

You may be surprised to read that focusing on being a wife and a mother can also be a mistake, placing your hope incorrectly on that role. In an effort to “focus on the family” some have swung the pendulum well past what the scriptures mean for your role as a wife and mother.

Shattering Your False Image

- 1 Some women place much of their hope in being married. Sometimes women reach their 20s in age and begin to experience despair and depression because they are not married. Consider the following situations and discuss why placing your worth in being a wife and mother is a empty, false image.

If your self-image and hope is built on having a husband, what will happen if you are never married?

Discuss: Is it better to never get married than to marry a person who mistreats you and does not “love you as Christ loved the church?”

If your self-image is built on your husband, what will happen to you if your husband dies?

If your self-image is built on your husband, what will happen to you if your husband breaks God's law and divorces you?

If your self-image is built on your husband, what will happen to you if your husband mistreats you, is demeaning to you, and not sacrificial toward you?

If your self-image is built on your husband, what will happen if we ever suffer a time of severe persecution?

Is it sinful to be single? Is there “something wrong with you” to be a single woman? Explain. Do you feel pressure to get married and not be single?

- 2 Consider how placing your worth on your marriage can be damaging to a marriage. Consider the heavy expectations that you bring to a marriage if being married will finally give you the value and worth and purpose you are looking for in life. Write down reasons why such expectations could destroy a marriage:

- 3 Apply all the same questions to be a mother. If you hope is in being a mother and your identity is bound up in your children, what will happen to you if you can't bear children, your children are not perfect, become ill, or die? What will happen to the relationship with your children that will be damaging?

Establishing Your True Image

- 4 **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.** Write down what each picture of us means and how that changes your value in Christ.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
(1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV)

Chosen race:

Royal priesthood:

Holy nation:

People for his own possession:

Called out of darkness into his marvelous light:

You are God's people:

Received mercy:

TRANSFORMATION:

- 1 Read 1 Peter 2:9 above again. Carefully consider why God has done this for us. Write down why we are the chosen race, holy nation, and his own possession. What are we to be doing?
- 2 How can we accomplish what you have written down for an answer above? What have you learned about who you are in Christ?