



by Linda Minnick

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.  
~ Proverbs 31:30*

### **Purpose of class**

To encourage and aid single women in all walks of life to live in undistracted devotion to the Lord for His glory

### **Recommended Reading List**

Be careful not to let books take the place of Scripture to meet your spiritual needs.

### **Bibliography of Biographies**

Ps. 145 embodies the purpose for Christian biographies.

*Ps. 145:3-12*

*Great is the LORD, and **highly to be praised**, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation **shall praise Your works** to another, and **shall declare Your mighty acts**. On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, **I will meditate**. Men shall **speak** of the power of Your awesome acts, and I will **tell** of Your greatness. They shall **eagerly utter** the memory of Your abundant goodness and will **shout joyfully** of Your righteousness.*

We are to look for the mighty acts of **God**, not the mighty acts of individuals, and realize the people are ordinary just like I am; and yet God can carry on His great works in the world through them just like He can and will through me.

# Single on Purpose

## Summary of *Sisters in Christ* by Cindy Melius<sup>1</sup>

1. Ephesians 4:1-6 talks about the Unity that God has designed for the body of Christ.

*... Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all ... gentleness (meekness), ... being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

- one thing required for unity is “gentleness” or “meekness”

- meekness—“willingness to drink whatever cup the Father gives us” (Jim Berg)

- a quality that God highly values.

*... The imperishable quality of a gentle (meekness) and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God (1 Pet. 3:4)*

2. Ephesians 4 also points out how that God’s gifting of each individual is what achieves the unity.

*Eph. 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

*Eph. 4:16 From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

- i.e. it takes both single and married women to make up the Body of Christ and to cause it to function as God designed.



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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt taken from Ladies Sunday School Class, 8/30/2009.  
[www.mountcalvarybaptist.org/audio/Aug 2009 Delights and Duties of Discipleship - Biblical Solutions For Life/08-30-09ss Sisters In Christ Cindy Melius.m3u](http://www.mountcalvarybaptist.org/audio/Aug%202009%20Delights%20and%20Duties%20of%20Discipleship%20-%20Biblical%20Solutions%20For%20Life/08-30-09ss%20Sisters%20In%20Christ%20Cindy%20Melius.m3u)

3. I Corinthians 7:7, 17 teaches that both marriage and singleness are gifts from God.

*. . . Each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.*

*Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk . . .*

4. Marriage can be just as temporary as singleness and therefore should not be the ultimate goal in a woman's life. The goal in life is to serve the Lord, and in fact, the single woman has the advantage over the married woman.

*1 Cor. 7:34 And his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.*

*1 Cor. 7:35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*

*1 Cor. 7:40 But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.*



## **Make the most of your calling/gift.**

### **1. Spiritual Growth:**

*2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

-Pour your energies into nurturing your spiritual transformation through the Scriptures.

### **2. Self Sacrifice:**

*Rom. 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

-Be willing to give your life in service to the Lord

-Don't dwell on what you want, what you think would be fulfilling for you, what's wrong with your personality, what's wrong with your background, etc., etc., etc.

### **3. Love**

*Matt. 22:37-39. . . . LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, and . . . LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.*



### **For young women:**

*1 Cor. 7:34-35 . . . The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*

1. Don't "wait" for marriage.
2. Make yourself indispensable to the Lord's work

### **For "women with experience:"**

*Tit. 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women . . .*

- *To be sensible, pure, . . . kind, . . . so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*
- *To adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. 1 Tit. 2:9*
- *To let their adornment not be merely external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but . . . the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 1 Pet. 3:3*

## The Proverbs 31 Woman

### Her Worth

*A “virtuous woman,” who can find?  
For her worth is far above jewels.  
The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
And he will have no lack of gain.  
She does him good and not evil  
All the days of her life.*

10-12

### Her Work

*She looks for wool and flax  
And **WORKS** with her **hands** in delight.  
She is like merchant ships;  
She brings her food from afar.  
She rises also while it is still night  
And gives food to her household  
And portions to her maidens.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
From her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She girds herself with strength  
And makes her arms strong.  
She senses that her gain is good;  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She stretches out her **hands** to the distaff,  
And her **hands** grasp the spindle.  
She extends her **hand** to the poor,  
And she stretches out her **hands** to the needy.  
She is not afraid of the snow for her household,  
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.  
She makes coverings for herself;  
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the gates,  
When he sits among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells *them*,  
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.*

13-24

## Her Character

*Strength and dignity are her clothing, . . . . .* **STRONG**  
*. . . . .* **DIGNIFIED**

*And she smiles at the future. . . . .* **CONFIDENT**

*She opens her mouth in wisdom, . . . . .* **WISE**

*And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. . . . .***KIND**

*She looks well to the ways of her household, .* **EFFICIENT**

*And does not eat the bread of idleness. . .* **INDUSTRIOUS**

25-27

## Her Praise

*Her children rise up and **bless** her;*

*Her husband also, and he **praises** her, saying:*

*"Many daughters have done nobly,*

*But you excel them all."*

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,*

*But **a woman who fears the LORD.***

*she shall be praised.*

*Give her the product of her **hands**,*

*And let her **WORKS** praise her in the gates.*

28-31

## Where does her praise come from?

-those who know her for her good works—and that's proper, not proud!

*-I want women to adorn themselves . . . by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. 1 Tim. 2:9-10*

**-from God Himself**

*-Your adornment . . . let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 1 Pet. 3:3-4*

Produced and distributed by:  
Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville, SC 29601, © 2009  
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