

# Jewels For His Crown

A periodical for  
Christian Young  
Ladies.



May/June 2012



## *Making Mother's Day*

What do you do for your mother on Mother's Day? Some buy flowers or a pretty card, or maybe make her breakfast in bed. Mother's Day was started so that we may have a special day that we can honor our mother, and although it is good, what could we do that would make every day special for our mother? Look at it this way; do you want only one day out of the year that your family loves you and shows appreciation for what you do? Mothers do not last forever (something we say about our children) so appreciate them now while you have a chance.

~T. Miller

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*Mothers, don't let anyone ever dupe you into thinking there's anything ignoble or disgraceful about remaining at home and raising your family. Don't buy the lie that you're repressed if you're a worker in the home instead of in the world's workplace. Devoting yourself fully to your role as wife and mother is not repression; it is true liberation. Multitudes of women have bought the world's lie, put on a suit, picked up a*





***So Good For Me***

If I had to wake in the morning  
 And find that there's no one around,  
 With nobody nearby to talk to;  
 No disturbance at all to be found,  
 Would I find that it's all so relaxing  
 And pleasant as I think today?  
 I have to admit there have been times  
 I would sigh and wish it that way.

But who would come in early morning  
 To sit on the vent to get warm,  
 And then snuggle down close beside me  
 While I'm writing and jiggle my arm?  
 One asking again for hot chocolate  
 That I know the half I'll throw out,  
 While the other will fuss at her brother  
 To awake him with tickle and shout.

And then, once again, we have  
 schoolwork,  
 Which never gets started on time.  
 But grades are so good, what's the  
 difference?  
 I look forward to vacation time!  
 I spend all my time teaching letters  
 And what is eleven times three,  
 And I wonder sometimes if it's worth it.  
 Why on earth did I do this to me?

But then there are days with heart  
 broken,  
 I feel like my world's caving in.  
 And who would be there to help me,  
 To love me and be my sweet friend?  
 Or when the world is amazing  
 With God's sunrise in earliest morn,  
 Who would be there to share with me  
 The wonder of a new day born?

There wouldn't be anymore hugs good-  
 night,  
 No "I love you, Mommy!" be heard.  
 My day would all be solitude,  
 No one would utter a word.  
 Oh, look from what you have saved me,  
 My dear, sweet little ones, three!  
 I am so blessed! Oh, thank You, Lord!  
 They are so good for me!

He maketh...  
 a joyful mother  
 of children.

Psalm 113:9

# Ideals

(Long-range goals for the Christian woman, wife, and mother.)

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” Luke 14:28

There are so many things in this life that we spend days, months, and even years preparing for. Many will spend four to ten years in college preparing for a career, other will spend six months or more practicing driving to be able to receive a driver’s license. Churches will work for months on plays and cantatas to make sure everyone has their parts down right and everyone knows their lines.

Young ladies should be preparing during their teen years to be a wife and a homemaker. High school years are so full of school, friends and sports events that many barely have time to think about anything else, so that when the time comes to be a wife, it can be more confusing than we ever imagined. How are you to know what is expected of you? How are you to fill your time in the most productive way? How can you please the Lord in being a “crown” to your husband? Let us look at a few ways that we may answer these questions.

First of all, lets look at some of the characteristics of a Christian lady. One important virtue that all young ladies should develop is a sober mind. Many young people just carry on with a constant torrent of foolishness and clowning as if everything is funny - all the time. This is a habit that you should not develop. We can have fun and enjoy a laugh now and then, and still maintain a sober mind and attitude as our norm. Maturity and sobriety actually open up a whole new world of opportunities for a young person. Maturity brings you honor and wisdom, and others will take you more seriously when you can speak with understanding instead of with the random thoughts of a child. Living life is a serious matter, especially when you realize how very short our lives are compared to eternity that awaits us. A young lady who will calm herself and listen respectfully instead of interrupting and causing commotion will find it easier to adjust into the new position of “adult”. As King David said in Psalm 131, *“LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself.”* Sobriety is one of those precious jewels that we should strive for in order to be a crown to our husband.

The basic need of every Christian is to cultivate a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our earthly relationships grow stronger with the time that we spend with each other. The same is true with our getting to know more about Christ. The more you read the Bible and the more you talk to him in prayer, the more you will begin to know what he is like and what he expects from you. Jesus is our great example of how to live and how to interact with people here in this life. That includes friends, family, and, eventually, your husband. Make time to read and pray the first

thing every day and before you go to bed at night, especially if your family does not have a time for evening devotions.

Every woman is a home maker, if she is married or not, for we all are busy cleaning, cooking, and decorating even before we leave our parents' home. There are habits of cleanliness that you can develop that will help to keep a peaceful atmosphere. How happy are you when your room is so cluttered that you cannot even find a place to sit or, in some cases, stand? How embarrassing it is to both wife *and* husband when friends come to visit and the house is a mess! Clutter makes confusion, so do your best to keep clutter from accumulating in your room and throughout your home. If the clutter belongs to you, evaluate whether it is necessary or profitable to keep, and store or discard it accordingly. There is a great satisfaction when you know that you are pleasing the one you care for by making his home comfortable and pretty.

Girls, learn to read a recipe and learn to cook! If you read your recipe correctly and are careful not to waste ingredients, you should be able to practice for your family without any trouble at all. Being careless by misreading measurements, overcooking or otherwise ruining good food may result in banishment from your mother's kitchen, so be careful and diligent. To know how to cook well and how to prepare healthy food for your family is invaluable. If the head of your home works hard for what he provides for his family, it will greatly please him to see your efforts in managing that income when it comes to cooking. Know what he likes and what he needs. If you are like me and need some help remembering, make a list of the things that he likes in a small notebook and stash it in your silverware drawer. The old saying, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach," is true in this respect; the fact that you care enough about him to do things especially for him will win his heart.

Being a help to your husband does not mean that you need to know more than he does. But it shows devotion and care when you make an effort to learn enough about his interests to hold an intelligent conversation with him about those things. It is very frustrating to him when you are never "on the same page" with him. His interests may not be the most interesting subject to you but the effort will be appreciated.

One bad misconception about marriage that many people have is the retaining of independence. You still have your friends and he still has his, right? WRONG! Everything in your life should now have the label, "Ours". No matter how you may feel about it, the "girls' and guys' night out" should be a thing of the past. I'm not saying that you should write off all of your friends and never see them again but that there should be no division of any kind between you and your husband. If he is your best friend, why would you want to go anywhere that he could not? ANY kind of division between you will only cause problems in your marriage. You are not two any more but one. Cultivating your relationship with him will be far worth the effort of the trouble it will save you in your marriage.

There are other ties that must be adjusted when you “tie the knot”. Your parents are your best friends, your best counselors and advisors, but if any of the parents become too involved or exercise authority in the affairs of your new home there will be serious problems between you and your husband. With all respect and love, we should never allow God's divine order in our home to be usurped by anyone, including the parents. God plainly states that the husband is the head of the home. It is wise to seek council of godly parents, but the decisions should be made in your home between the two of you. The idea of “going home to mother” should never enter your mind or conversation, any more than it should enter his. The “knot” that is tied includes only two strings; you and your husband.

Everything about marriage is a picture of what our life should be with Christ, our heavenly bridegroom. I have heard some young wives mockingly chant to their husband, “I don’t have to listen to you.” Would you say that to Christ? Would you hold a grudge against Jesus and not speak to him for days over some injustice you think he has done against you? Would you speak degradingly of him to your friends? In the same way we should have honor and respect for our husband. Talking about your problems with your girlfriends (or anyone else, for that matter) is a big, “No, no!” If you would not want him to put you down in front of others, do not do it to him.

When Solomon speaks of the “garden enclosed” in Song of Solomon 4:12, he is speaking about every aspect of your relationship together. Private matters are to be kept private, and when you share your thoughts and grievances with others you are letting someone else intrude within a place in which they have no right to be. My grandmother always said, “If you do not have anything good to say, do not say anything at all.” If you are in the habit of complaining (about your treatment at home or how your siblings behave or any other aspect of your homelife) to your friends or relations, you will retain that habit with your husband. Recognize this as the sin it is, repent of your complaining and grumbling spirit and practice speaking loving and uplifting things about your family.

You need to understand that there is no secret formula for a perfect marriage. Most marriages start with two selfish people with their own idea of what they want in a marriage. Because each person is different you cannot draw out a numbered list of rules to go by to make everything perfect. But with everything that you do according to the Bible, you have a better chance of that happening. Marriage is not a 50-50 proposition, however. It is each of you giving 100 percent. Divorce should NEVER be an option in a Christian’s life. If you have even one thought that you have that choice, do not marry. It would be better for you to remain single than for you to destroy your life and the lives of countless others in putting asunder what God has joined together.

As I said before, there is no set of rules for a perfect marriage. The thoughts and ideas that I have given you in this devotion are to help you understand a few things that you may not have known or thought of. A prepared mind and heart will give you a better understanding of what to do and problems to look for when they arrive.

Your best guide is your Savoir and to love your husband with the all-consuming love and devotion that you would give to Him.

Now, grab your notebook and see what kind of answers you can find for the following questions. Thinking in depth about these subjects will help you to remember what you have read in days to come. May God bless your efforts and honesty.

1. What are some of the ways that a wife can reverence her husband?
2. Who gets hurt when two people divorce?
3. How does being a good wife make you a better mother?
4. List three things about you that you feel would need to be changed to make you a better wife. You may consider writing them on an index card and putting this in your Bible or devotion book to see every day. This will help remind you of the new habits that you want to make in your life.
5. Look up the word *wisdom* in a concordance. Choose five verses that you like best and memorize them.
6. Three times in the Bible, the phrase, “The fear of the LORD is...” appears. What does it say that the fear of the LORD brings?
7. What is the definition of “discontentment”? Do you think that it is a product of circumstances or is it a state of the soul? How can being discontent ruin your relationship with your family? ...your friends? ...your husband?
8. A child of God should cultivate a spirit of joy and thanksgiving. What can you do each day to help you be joyful even in bad circumstances? (Read Nehemiah 8:10 and Psalm 16:11.)

# The A B C's of a Godly Wife

- A. *Always love him, no matter what. Love is a decision, not just a feeling.*
- B. *Believe in him. Let him know you are proud of him.*
- C. *Cherish your time together. Make it special.*
- D. *Delight in his accomplishments.*
- E. *Encourage him in the Lord, but do not be contentious.*
- F. *Forgive him when he makes mistakes, without malice.*
- G. *Greet him each day with a smile.*
- H. *Help keep harmony in your home by keeping your mind and heart focused there.*
- I. *Initiate special times together.*
- J. *Jealousy is poison! Keep it out of your heart!*
- K. *Keep a good relationship with the Lord.*
- L. *Listen with your heart.*
- M. *Manage the money in the best way possible.*
- N. *NEVER go to bed angry.*
- O. *Open your heart, mind, thoughts and feelings to him.*
- P. *Pray for him and for wisdom to be the best you can be.*
- Q. *Quiet selfish attitudes that would cause you to be discontent.*
- R. *Remember your vows.*
- S. *Stand up for him and never put him down.*
- T. *Trust him to make the right decisions even when you think differently.*
- U. *Unity between the two of you is necessary and will help your children.*
- V. *Value his opinion.*
- W. *Work to win his heart every day, even though you might think you already have it.*
- X. *Be X-traordinary!*
- Y. *Yield to his head-s*
- Z. *Zest up his life wit*



# Crafts

## Button Clock

You will need:

Embroidery hoop of choice

Sturdy fabric such as burlap or upholstery

12 cute buttons

Sewing needle, thread, scissors

3/8 in or smaller Clock Movement Kit- about \$7 at any craft store

Insert fabric in your hoop and stretch it as tight as you can; tighten screw clamp really tight. Carefully mark where to place the buttons around the face of your clock, and stitch the button in place. Read and carefully follow assembly instructions for your clock. From - [occasionallycrafty.blogspot.com](http://occasionallycrafty.blogspot.com)



## Stamped Book Edges

I like books and journals. This idea was from a Martha Stewart web site and I thought it very unique. It makes the gift of a book have just the right personal touch. Just take your favorite rubber stamps and colored inks and stamp the edges of the pages. Paperback books with no hard covers are easier, but you can hold the cover back slightly on a hard cover to get a firm stamp on the edge.

## Teacup Candles

Here is a great idea for Mother's Day, birthday, or even hostess gift. Beautiful teacups can be found in any flea market or rummage sale, and some really nice cup and saucer sets can be bought at a fairly low price. Scented candles are fairly inexpensive also and can be melted down and poured into the cup. The wick from the candle can be reused if it is long enough or you can purchase candle-making supplies at your local craft store. Make it even more special by making a box to present it in and tie it with a matching bow.



## Button Plaque for Mother's Day

This little plaque says it all. Odd buttons decorate a small wooden plaque that reads, "Mothers are like buttons—they hold things together..." Ribbon or craft wire makes the hanger, and the plaque can be painted with acrylic paints. This could be a good project that older siblings could help the little ones make for Mom.

# Recipes

## Ultimate Hershey Chocolate Brownies

### Ingredients

3/4 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
2/3 cup butter or margarine, melted and divided  
1/2 cup boiling water  
2 cups sugar  
2 eggs  
1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup HERSHEY'S SPECIAL DARK or HERSHEY'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips



### Directions

1 Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 13x9x2" baking pan or two 8" square baking pans.  
2 Stir together cocoa and baking soda in large bowl; stir in 1/3 cup butter. Add boiling water; stir until mixture thickens. Stir in sugar, eggs and remaining 1/3 cup butter; stir until smooth. Add flour, vanilla and salt; blend completely. Stir in chocolate chips. Pour into prepared pan.  
3 Bake 35 to 40 minutes for rectangular pan, 30 to 35 minutes for square pans or until brownies begin to pull away from sides of pan. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Frost with One-Bowl Buttercream Frosting. Cut into squares. About 36 brownies.

### ONE-BOWL BUTTERCREAM FROSTING

6 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened  
2-2/3 cups powdered sugar  
1/2 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa  
1/3 cup milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Beat butter in medium bowl. Add powdered sugar and cocoa alternately with milk, beating to spreading consistency (additional milk may be needed). Stir in vanilla. About 2 cups frosting.



## Ripe Banana Loaves

1 box plain yellow cake mix  
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar  
2 over-ripe bananas  
3/4 cup buttermilk  
1/2 cup oil  
3 large eggs  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease two 9" or 10" loaf pans with shortening and lightly dust with flour. Set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl, place cake mix, brown sugar, mashed bananas, buttermilk, oil, eggs and cinnamon. Blend with an electric mixer on low speed for 1 minute. Scrape sides and continue on medium speed for 2 minutes more. Divide batter between the prepared pans and place on center rack of over side by side.
3. Bake until toothpick inserted comes out clean, 40-45 minutes. Remove from oven and place on wire racks to cool for 20 minutes. Run a dinner knife around edges and invert each loaf onto a rack to cool on its side for 30 minutes more. Slice and serve.

(Note: These loaves can be frozen. Set them in the freezer on a cookie sheet until frozen, about an hour or two, then take them out and wrap them in foil. For better protection, put them in a large zip lock bag, burping as much air out as possible when sealing. They will last for 6 months. Thaw overnight on the counter before serving.)

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