

Jewels For His Crown

A periodical for
Christian Young
Ladies.



March/April 2012



Greetings from the Miller Family!

My, how the year is rolling by! Does it ever make you stop and wonder what good you are doing for those that God has put in your pathway? We touch many folks around us as we live from day to day. Are we being a blessing to them or making our brother to transgress? The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. If those who know us best do not see those traits in our lives, what will they think of our God? Let us show the fruits of His Spirit in our daily walk that others may glorify our Heavenly Father!
~T. Miller

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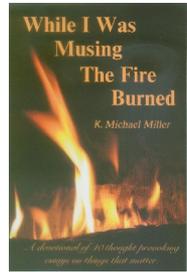
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Our Bookstore



Now available, “As The Days Go By”, a collection of poems by Sis. Teresa Miller. The book is a 68-page paperback edition of original poetry. The cost is \$6.95 plus sh/hdl charges.

Also available, “While I Was Musing, The Fire Burned”, a book of devotions written by Bro. Mike Miller, which many have already found a great blessing. The cost is \$9.95 plus sh/hdl charges.



You may order both books for \$15 plus sh/hdl by writing with your request to the address found on the back cover, or you may send an email to:

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You may also call directly at:
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A woman needs to know about a man’s background and character before he has worked his way into her heart.

According to the Bible’s perspective, if you are dating you are not just holding hands, you are holding hearts. What you do with your own heart, and what you do with another’s, is a matter of great importance.

*(both quotes from:
Richard D. and Sharon L. Phillips)*

*Let integrity and
uprightness preserve
me; for I wait on thee.*
Psalm 25:21



Protecting Your Integrity

1. Remain on guard at all times.
2. Be especially careful about temptations when you are at an emotional or physical low point.
3. Set clear boundaries and limits for yourself ahead of time.
4. Fill your life with good things and good people so there is less room for temptation.
5. When tempted, pray.
6. Memorize and recite scripture always; this gives you ammunition against the wiles of the devil.
7. When you fail, learn and grow from your failure.

The supreme test of goodness is not in the greater but in the smaller incidents of our character and practice; not what we are when standing in the searchlight of public scrutiny, but when we reach the firelight flicker of our homes; not what we are when some clarion-call rings through the air, summoning us to fight for life and liberty, but our attitude when we are called to sentry-duty in the gray morning, when the watch-fire is burning low. It is impossible to be our best at the supreme moment if character is corroded and eaten into by daily inconsistency, unfaithfulness, and besetting sin.
F.B. Meyer

A Woman's Question

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the Hand above?
A woman's heart, and a woman's life—
And a woman's wonderful love.

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dask of a boy.

You have written my lesson of duty out,
Manlike, you have questioned me.
Now stand at the bars of my woman's soul
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirt be whole;
I require your heart be true as God's stars
And as pure as His heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,
I require a far greater thing.
A seamstress you're wanting for socks and shirts,
I look for a man and a king.

A king for the beautiful realm called Home,
And a man that his Maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did on the first
And say, "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose may fade
From this soft young cheek one day;
Will you love me then 'mid the falling leaves,
As you did 'mong the blossoms of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and true,
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are grand and true,
All things that a man should be,
If you give this all, I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this, a laundress and cook
You can hire and little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won that way.

~Lena Lathrop

*Girls, always set your standard high.
But be worthy of the standard you set.*

To Give Your Heart

It was finally here—Anna’s wedding day, the day she had dreamed about and planned for months. The small, picturesque church was crowded with friends and family.

Sunlight poured through the stained-glass windows, and the gentle music of a string quartet filled the air. Anna walked down the aisle toward David. Joy surged within her. This was the moment for which she had waited so long. He gently took her hand, and they turned toward the altar.

But as the minister began to lead Anna and David through their vows, the unthinkable happened. A girl stood up in the middle of the congregation, walked quietly to the altar, and took David’s other hand. Another girl approached and stood next to the first, followed by another. Soon, a chain of six girls stood by him as he repeated his vows to Anna.

Anna felt her lip begin to quiver as tears welled up in her eyes. “Is this some kind of joke?” she whispered to David.

“I’m...I’m sorry, Anna,” he said, staring at the floor.

“Who are these girls, David? What is going on?” she gasped.

“They’re girls from my past,” he answered sadly. “Anna, they don’t mean anything to me now...but I’ve given part of a my heart to each of them.”

“I thought your heart was mine,” she said.

“It is, it is,” he pleaded. “Everything that is left is yours.”

A tear rolled down Anna’s cheek. Then she woke up.

(This was a real dream, dreamed by a young girl that was planning to get married. It made her think about her own past and how many young men would be lining up beside her if that would actually happen. Every time you develop an emotional relationship with someone, you are giving your heart to that person. Your spouse will want your whole heart...guard it carefully!)

Note: This story was taken from Joshua Harris’ book, “I Kissed Dating Goodbye”. (Used by permission.) I cannot fully recommend this book as he used so many different versions of scripture, but it is truly gleanable for older girls to read.

How About A Date?

“Marriage is honourable in all,...”

Hebrews 13:4

Growing up is so wonderful and exciting! With each new year, some new privilege or responsibility becomes available to you. You see the future full of possibilities and promise. There are decisions that you will make in the next few years that will make your life wonderful and blessed...or those decisions could ruin and wreck every dream that you have ever had for your future. Those choices will be yours to make.

Even if you have good parents that try to guide you and teach you honorable principles, you will be responsible for what you do, not them. The reason that your parents are trying to guide your thoughts and actions as you decide on these life issues is that they have a longer view than you do, and that is not any fault of your own. Life teaches lessons that can only be taught through years of living. A wise son and daughter will listen to the council of their parents patiently and with respect for the wisdom that those years have given them. Keep in mind that they love you more than anyone ever will and they want you to succeed and be happy.

One issue that seems to be up for inspection is whether or not dating is a good thing. You must admit, the whole world has gone in that direction and it has been happening for years. The peer pressure to participate in this thing called dating is tremendous from all sides. But is that a good enough excuse for something to be called “good”? When we are talking about dating we are talking about the practice of unmarried couples going out alone without a chaperon, and putting themselves in situations where temptation to become immoral and the opportunity to succumb to it is sure to arise. We are talking about a couple attempting to establish their relationship independent of their parents and family, and excluding all those who also have a stake in this union and what results from it. For the sake of argument, let us take a closer look at dating in general and see where this ritual all began.

Dating is not something that has always been. It became more prominent and accepted when women began to claim more personal rights. Back in 1848, the first women’s rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, and began changes that would undo not only the “unfair” treatment of women but would also undermine the very bedrock of God’s order; *“the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”* (1Corinthians 11:3) As we covered in a past devotion, if you destroy your foundation or build on a shaky one, your house is going to fall and great will be the fall of it!

Dating, as we know it, has only been around for about the past 100 years. It was back in the 1920’s that the dating game really began to roll. Many immoral things became accepted in the “roaring twenties”, like women smoking, wearing pants,

cutting their hair in short hairstyles and going out alone with young men on a “date”. *“One of the most scandalous aspects of the Twenties was the propensity for daring young women (“flappers”) to go out to speakeasies (illegal bars), dance halls, restaurants, and parties without a chaperone. They could drink, smoke cigarettes, bob their hair, and dance all the immoral fad dances like the Charleston. But remember, just because some were doing these things hardly meant all young women were.”* (Quoted from Mary Miley.wordpress.com) *“Flapper fashion embraced all things and styles modern. A fashionable flapper had short sleek hair, a shorter than average shapeless shift dress, a chest as flat as a board, wore make up and applied it in public, smoked with a long cigarette holder, exposed her limbs and epitomized the spirit of a reckless rebel who danced the nights away in the Jazz Age.”* (Quoted from Fashion Era.com)

In 1Corinthians 7:1, Paul writes, *“It is good for a man not to touch a woman.”* And why would he say such a thing? The next verse explains it further, *“to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”* (v. 2) “But we are not talking about marriage here, we are talking about dating.” But if dating is not the prerequisite to marriage, what are you doing? You are fooling around with emotions and desires that should be significant to marriage, not to dating.

The media does not help us, either. Books, magazines, movies and more are all geared to the “romance of true love”. But did you know that the definition of “romance” is *“a fictitious story, a tale of extraordinary adventures often extravagant.”* That does not sound much like true love, does it? If all a person is looking for in a relationship is romance then all they want is a pretty, storybook experience that will not last. This kind of relationship is not only harmful but also cheapens the character of the two that are involved. Almost every rock song from the 1950’s, and a very large portion of country music is built around the theme of falling in love and breaking up or being left for another.

The main objective of dating is to get to know the other person in whom you are interested. The harm in dating is that when you go out with someone you will be on your best behavior, dressed and polished to perfection and trying to impress your date. That person is not seeing the real “you” any more that you are seeing them in their “real” state. So dating actually causes you to put on a false front and try to be something that you are not. It causes you to lie, and to believe the lies of another. Then you make a life long commitment based on falsehoods. You promise your life to another without knowing their true character and values.

If all you are interested in is a relationship without commitment, then you are simply fulfilling selfish desires. Any continuing relationship causes intimate feelings to develop. Too many take these relationships lightly and cause real hurt and damage. Think of it this way: *“Deepening intimacy without defining a level of commitment is dangerous. It’s like going mountain climbing with a partner who isn’t sure she wants the responsibility of holding your rope. When you’ve limbed*

two thousand feet up a mountain face, you don't want to have a conversation about how she feels 'tied down' by your relationship. In the same way, many people experience deep hurt when they open themselves up emotionally and physically only to be abandoned by someone who proclaims he's not ready for a 'serious commitment.'" (Quote from, "I Kissed Dating Goodbye" by Joshua Harris*)

*"So, one important point to understand right up front (and about which many inside and outside the church are confused) is that we have not moved **from** a courtship system **to** a dating system, but instead, we have **added** a dating system into our courtship system. Since most young adults will marry, the process employed in finding a husband and wife is still considered courtship. However, an extra layer, what we call "dating," has been added to the process of courting." (A Brief History of Courtship and Dating in America, Part 1 by Skip Burqumato)*

So what is courtship? Some will think, "Oh, great! So we sit in the living room with the whole family and talk." Not so! There are many ways of having a good time while getting to know each other. And what better way to get to know someone than from their siblings and family? They who know you best will never let you get by with acting like someone you are not. Being with other people will not only give you a better view of the other person but will also keep your time together honorable and above reproach. Staying honorable will bring love and respect into a relationship more than "*short-term, serving the needs of the moment*"* ever would.

We all want to be loved and accepted. There is nothing wrong in that at all. God put in all of us the desire to be loved by and to love another person but, like everything in God's kingdom, there is an order that we must follow. Close, intimate relationships should never be encouraged to develop until a time of courtship has proven the other person worthy of your affection and commitment. Dating encourages young people to go out alone, which in turn gives ample opportunity for the relationship to develop into something more than it should be too fast.

No one likes broken relationships that scar the heart and sometimes leave bitter memories that will never go away, memories that you will take into your life and future marriage. Your young life should be spent in preparing your heart and mind for the Lord and your spouse, not preparing your heart and mind for separation and divorce. A young person who "plays the field" will find one day that to commit to one person is impossible. They have developed an attitude and habit of handling these matters so that if things do not go the way they want, they have found that if things do not go just the way they want, they can just dump this one and get another one that suits better. Is that what Jesus does to us when we do something wrong and offend him? Is not marriage compared to our Christian life? Would Jesus throw us away? Never! He patiently works on our heart and soul, making us more and more into his image. Why? Because he has committed to us in love. If we have given our hearts and lives to him, he said he would never leave us nor forsake us. This picture does not fit with the "dating scene", does it?

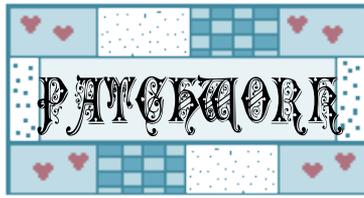
“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1Peter 5:8 His greatest delight is to ruin the pure hearts and lives of young people. So beware, be warned and do not let him make a fool of you. Do not worry about being laughed at when you decide that dating is not for you. There will be a day that those who are laughing would give anything if they had followed your example.

(Note -*- The quotes from the book, “I Kissed Dating Goodbye”, by Joshua Harris. As I have stated before, I cannot fully recommend this book because of the various versions of scripture his uses. He does have the right concept on dating and commitment, however. For older readers.)



Do you have your notebook ready? Here are a few questions to help you think about what you have just read and to see how you feel about some of these things. Remember to write the question down also so that when you read through your notebook later, you will understand what you have written down.

1. Here are a few words for you to look up.
a. Marriage b. Commitment c. Courtship d. Dating e. Romance
2. When little girls are very young, there are many people who are always asking them, “Do you have a boyfriend?” Do you think that is a wise thing to do? Why or why not?
3. Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians 7:34 about a single and a married woman. Both women had certain concerns. What were they and why?
4. As a single young Christian lady, what should be your concerns now in this part of your life?
5. If your parents do not want you to date, do you think it is because they do not trust you or the young man who wants to take you out? Give your ideas about why they do not think dating is a good thing.
6. Look up the following women in the Bible to see how they were courted and married.
Ruth (read entire book.) Rebeka (read Genesis 24)
7. What are some wise ways in which you can occupy your time?



What matters most is not finding the one right person but becoming the person that God wants you to be. Before judging the man or woman you are with – scrutinizing and appraising every attribute and characteristic, as if you were buying a horse – you ought instead to scrutinize your own heart. Here are some questions to ask before an engagement to marriage:

1. What would it mean for me to love him or her in accordance with the Bible’s teaching?
2. Am I willing to commit myself to anyone “for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health?”
3. Can I be steadfast in fidelity and servant-hearted in ministry?
4. Is God leading our lives in similar directions?
5. Do we have similar goals and ideas about children?

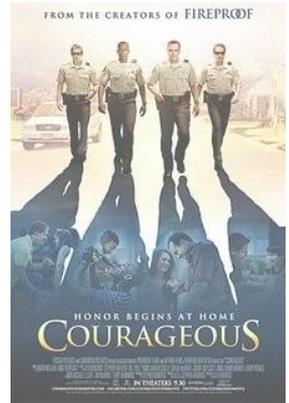
The issue is not whether you can find someone worthy of your love, but whether you are ready to give a love that is worthy of marriage.

~Richard D. Phillips and Sharon L. Phillips

Recommendation:

“Courageous”

I have not recommended some of the movies by “Sherwood Films” for one reason, and that was the music. I do not condone rock music of any sort and the other movies have more than I think is necessary. (“Christian” rock music is rock music, not Christian.) Thankfully, this one had only a minimal amount of music, which was endurable, and the message of the drama is worth watching. It is a great movie for a family night.



Crafts

Wall Words

Spring cleaning is around the bend and repainting sometimes comes with the cleaning. If you need a new decorating idea, you might try “wall words”. You can purchase these, but you can also paint or draw them on the wall directly (with permission, please!) You may use a saying, scripture, or even your name, perhaps with its meaning. Use a yardstick and a level to make sure everything will come out right. Draw your letters lightly with pencil first, trying not to erase. Then go over your letters and designs with a paint marker or paint brush. (Keep in mind that darker colors will be harder to cover later.) Consider color coordinating your words with the color theme in your room. These can really be pretty if done right.



Card and Letter Notebook

This is a nice project to use yourself or to give away. It would be great for recording vacation trips to special places, an extended stay with a relative, or you can even make a kit for a missionary family that visits your church. The kit needs to include all of the following items and anything else that you would think to be handy.

You will need to purchase:

1 small ringbound notebook

Plain and Lined index cards that will fit the notebook

Small hole punch and scissors

Various pretty stickers

Small rubber stamps and ink pad

Glue stick

Pens and markers

Zip-Lock bag or other container to hold everything

Fill the notebook with index cards that have holes punched for rings. You might alternate the lined and blank cards. If you like, write a short explanation of what the little notebook is for and place inside the bag along with your name and address. Ask one of the missionary children (if they have any) to be your pen pal and show them how to save letters in the notebook, too.



Monogram Window Hanging



An old rummage sale frame comes in handy for this project. Purchase a letter from your local Wal-Mart or other craft store, along with a color of acrylic paint of your choice and matching-contrasting yarns. Tightly wrap one color yarn on opposite sides of the frame and the other color on the top and bottom, securing the ends with hot glue. Cut two pieces of yarn 12 inches long. Dividing the yarn in half, tie one to either end of your letter and attach the yarn ends to the backside of the frame by tying or gluing. This suspends the letter in the middle of the frame.

Hang by a suction cup to window or mirror with additional yarn. Can be hung on your door or wall, too.

Recipes

Pancakes are great for breakfast, as a snack, and even for desserts! Here are some great variations from Betty Crocker that I thought you all might like.

Cake Batter Pancakes

Pancakes:

- 1 cup Original Bisquick® mix
- 1 cup Betty Crocker® SuperMoist® yellow cake mix
- 3 tablespoons candy sprinkles
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs

Glaze and Garnish:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- Additional candy sprinkles



- Heat griddle or skillet over medium-high heat or electric griddle to 375°F; grease with cooking spray, vegetable oil or shortening. (Surface is ready when a few drops of water sprinkled on it dance and disappear.)
- In medium bowl, stir together pancake ingredients until blended. Pour by slightly less than 1/4 cupfuls onto hot griddle. Cook until edges are dry. Turn; cook until pancakes are golden brown. Stack on serving plates.
- In small bowl, beat powdered sugar, milk and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla with whisk until smooth.
- To serve, top each serving with glaze and additional candy sprinkles.

Variations:

Brownie Batter Pancakes

- 1 1/2 cups Original Bisquick® mix
- 1 cup Betty Crocker® Original Supreme Premium brownie mix (from 1 lb 2.4-oz box)
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs

Toppings and Garnish:

Chocolate-flavored syrup



(Cooking instructions are the same.)

Double-Chocolate PB Pancakes

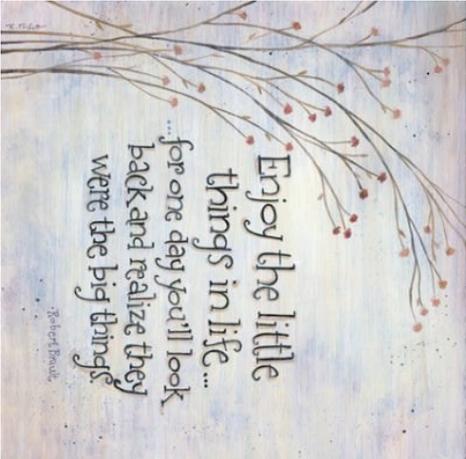
- 1 cup Original Bisquick® mix
- 1/4 cup unsweetened baking cocoa
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup chopped dark baking chocolate
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 bananas, sliced
- Real maple syrup



Mix first four ingredients; add chocolate chunks. Cook as instructions above. Spread peanut butter over pancakes and top with banana slices; serve with syrup.

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Enjoy the little
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Robert Brade