

What Kind of Wife?

I once heard a man say that he could look at a woman and tell whether she was single or not. He said he could do this without ever looking at her hand to see if she was wearing a ring. It wasn't the first time I had heard a man be so bold as to make a statement like this, but it was the first time that I had paused to give it any consideration. In the instance I heard it I wanted to say something clever, something that would send him away with a significant bent in his so-called analytical prowess, but I found that I couldn't. The statement left me at a loss for words, and I wondered why it made me feel so uncomfortable.

As a single woman at the time, I thought to myself, *"If there's something I'm exuding that screams my 'single status', I want to make sure it screams, 'I'm not single for long' as well."* In order to do this I had to ask some hard questions of myself, be willing to deal with the answers, and then change my attitude accordingly. It wasn't easy, and it took a while because I was a little stubborn, but I came to find out that my faith to meet my future husband would not yield results until I became flexible. I had to be willing to change according to God's will.

Thinking about the man's statement a bit more, I had to admit the fact that some of us get so used to being single that we become inflexible and unapproachable. We broadcast an attitude that tells a man that there's "NO ROOM" in our hearts.

No matter how bad we think we want to be married, deep down we really only want a man who will make us comfortable in our old ways. If he requires what we consider to be *too much work*, then we don't want to be bothered. I'm convinced that some men really do have a radar that kinda sniffs that stuff out. They know when a woman either doesn't have the capacity or the willingness to step outside herself to accommodate the care of another.

It's non-sense to think for one moment that you'll find someone who doesn't require you to step outside your comfort zone, because doing so is one of the chief reasons why God set up marriage in the first place. Don't you think that after Eve persuaded Adam to sin that he wondered why in the world the Father put them together. I'm sure that's what Adam thought. The first words out of his mouth when God found out about his sin was *"this woman you gave me...she did it! She caused me to mess up!"*

Things in Adam's and Eve's marriage got sticky real quick, so I think it's a safe bet that keeping you in your comfort zone isn't God's main concern. The Father wants you to learn to be flexible, so that you are able to paint your portrait as someone's wife into the image of Christ.

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You may be tired of being single, but make no mistake about it, being a wife is a huge responsibility; not every woman is ready for it. Proverbs 31:10-12(NLT) says "10, *Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies. 11, Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. 12, She will not hinder him but help him all her life.*" When you read this passage in Proverbs, you have to ask yourself "Are you really ready? What kind of wife would you be?" How will you handle the responsibility of helping to nurture someone's spiritual weaknesses when you still have some of your own? How will you love him when the romance isn't quite what it used to be? Will you be the kind of wife that has her husband's back under any and all circumstances? Will you do everything in your power to love and take care of him? Will you be faithful to the marriage a lifetime?

Sistas, we really have to think about these questions seriously, because let's face it, we've become a "ME" society. But that isn't the way of Christ. Yes, the Lord wants us to take real good care of ourselves, but he wants us to be genuinely caring and supportive help mates to our husbands. This is more than just an occupation; it's a calling—a duty and obligation to God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You can't think of your needs first. This is a hard pill to swallow for a lot of single sistas, but it's the truth.

You see, if you take care of God's business He'll take care of yours. Faith requires you to believe this truth so deeply and wholeheartedly that you don't flinch on it one second. God will entrust a loving and dutiful husband to those women who are willing to be loving and dutiful themselves.

The Father is particular when it comes to partnering up His daughter. He doesn't want you to hitch up with someone who isn't good for you. He wants you to have a good man, and your actions today must demonstrate that you are able and willing to love as the Father desires.

The passage in Proverbs speaks of a very special kind of woman, but it also asks a very important question, "*Who can find her?*" Can she be found in you? Despite difficulties and differences, even after arguments and the silent treatment between the two of you, can you always come back to the love? Being responsible for someone else's heart demands that you do. So remember, not every man is capable of being a husband, but those of them that are may be quietly sizing you up and asking themselves "*What kind of wife would she be?*"●

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