



WOMEN LIKE US

“...A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised”
Prov. 31:30

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TEEN PROSTITUTION: It Could Be Your Kid

According to an article in the August 18 (2006) issue of *Newsweek* teen prostitution is on the rise. Both local and federal law enforcement officials are saying there is a marked increase in teen prostitution in cities across the country.

Several groups that work with teen prostitutes say the kids are getting younger and younger with the average age of a new recruit being just thirteen years old according to the FBI.

When you think of prostitution the thought of an average teenager in good health, with a good family and getting a good education does not even cross your mind. Prostitution is for the 'hard-luck' cases, meaning for girls who have no family and no money or for teens that have

been sexually abused in some way. Unfortunately the most alarming thing about the rise in teen prostitution is that these teens are coming out of a **growing number of middle and upper-class homes!** There has been a 70% increase over the last three years of middle to upper-class teens becoming prostitutes, many of whom have not suffered mental, sexual, or physical abuse.

Parents, think of all the places that you let your teenager go. Malls, movies, parks, fairs, church and all the other places that these kids like to go. Pimps, sexual predators and pedophiles are not as dumb as they appear on TV. They are

increasingly targeting girls at the local malls and other places that parents consider a safe haven for their kids to gather.

Isn't it puzzling that girls who are not poor and down on their luck and who are not forced into prostitution have suddenly begun selling themselves for thrills and money? It's easy cash and you get a little pleasure out of it too! Everyone thinks that all prostitutes are runaways with major drug problems from the inner city but folks it isn't true, **this could be your kid!**

Pressed

Contact Us

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THE WRITTEN WORD

We are always looking for articles that can address any aspect of living as a woman serving the Lord in ministry and as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We'd like to see articles that apply biblical principles to every day relationships, help readers with personal ministry in the church, and articles for helping them and others grow in Christ. Topics like: balance, intimacy with Christ,

handling criticism, friendship, conflict, faith, church life, prayer, evangelism, change, spirit-filled living, finances, forgiveness, God's will, spiritual warfare, staying committed to Christ through all kinds of trials/ good times/hard times, parenting, ministry helps, ideas, and resources, leadership principles and

issues, pain, fighting weariness in ministry, church wounds, and anything that will be helpful to women with a heart for ministry. This will also assist us in planning events that cater to women. **(Word count- 300 words or less - Feature articles-500 words)**

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THE "P" IN WE

by Minister Juetaun Drewitt

But to help us find the "P" in we.
 Where do you find the "P"?
 Is it in the Book of Psalms that follows
 the Laws or
 The Wisdom literature of Proverbs?
 Can it be the little "p" that all men search
 yet cannot possess?
 And if that is your answer you are not at
 your best.
 I found a "p" in Mary the mother of our
 creation, she was
 Considered prudent in most situations,
 Deborah was prophetic and fearless in-
 deed,
 She delivered His word and the warriors
 did heed.
 Then there is Esther principled at best
 she stood her ground

And yes, passed the test.
 Do you see where I'm headed, can
 you clearly see?
 Where do we find the "p" in we?
 Ruth was proactive, Abigail
 proficient, Lydia was professional all
 were more than sufficient.
 These are traits each one of us
 confesses.
 When you look in the mirror do you
 truly possess?
 To be like Phoebe practical and kind
 or calling on women
 Like Hannah who pray all the time.
 I've come to promote with positive
 intent and when we're done here.
 I pray it's time well spent.

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**One door
 closes...another
 opens**

*"I have put before you
 an open door which no
 man can shut.."*

(Rev. 3:8)

When God leads
 you to the edge of a
 cliff, trust Him fully
 and let go. One of
 two things will
 happen, either He
 will catch you or
 He will teach you to
 fly.

WHERE ARE THE HOSEA'S?

The Bible speaks of a prophet by the name of Hosea. The story of Hosea is about unconditional love. Even though Hosea's suffering was great, his love was greater. We see illustrated in Hosea an example of God's unconditional love. The book of Hosea demonstrates through action Hosea's love for his wife Gomer. Gomer was unfaithful, disrespectful, and an adulterer among other things. However Hosea learned to love her regardless of the pain it caused him. His demonstration of love was also consistent. He never wavered, no matter what she did or didn't do. Although his heart was broken many times, although his expectations went unmet many times, although his hopes faded many times, he continued to love her. Wouldn't it be an awesome testimony of the love of God, if husbands as well as wives showed this kind of love to one another. As difficult as it

may be the Lord has provided His Holy Spirit as a means to empower us to do just that. It's a shame that 1 out of every 2 Christian marriages are failing, in spite of the power available to us. One major reason is that the sin of self has invaded our marriages. We are no longer one but now two! It's all about what "I" get out of marriage, failing to see the bigger picture. The world needs to see what the love of God looks like, and there is no grander stage to see it in action than marriage. The world needs to see God's grace, forgiveness, mercy, and forbearance through the union of marriage. Not only does the world need to see this in action, but so do our children, other family members, and co-workers, saved and unsaved. I admit that marriage may be the toughest challenge you may ever undergo. And I realize we are not God, but "...we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength". Encourage your mate to read the book of Hosea and

then ask them to ask themselves these questions. Am I a Hosea? Am I demonstrating that type of love to my wife?



"...and they shall become one flesh..." Gen. 23: 24c

THE ART OF FORGIVENESS!

by Brenetia Adams-Robinson



Every individual whose life is steeped in unhappiness, despondency or defeatism can be traced back to bad, misguided, often miserable relationships or trauma.

From the beginning of creation, God anointed two areas of life with a great anointing – our relationship with Him, which is the foundation of all that is necessary for true peace and our ultimate salvation; and our relationship with each other, which is the foundation of true happiness and fulfillment. When these areas are aligned according to Godly principles, destiny, as ordained by God, is assured. One of the main things that hinder growth in both these critical areas is our penchant to hang on to past hurt, heartache and pain. To refuse to let go of the mess, muck and mire of the past, is to accept a dimming to the glorious brightness of the present and the future. Allowing the mess, muck and mire to prevail keeps us from believing in the potential of fulfilling relationship possibilities or that the good of life is something that God has for our lives. We don't truly believe that destiny is real and happiness is possible – that what God has for us, no man nor woman can take from us. We cocoon ourselves in mediocrity as a safety net rather than fight for the happiness we deserve. In order to position ourselves for all that God has for us, we must first BELIEVE that we deserve great things – that we are His masterpiece designed for a good work, through Jesus Christ, that was ordained by God before our birth. We must let go of the hurt, disappointment and unforgiveness that keeps us bound in self imposed limitations and mediocrity. God does not limit our potential, our ability or our relationships. We do! We limit the abundance we are meant to possess by accepting "less than" our promised destiny – less love, less hope, less vision, less wealth, less power, less victory, less happiness! Satan is fine with you living a "less than" life. Question is – are you!? In order to avoid "less than" living, we must embrace forgiveness and release of the ghost of our past.

There is an old axiom that says we are to

'forgive and forget' all the issues of our past. Many religious individuals teach us that when we get saved, that we should instantly put all the stuff of our past out of our minds – forget all the bad things that happen, forgive and move on – don't think about it and all will be well with the world. A great portion of this teaching is true and quite biblical. But one portion is missing and one portion is incomplete. So, let's break down in biblical terms what it means to forget and how critical it is to your healing and release to forgive. The Word of God makes it clear that forgiveness is not a suggestion; it is a mandate if you seek a life of peace, joy, and contentment. Matthew 6:12-15 tells us that "if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." We are held to the same standard Jesus showed as he died on the cross when he said forgive them for they know not what they do. When we forgive we give God the freedom to give us a life of purpose and move us into our destiny. We also free ourselves of the burden of anger, irritation, bitterness and resentment.

When you allow unforgiveness to prevail in your life, you keep yourself bound in a position of defeat that promotes negativity in your life. Physical ailments; low self image; inferiority complex; excessive behavior – such as alcoholism, sex addiction, eating disorders; explosive temperament; manipulation; self criticism; anxiety – the list goes on. In human behavior, many of these factors will occur at times; however, when unresolved issues persist in your spirit, these behaviors become lifestyles that cripple the ability to truly live. Such behavior directly impacts every area of life and hinder otherwise great potential. Employing forgiveness is a mandatory process in order to assure a healthy balance in your life and to give your spirit peace and contentment. To tell your mind to totally forget all the bad things that happened to you is to say that you want to bury you – you are your experiences. God does not expect you to get spiritual amnesia when you embrace your Christian foundation. Biblically, when applying the principle of forgive and forget, you are to forget the negative emotions associated with the experience. You are to forget the emotionalism of the experience that promotes hate, bitterness and unforgiveness. God wants you to forget the negative emotion associated with the experience; but He does not want you to forget the lesson. The lesson from the experience is

what you must embrace and pass on in your testimony and that can propel you to your next level.

When you can let go and forgive the negativity of your past and embrace a faith building lesson, then and only then can God begin to manifest your destiny and open doors to the life you say you desire. If you don't want to sit on your porch in your seasoned years with a bunch of woulda, shoulda, couldas, positioned yourself to face your issues, forgive, let go and embrace your destiny. God is waiting on you!!

"With God all things are possible. Let Him order your steps and you can't help but walk in Destiny!"

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STILLNESS UNDER STRESS—Renewing Your Strength



A recent survey indicated that 82 percent of Americans felt they needed less stress in their lives.

The following statistics are attributed to the real or imagined stress confronting people today:

- More than 1 million people have heart attacks each year.
- One out of every 10 Americans is an alcoholic. It is estimated that 8 million people have ulcers. Some 25 million people have high blood pressure.
- Stress related mental disorders account for a 17 billion dollar decline in production

annually.

- More than 60 billion dollars has been lost due to stress related physical disorders.
- One out of five Americans will experience a heart attack before age 60.

It's stressful just reading a list of statistics like that! We deal with stress from the moment we enter this world until the moment we leave.

Children face the stress of learning, parental demands and entry into school. Teenagers are continually exposed to the unrelenting stress of peer pressure, identity issues and the search for meaning. Young adulthood brings the stress of career choices, marriage and early parenting. Singles face the stress of delayed marriage, divorce and single-parenting. The executive faces the pressure of increasing demands to stay on top. The factory worker faces the pressure of monotony. Retirement sees the stress of financial security. On and on the list goes.

God has something to say to our stress. *"Keep silence before me, O islands,*

and let the people renew their strength" (Isa 41:1). We need a sense of inner strength to combat the external stress of our times.

One of the earliest definitions of the word cope was "to meet and contend with in combat." Life is like a fight, and constant pressure is an enemy that we must master before it masters us.

How do we maintain such inner strength so that we do not collapse under pressure?

God says, *"Keep silent before me."* We need to be still, silent and restful. We need to pull away from the hustle and bustle of life and **reevaluate** our priorities, **restructure** our lives and **replenish** our resources.

Find time today for stillness and silent meditation before the Lord and renew your strength.

Valeria McClelland
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WHAT IS A TITUS 2 WOMEN?

Some use this name to describe the way a Christian woman should behave. They refer to the second chapter of the Book of Titus in the Bible, containing commands for women. The Book of Titus is actually a letter that the apostle Paul wrote to his co-worker, Titus.

Paul and Titus, had worked on the island of Crete spreading the gospel. In New Testament times the people of Crete were in a deplorable moral state. They were known for dishonesty, gluttony and laziness. While they had come to belief in Christ, they still lived in their old habits. When Paul left Crete and traveled on, Titus remained as his representative, to further work with the believers. Paul wrote back to Titus to offer guidance in his work. He wrote commands for church leaders, older men, younger men and believers in general.

On the subject of women, he wrote:

Older women should be reverent in the way they live.

Reverent means deeply respectful.

They were not to be slanderers. *Slander is giving false or malicious statements or causing injury to someone's character. – They should not gossip.*

They shouldn't be addicted to wine. *Paul gave the same advise*

in 1 Timothy 3:3&8 when speaking to Elders and Deacons.

The older women were to teach what is good, teach the younger women to love their husbands and children. *Perhaps the older women were to use their years of experience to teach that love is often what you do more than how you feel.*

to be self-controlled, *Self-control is having control of ones actions, feelings and emotions.*

Pure, *They should be virtuous*

busy at home – *They should be good managers of their home.*

to be kind

and subject to their husbands. *Paul wrote similar commands in Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18 and 1 Peter 3:1. A wife is to submit to her husband who is the authority in the home.*

What is a Titus 2 Woman? I don't see that she is any different than any other believer who recognize that the most important thing is emulating Christ and following His teaching. She conducts herself so that others see that our God is a God of harmony, peace, and of love. Believers were to follow these guidelines so that no one could slander God's word.

Lynne Chapman, Editor of Bellaonline Christian Living