Proverbs 31 princesses

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18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

-Matt 18:1-4, ESV

One of the astounding things modern Christians have done is twist Scripture into a gospel of girlpower. Christian women are now taught that the Gospel is a message of high self esteem. From American Heritage Girls <u>Girl Power and God's Power</u>:

RECOGNIZING HER WORTH IN CHRIST

It is the prayer of the American Heritage Girls Ministry that girls understand both who they are and whose they are. Through <u>Progressive Programming</u> tailored to the age and ability of the child, AHG Troop Members are given the opportunity to discover their gifts and talents, allowing them to grow in their confidence and self-esteem. In a word, Girl Members are given a chance to find their worth. In a world that places so much of a girl's self-worth in the way others perceive her, AHG strives to teach girls that they are already blessed with value beyond measure in the eyes of the Heavenly Father.

But even if there were no program like American Heritage Girls to teach girls the gospel of self esteem, they would be bombarded with this message across Christian women's social media.

All of Scripture is tortured until it preaches a message of feminist empowerment. As Wendy Griffith <u>explains</u>, women are the Pearl of Great Price!

Pearl of Great Price

Ladies, the Lord wants you to know that you are a pearl of great price, a treasure worth pursuing and protecting. You are worth fighting for and, like the pearl in the parable at the head of this chapter, worth everything it might cost a guy to obtain you. You are worth someone sacrificing his time, his routine, his comfort, his money, his whatever in order to have you. You are worth it! You are a prize to be won.

Christian women are of course hearing the message, as the blogger at Drurywriting discovered when teaching college students about sin. In <u>Do Women sin?</u> he explains that while his students have no trouble identifying a list of sins men are tempted by, they are reliably stumped when he asks them to list sins women tend to be tempted by. Eventually the women in his classes remember women's solitary weakness:

Lack of self esteem

Of all the Scripture modern Christians torture into a gospel of girlpower, Proverbs 31 is probably the <u>most frequently victimized</u>. From <u>A Proverbs 31 Princess</u> at flourishgathering.com:

You are the embodiment of the Proverbs 31 woman.

For many of us, including myself, we read about the Proverbs 31 woman and immediately disassociate ourselves from her. She is described as a "wife of noble character" (v. 10) whose "children stand and bless her" (v.28), and most of the time we hardly feel we fit that description.

Consider with me, however, that no matter what season of life you are in, you are a combination of the two truths I have set before you:

You are a Proverbs 31 Princess

The post concludes with:

So, rejoice, dear sister! You are not just an ordinary woman going through the throes of life, destined to stay where you are. You are the jewel in your Father's crown! You are a Princess who is every bit the Proverbs 31 Woman.

In a followup post titled <u>Embracing the Proverbs 31 princess</u>, the author explains that for Christian women self exaltation is an act of faith:

For many, accepting that we are a Proverbs 31 Princess is an act of faith, in and of itself. It's contrary to the way we think. The majority of us have never been told that we are royalty, let alone that we're worthy, beautiful, intelligent, and so-on.

As the author explains, not only is there a biblical tie in to Disney princesses, but there is a tie in to chivalry as well.

You and I have been given so much more than a magic pumpkin turned coach or a charming prince to woo us.

No, our Prince gave His very life for us at Calvary's Cross to ensure our place in God's kingdom was secured. Our worth can be seen in the nail-scarred hands of the One who loves us beyond measure. Ephesians 1:4 tells us that "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." (NLT)

Proverbs 31:10-31 provides with a model for being a Christian woman. This woman is set in the context of the culture of that time, but you and I can still aspire to be called "virtuous and capable." Living in the modern age does not disqualify us nor does it nullify her. As I said earlier this week, it doesn't matter what season of life you are in, you **are** the embodiment of the Proverbs 31 Princess.

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