteous actions saved herself and her family, and earned her a place in the lineage of Christ. Ruth's faithfulness is subject of a book, as is Esther's. Then consider the women who followed Jesus; so righteous were they that they were the first to see the Gospel fulfilled, and testify of it to others.

Today there is a war on women that seeks to destroy these models of righteous conduct. It seeks to remove the Godly Wife, to destroy the homemaking mother, and to dissolve the virtuous woman. This war is in part waged with false comparisons; to make women see models of femininity that are not spiritual but carnal. These false standards are deadly. Let us consider several tactics in this war.

First, there is the Big Lie: "You need to look perfect". Our world is absorbed with looks. It tells women of the need to be the perfect shape, the perfect weight, or the perfect attire. The Bible commends women to avoid being carnal creatures, but to work on spiritual qualities. In I Peter 3:3-6 Peter makes this point, and in I Timothy 2:9 Paul does the same.

Second, there is the Big Lie: "You need to act perfect". The expectation that a woman can and must meet all roles in life at once: homemaker, mother, wife, worker, etc. Yet these roles demand a commitment to perfection that is not possible to meet for all. In other words, women cannot be the perfect home-maker and at the same time a perfect employee. We need to realize that in difference parts of our lives, we are fulfilling different roles. Paul commanded the older women in the church to teach this to the younger women in Titus 2:4-5.

Third, there is the Big Lie: "You need men to look". We are bombarded with images of women reduced to carnal features for the pleasures of ungodly men. Righteous men are embarrassed with such things, knowing that to look is to sin (Matthew 5:28). Righteous men make commitments not to do as much (Job 31:1-4), so that the ONLY men who derive pleasure from immodesty are the ungodly. One ancient writer said this:

*"Luxurious clothing that cannot conceal the shape of the body is no covering at all. Such clothing, clinging close to the body...outlines the woman's figure so that the whole shape of her body is visible to **spectators** even though they cannot actually see the body itself.... such clothing is meant for looking, not covering" - Clement, 180AD*

The Divine Pattern is simple: a woman's worth is NOT physically met, it is spiritually discerned. Therefore, women ought to resist the warfare against them and esteem spiritual characteristics in themselves. DO not let a scale or a magazine define you, but let the word teach you. In Proverbs 31:10-31 the "perfect" woman is described, yet NOT ONCE are we told she is beautiful or attractive in appearance. She is desirable because she is righteous. *"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."*