

## TIE IT TOGETHER

In 2 Cor. 6:1 Paul says, "We also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain...Our mouth has opened freely to you, our heart is opened wide. You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections." In other words, now is the time to decide to lay aside these sinful ways of relating. You have talked about the reasons you do these things, and you have also found some mature, Biblical responses.

Why would we change? I mean, change is so hard and sometimes so lonely. Many times it means that you have to be "different" from everyone else. And, it can feel self-righteous, like you're better than anyone else. Again, it all depends on your attitude. Will you change because people are expecting you to, or because you have decided to follow Jesus? This is important.

In recent magazines it is written up how politicians, educators, civil authorities are beginning to think, "Maybe morals and virtue are good; maybe shame does serve a good purpose.!" But **we are Christians**. Why should we **wait for the world to tell us how to live** when God has already told us His way of living in the Bible. We are no longer daughters of Eve who have to grab and manipulate, but are daughters of a Living King who said, "Whoever drinks of my life shall never thirst, because the water I give will be like a well of water springing up and overflowing into eternal life." John 4:13,14. He is the one who loves us and desires the very best for us. Why would we not do what He says?

Let's determine to lay aside the influence of this **fickle** world, the **seduction** of Satan, as well as the **foolishness** in our own hearts and **submit** to God. Jesus has promised to love us eternally, and to never leave or desert us while we walk on this earth. He can be fully trusted. There is a warning in Mark 12:24, which says: "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures, or the Power of God." Let us put aside our childish ways of relating and become mature women of God, able to demonstrate to a lost world around us how lovely is our Living Lord.

We women are extremely influential. We can play a major role in the Body of Christ if we decide to "grow up" in Christ and do away with "childish ways."

It is hard to over-estimate the importance of women in God's scheme of things, and I think we know that! We know how powerful we are and how it can be used for destruction or redemption. All we have to do is remember how powerful our mother's influence was in our home (in positive and/or negative ways) and she probably still is very influential. The Bible is full of warnings about ungodly and contentious women; tempting and seductive women; controlling and destructive women. Ezekiel 16:44 says "like mother-like daughter" and shows the tremendous influential power that women have. And, unless we repent and change from these learned, sinful responses, we *will* **AMPLIFY** the sins of our mothers!

It is true that we can either make or break a man. With our deep, rich, emotional life we can love, honor, encourage, respect, trust and motivate men...or we can use those same deep, rich emotions in sinful ways to, cut him to pieces, punish, wrap his around our finger, control, disrespect him emotionally until he "gives in" or turns into a "functioning robot." "Whatever you say, honey!" A woman can so baffle a man with her emotional responses that he is totally confused. How awful. You don't really want that. You may "get" him, but it will be a terrible relationship. Love is supreme **unselfishness**. Jesus said, "lose your life for my sake, and you will gain it.!" That's what He did. Let's resolve to imitate Christ rather than live by "schemes and plots."

One of the reasons it is so important to build love relationships with other women is because they will not be fooled by our devious ways, but can help us to mature so that when we are ready to consider marriage, we will be mature and thus able to present ourselves to a husband as a unique, whole, contented woman ready to give herself sacrificially in love.