



*Five Aspects of Femininity for Young Women*

*A Biblical* . . . *A study course offered by*  
*Theology* . . . *the International Council*  
*of Womanhood* . . . *for Gender Studies*

• **by Barbara K. Mouser**

## *Five Aspects of Femininity for Young Women*

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## *Dedication*

To the Ohio Team  
whose vision, prayers, and diligence  
made this study a reality

## *Acknowledgments*

Special thanks to the following women who made up the “Ohio Team.” They conceived, planned, wrote, organized, field-tested, and constantly prayed for this study. I especially thank them for their commitment to God and their desire to train the next generation of godly women:

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# *Preface*

Dear Student,

I have studied womanhood and femininity my whole life. Looking back, I can only say that today I stand more amazed than ever at the beauty and power of God's design for gender. Masculinity and femininity are not accidents of evolution, social conventions, or tools of political oppression. Masculinity and femininity are God's design. They are the foundation of human life and glory in this world, and they are a window on the glory of God beyond this world.

I hope you are excited about being a woman. You are unique; your path through life will be unlike any other. Yet, God has not left us without truth and pattern. While every woman is different, all women have basic created characteristics in common because God made us to be women.

This course is organized around five great pillar truths from Scripture which tell us what femininity is from God's viewpoint. We have named these aspects of femininity: *Daughter of the King, Helper-Completer, Sacred Vessel of Life, Handmaiden of Wisdom, and Glory of Man.*

We study each aspect three times. First, we examine what God created this aspect to be--how it was supposed to be before sin. Second, we study the ways in which sin breaks and perverts this part of femininity. Third, we see how Christ restores this aspect through His saving work. If some of the questions don't make sense or you want more information, ask your leader. She will have the answer guide to this study and the women's edition of this course, *Five Aspects of Woman*, which contains a great deal more information.

God bless you in your study and in your growth toward womanhood. Only as you know God, man, and the universe around you will you understand what it means to be a woman. I pray that in His light you will see light, as you journey through life with God and the Scriptures.

In Christ,

Barbara Mouser  
June 2000

# *Five Aspects of Femininity for Young Women*

A Biblical Theology of Womanhood

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*Daughter of the King* : *designed by God*



Section LESSON OVERVIEW

*In the “designed by God” lesson of each aspect, we will explore Scripture to understand the nature of femininity as God created it to be before sin and the Curse.*

*The question is ...*

Who am I and what am I doing here?

*The answer is ...*

You are created in God’s image to rule the earth for Him.

*The basic text is ...*

**Genesis 1:26-28**

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

### *Getting Started*

1. Whenever I want to know who I am and what I'm supposed to do, I

- \_\_\_ look in the mirror
- \_\_\_ go to the school counselor
- \_\_\_ read the Bible
- \_\_\_ get alone to look inside myself
- \_\_\_ think about the Person of God
- \_\_\_ other

2. Right now, I would answer the big questions this way:

I have value because I am:

.....

My purpose on earth is:

.....

### *Me?!—A Model of God*

The best place to begin the search for our basic identity is at the very beginning, at the creation of man and woman. God is the only eye witness to this beginning, but, thankfully, He has given us a record of what happened. The book of Genesis is one of His greatest gifts to us because it tells us where we came from, who we are, and why we are here.

Let's step into Genesis, chapter 1, where day six of Creation is described. We find God explaining in simple phrases His design for man and woman. He talks about the image man and woman will reflect and the work they will do. Here are God's deep, soul-satisfying, and unchanging answers to our questions "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?"

3. From Genesis 1:26-27 (p. 1), what model did God use when He created man and woman?

.....



4. Read the definition of “image” in the sidebar. Each replica below is a model of something else. What does each model replicate? (what is it an image of?)

A GI Joe doll: . . . . .

A doll in a wedding gown: . . . . .

Monet’s painting of a lily pond: . . . . .

The Statue of Liberty (what does it visually represent?) : . . . . .

. . . . .

Has someone ever told you, “You’re just like so-and-so!” ? When someone said this, didn’t it make you curious about that person? God says, “You are like Me; you’re a little statue, an ‘action figure’ of Me.” Doesn’t that make you want to know more about God?! The best way to know more about ourselves is to know more about the God we reflect.

## God—The Original Person

What does it mean to be in the image of God? The simple and most frequent answer given to this question is that we as human beings have a mind, a will, and emotions. That is, we think, we choose, and we feel. We relate as persons, not as machines or animals. In these ways we are like God Who thinks, chooses, and feels. He is a Person, not a machine or an animal.

The better we understand God’s specific characteristics, the better we will understand our human characteristics. Some of God’s divine characteristics (attributes) are listed below with simple definitions.

GOD IS:

Righteous: His character is the basis of all morality, law, and ethics.

Just: He impartially punishes evil and rewards good.

Sovereign: God never loses control, His purposes are fulfilled.

Love: God always does the best for His creatures.

All knowing: God is omniscient; He knows everything.

All powerful: God is omnipotent; He is almighty.

Unchanging: God is immutable in character; He is always love, just, etc.

Eternal: He is without beginning or end.

### Important Terms

**image:** a reproduction; a tangible or visible representation. (Webster’s)

**image of God:** humans are little statues, replicas, or models of God. Our human characteristics are patterned after His divine characteristics.

### Important Term

**attribute:** an inherent characteristic; one basic to the nature of the one whose possesses it (e.g., Palomino horses have golden coats.)

**I m p o r t a n t T e r m s**

**divine attributes:** the infinite characteristics which only God possesses such ultimate sovereignty, justice, love, knowledge, power, righteousness.

**human attributes:** the limited, but personal characteristics which are created in each human by God, such as:

**conscience:** built-in sense of justice, or of right and wrong

**will:** ability to make responsible decisions and choices

**personality/heart:** capacity for love, grief, wonder, etc.

**mind:** ability to know with capacity for memory, logic, imagination, creativity

**power:** capacity to change our world

**character stability:** our character traits become more fixed as we mature

**immortality:** with a beginning but without end

Stop and look over the list of God’s attributes. This is the amazing Person you are created to be like!

Studying a model or image of something helps us learn a lot about the actual thing, especially if the actual thing is unknown, majestic, or huge. If we were to study a museum model of the Grand Canyon, we could learn much about its shape, color, terrain, and proportions. But only when we stand at the edge of that one-mile-deep valley do we see its grandeur and awesomeness. In the same way, we are only small museum-quality models of God’s limitless nature; yet, we accurately represent Him because we are made in His image.

God patterned our human spirits after His divine Spirit. This is the core of our imagehood. God modeled our human characteristics after His own infinite characteristics.

5. Read the definitions of your human attributes in the sidebar to see how they are, in fact, little replicas of God’s divine attributes. Beside each human attribute below, write the characteristic of God (listed on the previous page) which you think is the matching source for this characteristic. The first two are filled in to get you started.

<b>My Human Attributes</b>	<b>MODEL</b>	<b>God’s Divine Attributes</b>
<b>Conscience</b> (right/wrong)		Righteousness
<b>Conscience</b> (justice)		Justice
<b>Will</b>		
<b>Personality/heart</b>		
<b>Mind</b>		
<b>Power</b>		
<b>Character stability</b>		
<b>Immortality</b>		

Wow! You have the opportunity to think, love, be wise, award good, punish evil, be trustworthy, and create even as God does. God possesses all these attributes infinitely. Yet, He allows us to model them in finite, human ways. You are modeled after God Himself.

6. What are simple ways in which the following attributes of God are like yours and yet are infinitely greater than yours?

Righteousness: . . . . .

Knowledge: . . . . .

7. How does knowing that God made you a replica of Himself change the way you see yourself? What does this say about your value?

. . . . .  
. . . . .

God’s creation of us is evaluated by the Artist Himself as “very good.” We were made to reflect the Creator of the Universe, to be like Him. This incredible truth is the answer to our first question, “Who am I?”

## *Born to Rule*

The Bible’s answer to our first big question of identity is that we are models of God, made in His divine image. But the original question “Who am I?” leads to another question: “Why am I here?”

8. What is the first purpose for man and woman as revealed by God in Genesis 1:28?

. . . . .  
. . . . .

God’s first command to man and woman was not to love God or fulfill the Great Commission. His first command was to do something—to rule the earth for Him. God could have stayed and ruled the earth Himself. Instead, He commissioned man and woman to be His representatives. This commission given by God in Genesis 1:28 is often called the **World Mandate**.

According to the dictionary a “mandate” is “a formal order from a superior officer to an subordinate one, an authorization to act as given to a representative.”

Look again at Genesis 1:28. In the World Mandate, God gives the man and woman three basic commands that can be expressed as the three verbs rule, subdue, and be fruitful.

**I m p o r t a n t T e r m s**

**World Mandate:** The commission God gave Adam and Eve to rule the world for Him in Genesis 1:28. The World Mandate has three parts—

**to rule:** To have authority over; to guide and make decisions regarding a matter's course and destiny

**to subdue:** To bring under control by conquest and to keep under control by diligent maintenance

**to be fruitful:** To create value by multiplying, filling, and expanding in every area of life

9. With the help of the definitions in the sidebar, draw a line from each verb on the left to the best example of it on the right.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>rule</b>        | Tracy cleaned up the huge mess in her room and then kept it straight by routinely picking up after herself.        |
| <b>subdue</b>      | Marie loved the ceramic pitcher she had made in art class, so she made four more to give to her aunts.             |
| <b>be fruitful</b> | Lisa decided that her St. Bernard would not be allowed to jump on the sofa, so she taught him the meaning of "no." |

By making us little models of Himself, God has equipped us to rule for Him. He makes big, sovereign decisions, and we can make little decisions because we have a will. He has a gigantic, unlimited mind, and we have limited minds that can think and understand, and so on with all our attributes.

10. The first human body was made directly from the earth. All of our bodies return to dust after death. Our spirits come from God and return to Him. How does our being a combination of earth and spirit help us rule the earth for God?

.....

.....

God created this amazing place, made us His representatives, and said: "Here. You rule it, subdue it, and make it fruitful." He gives us responsibility for our world. By creating us in His image, He has made us capable of making the choices and doing the work necessary to rule for Him.

There are over five billion people on earth today. Mankind has explored and mapped all the earth and has started on outer space. Vast knowledge about God's creation has been accumulated, and countless crafts, technologies, arts, and sciences have been refined to amazing levels. So we can see that a lot of ruling, subduing, and producing has already gone on. However, history is not over. You have been born into the world with God's image. You, too, are to rule, subdue, and be fruitful.

# My World—My Realm—My Domain

We each have our own part of the world to rule. We will call that portion our **domain**.

Your domain is everything that God has given you responsibility for during your lifetime. It includes your relationship with God, the family God gave you, your friends, your time, your money, your body, your mind, your words, and the talents God has given you. All of these are valuable assets committed to you by God. He expects you to rule these for Him. This is the first basic answer the Bible gives to the question, “Why am I here?”

Knowing what you now know about God and His design for you, you have choices to make about how you will rule, subdue, and be fruitful. The choices start with your domain, your personal “garden.” Your domain is unique to you—no one else can rule it; no one else is responsible for it but you.

11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 in the sidebar. How seriously does God take the responsibility He’s given you?

.....

## My Domain Inventory

12. What is in your domain to rule? Here are some categories basic to everyone’s world. Below each, list parts of this area which are in your personal domain. A sample item is listed in each category to get you started.

Walk with God (for example, prayer life) .....

.....

Relationships (for example, with parents) .....

.....

Talents/Abilities (for example, musical aptitude) .....

.....

Body (for example, cleanliness) .....

.....

(continued, next page)

### 2 Corinthians 5:10

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

#### Important Terms

**domain:** all that an individual is responsible for before God, including body, soul, time, money, relationships, talents, words, actions, thoughts —everything one will answer for at the judgment.

**my personal domain:** everything God gives me responsibility for during my lifetime and for which I will answer at the judgment.

School (promptness with assignments) . . . . .

Words (truthfulness) . . . . .

Time (scheduling) . . . . .

Goals are access lines to the future. They allow us to run the race with the finish line firmly established.

**Emilie Barnes**

As you complete this list, does it surprise you how much is in your domain? God has made you a ruler in His image with authority from Him to make decisions, to rule, subdue, and be fruitful. This includes everything from cleaning out your closet, to choosing your friends, to deciding Who will be your God or gods.

*Because this is true, what should I do?*

One of the biggest areas young women need to rule is time management. Some girls try to do so many things, they stay exhausted and do nothing well.

13. Ruling time means choosing what you will and will not do. These are your **priorities**. What are your priorities right now—the things you have chosen to accomplish this semester or this year?

. . . . .  
. . . . .

14. Subduing in the area of time means bringing it under control so that you match what you have to do with the time you have. This is called **scheduling**. Do you have a schedule? Does it match your priorities? In other words, do you set aside time to accomplish the goals you have chosen?

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

15. Being productive with your time means actually **accomplishing your priorities** during the scheduled time. For example, if passing English is one of your priorities (and it should be!), when the time scheduled for English comes, you should apply yourself to that (and not to talking on the phone or watching TV). There is a modern proverb, "Plan the work and work the plan." Are you being productive this year? Are you accomplishing the priorities that you have set for yourself?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

One day you will stand face to face with the One who created you, loved you, and gave His life for you. You will answer not only for what you did with this semester, but you will give an account for what you did with your whole life.

16. What is one gift that you want to be able to give God as a fruit of your life?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

## *Responding to God*

Use the following PRAISE acrostic to help you pray to God as a young woman created to be a *Daughter of the King*. Consider His attributes, the way He made you, and the significance and purpose He's designed for you.

- Praise God for making you in His image.
- Repent of any areas in your life you are not ruling for Him.
- Acknowledge the authority God has given you.
- Intercede for friends who need to know God's attributes.
- Supplication—pour out your heart to God, confident that you are like Him (everything you say will make perfect sense to Him).
- Equipping—ask God to help you use your talents to serve Him.

## **Thanking the Creator**

God has designed you and this whole world. Sometimes we have so much to thank God for, we don't thank Him for anything. Write just one thing you are thankful for in each of the following categories:

- one of God's characteristics:  
.....
- one of my own characteristics: .....
- one animal: .....
- one plant: .....
- one person: .....
- one book: .....
- one song: .....
- one tool: .....
- one food: .....

## *Visualize it this way ...*

**My Image:** Imagine a beautiful porcelain statue of a lovely girl that looks like you. This is an image of you. It is not you, but it is like you. You are an image of God. You are like God, but you are not God.

**My Domain:** Imagine a shopping bag. Put an item in it for each of the areas of your life—perhaps a watch to represent your time, a book to represent school, a picture of your mother to represent your relationship with her. If you could fill it with something to represent every area of your life, the whole bag would picture your domain.

## *The big ideas are ...*

1. I am created in God's image.
2. I am created to rule on this earth.
3. I have a personal domain to rule for God.

## *The important words are ...*

image of God  
divine attributes  
human attributes  
World Mandate  
ruling  
subduing  
being fruitful  
my personal domain

## *Summing up ...*

When we responsibly accept our image from God and fruitfully rule in our domain, God's reflection shines in us. He gets the ultimate glory, and in our deepest part we find ourselves in Him.

### **Psalm 8:3-6, 9**

3 *When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? 5 Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty! 6 Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, ... 9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth!*





*Daughter of the King : shattered by sin*



*Section* LESSON OVERVIEW

*In the "shattered" lesson of each aspect, we will explore from Scripture the nature of sinful femininity. If we can understand what our real problems are, then we will be better able to receive God's solutions.*

*The question is ...*

If God made humans and the world to be very good, what's wrong with everything now?

*The answer is ...*

Adam chose to rebel against God, so now everything is fallen and cursed.

*The basic text is ...*

**Genesis 2:16-17**

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

**Genesis 3:17-19**

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



## Getting Started

1. Check everything that went wrong for you this week.

- \_\_\_ I got sick.
- \_\_\_ I forgot something important.
- \_\_\_ Something I really needed broke (my computer, car, hair dryer, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Someone let me down when I needed their help.
- \_\_\_ I lost my temper and hurt my good friend.
- \_\_\_ other

What’s wrong with this world anyway? Why is life so hard? You’re not imagining it. “Life” (your world, your domain) is working against your best efforts to rule and be productive. What’s happened to God’s good design?

### Genesis 3:2-6

2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, 4 God has said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ “ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

## A Catastrophe at the Beginning

We have answered the question “Who am I?” by seeing that we are made in God’s image. We have found out why we are here: to rule our worlds for God. But our everyday lives prove that something is wrong. At the beginning of time, man and woman rebelled against God the King. Because of that rebellion, all of humanity, this planet, and the whole universe have been changed ever since.

God instructed Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:16-17, p. 11).

2. What did Eve know about the tree of knowledge (Gen. 3:2-6, sidebar)?

.....

3. From Genesis 3:4-5, what did the serpent say that wasn’t true?

.....

.....

With every privilege there comes a responsibility. Adam and Eve’s privilege was to live in the perfect garden in complete and open fellowship with God. They were to obey God by not eating

of one tree in the garden. Adam and Eve had spoken with God personally. They knew God’s command about the tree, and they even had each other there for moral support. Yet they still chose to disobey God’s only restriction on their lives.

## The Curse of Consequences

Thinking back to God’s attributes from the last lesson, we know that God is righteous and just, and therefore must judge disobedience. God told Adam that if he ate of the tree, he would surely die. God keeps His word. His judgments upon the Serpent, Adam, and Eve for their disobedience are called the **Curse**.

4. Read Genesis 3:14-19 carefully and complete the following chart:

<p>In verses 14-15: Who is cursed?</p> <p>What is cursed?</p> <p>What is the Curse?</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>In verse 16: To whom is the Curse addressed?</p> <p>What is cursed?</p> <p>What is the Curse?</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>In verses 17-19: To whom is the Curse addressed?</p> <p>What is cursed?</p> <p>What is the Curse?</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

### Important Term

**The Fall:** Adam’s choice to disobey God by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thus earning death.

### Genesis 3:14-16

14 *The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.” 16 To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”* (vss. 17-19 on page 11).

### Important Term

**The Curse:** the series of judgments pronounced by God upon Satan, woman, man, and through him, the whole creation in response to human and Satanic sin. The Curse has a beginning and an end. (Gen. 3:14-19; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev. 22:3).

**Romans 5:12**

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

**Galatians 5:19-21**

*19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Romans 8:20-21**

*20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

# *My image of God is broken*

Since the Fall, we still have the image of God, but now that image has been corrupted by sin. Now our consciences are hardened, our wills are in rebellion, our hearts are defiled, and our minds are in darkness. We are dominated by a sinful nature that is hostile to God and cannot know Him. We were created to be sons and daughters of God, but now in sin we are lost to God's Fatherhood. We are His creatures, but not His children. In the next lesson, *Daughter of the King Restored*, we will see what God has done to make us His daughters again.

5. How can you tell that the people around you are still in God's image, yet they are broken and corrupted?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

The Fall and the Curse did not remove the divine image from us (Gen. 9:6). But we do see that our image, originally created to reflect God's image, has been distorted by sin. In addition, our relationships with one another and with God are also shattered by betrayal and disobedience. Into the gaping hole left by sin comes pain, shame, and guilt.

6. What does Romans 5:12 and Galatians 5:19-21 (sidebar) say about your spiritual life?

.....  
.....

**7. We cannot think, moralize, or emotionally feel our way back to God.** Discuss the meaning of this statement. What are some ways we as fallen people try to look good—as if we are not broken? What are some ways people try to please God even though they can't?

.....  
.....  
.....

## *My domain fights against me*

Bad choices led to a shattered divine image, broken relationships, pain, and separation. Choosing to live apart from God brings consequences not only to our reflection of His image, but also to our domains. Because of sin, the world is cursed and my domain rebels against me.

8. Review the chart completed in Question 5. From the chart and Romans 8:20-21, what, besides man, has been affected by sin (page 14)?

.....

Creation, under God's original design, grew toward life and health. Since the Fall and the Curse, creation decays, moving toward death and suffering. Things are constantly getting old, wearing down, and dying. Our personal domains are fallen, just like the rest of the earth. You know this because you experience it every day. Life is a struggle. The work of ruling, subduing, and being productive is HARD. Remember, work is not the curse. Frustrating, unproductive work is the curse.

9. In the last lesson, we focused on ruling your time. What are some of the "thorns and thistles" that wreck your priorities and schedule and keep you from being productive?

.....

.....

In the beginning Adam rebelled and went his own way. His world rebelled against him, and now our worlds rebel against us. Choices were made. But there are choices for each of us yet to make.

## *Bad Examples—Jezebel and Lot's Wife*

Consider the two approaches to life expressed by Willful Wanda and Passive Patsy in the sidebar. Maybe you know these women and the philosophies they live by. Maybe one of them is you.

10. Each viewpoint is extreme, but which sounds most like women today? Do either one of these sound like you?

.....

.....

**Willful Wanda:** I'm in charge of my life. I know what I want, and I'm going to get it. I'm focused, strong, confident, and smart. I'll define success for myself and get it my own way. Reaching my goals, climbing that social ladder—I've got the personal power to do it. So what if they're afraid of me. What's wrong with intimidation? Take the ball and run, I say, and don't worry about who you run over. It's win, win, win...and I will.

**Passive Patsy:** What's the big deal? No one's going to make me do anything I don't want to do. Why get so uptight? It'll work out in the end. If I don't do it, someone else will. I always manage to slide right through. My laid-back attitude is the way to live—sit back, relax, don't think too much. Passion takes energy. Why try—who wants to fail? Decisions? I don't make them. Then I'm off the hook. I'm along for the ride. I don't actually get in the game. I might have to break a sweat.

These women represent different ways we sin against God as rulers—one is aggressive and self-willed. The other is lazy and passive. Who does the better job?

Did you ever hear of Jezebel? She was a powerful ruler, the daughter of the King of Sidon who was a high priest of Baal. Jezebel became the queen of Israel because of her marriage to Ahab, the King. Let's see what we can learn from her story.

Jezebel's husband, King Ahab got mad because his neighbor Naboth refused to sell him his vineyard.

**1 Kings 21:5-10**

*5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?" 6 So he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you a vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" 7 Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you not reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. 9 Now she wrote in the letters, saying, "Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people; 10 and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, 'You cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."*

The leading men of Naboth's city did just as Jezebel directed them. They framed Naboth for blasphemy and treason and stoned him to death.

**1 Kings 21:14-16**

*14 Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead." 15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." 16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.*

11. In what ways was Jezebel wicked?

.....  
.....

12. Jezebel had some very positive ruling qualities. What were they and how could they have been used for God instead of Baal?

.....  
.....  
.....

13. Now read about another famous woman of history, Lot's wife. (side bar) How does Lot's wife fail at ruling herself and her world? Who is she more like, Willful Wanda or Passive Patsy?

.....  
.....  
.....

Jezebel and Lot's wife ruled and made decisions. Jezebel ruled vigorously and lawlessly for her own wicked ends. Lot's wife decided by not deciding. Constantly compromising with evil and hesitating in the face of God's commands, she chose destruction just as surely as Jezebel did.

*Because this is true, what should I do?*

Each of us is affected by the Fall and the Curse. Our natures, relationships, and domains are all cursed. We must not let ourselves believe that we're "too nice" to be like Jezebel. We must not think we are too righteous to be like Lot's wife.

14. Look at Your Personal Domain Inventory again (pp. 7-8). In what areas do you see yourself charging ahead rebelliously, determined to get your own way no matter what God or any godly person says?

.....  
.....

15. Which areas in your domain are you passively neglecting?

.....  
.....

**Genesis 19:15-17, 24-26**

15 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. 17 When they had brought them outside, one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away."... 24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, 25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife, from behind him, looked back and she became a pillar of salt.

The Fall and The Curse have many dimensions. Read the list of sins below to help you understand how widespread and serious our problems are.

**Sins that shatter my image:**

calloused conscience  
rebellious will  
a darkened mind  
a hateful heart

**Sins that shatter my rule:**

wasting time  
being bored  
majoring on minors  
dabbling instead of  
producing  
expecting others to  
entertain me  
ruling for me instead of God

## *Responding to God*

Use the PRAISE acrostic to help you pray with understanding about the Fall and the Curse.

**P**raise God that He has not left us alone in this cursed world.

**R**epent of your willfulness and passivity.

**A**cknowledge that you are broken and rebellious.

**I**ntercede for family and friends who don't even know they're fallen.

**S**upplication—ask God to give you insight into your rebellious domain.

**E**quipping—ask God to remake you to rule for Him.



### *Visualize it this way...*

Remember the lovely statue of a young woman that we imagined in Lesson 1. Now imagine that statue being thrown to the ground into a puddle of acid.

What would happen? Of course, it would break in several pieces and the pieces would be corroded by the acid. Imagine that you pick up the pieces and glue them back together as best you can. You can do this because the original shape is unmistakable. It's obvious where the arms go and where the head goes, etc.

When you get it all glued back, you can see the original shape once again, but the corrosion, cracks, and uneven edges are impossible to hide. You have the statue of a young woman who is clearly human in form, but she is a broken, corrupt image. This is a tiny picture of what it is like to be a fallen image of God.

### *The big ideas are...*

1. Adam chose to sin against God, causing our whole race to fall.
2. God cursed the work that He gave men and women to do.
3. Now my personal image of God is corrupted, and my domain rebels against me.

### *The important words are...*

the Fall  
the Curse

### *Summing up...*

We are sinners, not only because we do bad things, but because our very natures are corrupt. When we understand this, then we will want to receive the grace of God.





*Daughter of the King* : restored by Christ



Section LESSON OVERVIEW

All the "restored in Christ" lessons in this study are about salvation—what God does for us to rescue our fallen femininity and restore us to Him.

*The question is ...*

After the alienation of sin, is there any way I can be God's daughter again?

*The answer is ...*

By the miracle of salvation, God makes us His daughters through adoption.

*The basic text is ...*

**John 1:12-13**

12 But as many as received Him [Christ], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



## Getting Started

I once saw a three-dimensional taco on a highway billboard that made me want to give up Mexican food forever. On the other hand, a bunch of grapes in a furniture store had me fooled until I picked it up. Plastic food can be the right shape, the right color; it can even fool you for a while. But not one molecule of it is real food, because by nature it is something completely different.

In our first lesson, we talked about the fact that we are created in the image of God to rule on this earth. In the second lesson, we learned that fallen people are still in God's image—the basic outline of our being is still human. But our nature is completely different. Instead of loving God and bringing forth genuine obedience and faith, we have sin natures that hate God and produce self-righteousness and lawlessness. In this lost condition, we are no more truly God's children than plastic food is real food.

## Slave or Daughter of the King ?

Telling the difference between a slave and a real princess can be harder than telling the difference between real and plastic food. A princess can dress like a slave, and a slave can impersonate a princess. However, it finally comes down to this: A real princess has the blood of a king and is heir to his realm. A slave does not.

Since Adam, all of us start out as slaves. Our condition is much worse than most people realize. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 (sidebar) to see a devastating picture of what it means to be a slave to sin.

1. Below is a list that describes what lost people are and what they do, paraphrased from Ephesians 2:1-3. Write "a" in front of the phrases that tell who unsaved people are. Write "b" in front of the phrases that tell what they do.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| ___walk in worldly ways      | ___walk according to the devil            |
| ___sons of disobedience      | ___live in lusts of the flesh             |
| ___dead in sins              | ___children of wrath                      |
| ___indulge lusts             | ___walk in rebellion and hostility to God |
| ___live in lusts of the mind |   |

### Ephesians 2:1-3

*1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

You may be thinking, “But wait a minute. I know lots of nice non-Christians. They are not ‘children of wrath’ or ‘dead in sins.’ In fact, I know non-Christians who act better than Christians.” Just as some plastic food looks better than others, some humans look nicer and act better than others. This does not make these humans the real children of God. Read the verses in the sidebar about sinful man’s condition.

2. According to Psalm 14:2-3, what does God see when He looks at fallen humanity?

.....

We resemble God because we were made to be a likeness of Him, but our image of God is broken and corrupt. Our relationship with God has been severed. We are “children of wrath” and “slaves of sin.” We still vaguely look like the King—we resemble Him—but we are not actually kin to Him.

## *Princess by Adoption*

However, God has done something wonderful. He has found a way to adopt us, spiritually dead slaves though we are, and make us His true daughters and heirs.

3. According to John 1:12-13 (p. 21), who has the right to become God’s children?

.....

4. Read Romans 8:15-16 (sidebar) and fill in the following blanks.

The spirit of ..... leads to fear.

The spirit of ..... allows us to call God, “Abba!” Father!” (Abba means “Daddy” in Hebrew)

The Holy Spirit reassures our spirit that we are .....

.....

Before salvation, we had only a marred resemblance to God. After salvation, we have a true relationship with Him. We are adopted by Him, born of Him, and are reassured by His Spirit that we are His children! We have gone from mere resemblance to true relationship.

### **Psalm 14:2-3**

*2 The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*

### **James 2:10**

*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of all.*

### **Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

### **I m p o r t a n t T e r m**

**salvation:** everything God has done in the past, is doing now, and will do in the future to secure our life with Him

### **Romans 8:15-16**

*15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,..*

**I m p o r t a n t T e r m s**

**adoption:** the voluntary and legal act whereby God makes former slaves to sin his sons and heirs.

**regeneration:** God's act of creating new life with a new nature in the spirit of fallen man; synonymous with being "born again," "reborn."

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

*4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

5. From Ephesians 2:4 (sidebar), what is God's motivation for His relationship with us?  
.....

6. In Ephesians 2:7, what is God's plan and purpose?  
.....

7. The verses in Ephesians 2:5-9 talk about being "made alive" and "being saved by grace." What does "being saved by grace" mean? Put it in your own words.  
.....  
.....

8. Have you realized your desperate need for someone to transform your corrupt "plastic" nature into a truly human nature? Have you accepted the love gift Jesus offers of new life for your spirit? If you have, write a brief summary of that event below.  
.....  
.....

When you acknowledge your sin and accept Christ, the God of the universe, your King and Creator, becomes your Father. This adoption and new birth is a one-time event which is the foundation and beginning of your whole Christian life. Just as being physically born is a one-time event which begins all the rest of your life on earth, so being spiritually reborn is a one-time event which begins all the rest of your life forever.

### *Princess Power for Living*

A princess is born to rule because her father is a king. Remember Jezebel in the last lesson? She was an earthly princess, the daughter of a king; and boy, did she rule! The only problem was she ruled wickedly. Nevertheless, a princess is born to rule. Her rulership is based on her relationship with her father the king.

If you are adopted by God, you are not the daughter of an earthly king, but of the perfect, heavenly King. You have power and authority based on your relationship to your heavenly Father, just as an earthly princess has power based on her relationship with her earthly father.

9. According to Ephesians 2:6 (p. 24), where is our place in the universe? Where is our position of status and influence?

.....

Amazingly, God has not only shared the benefit of Christ's death with us (our sins are paid for), and the benefit of His life (we get credit for perfect righteousness), He has also given us status in heaven with Christ. However, right now even though we have heavenly position and status, we are still physically on earth.

10. According to Ephesians 2:10 (p. 24), who are we, and why are we here on earth? Fill in the blanks.

For we are ..... created in Christ Jesus for ..... which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Just think! God prepared good works for you to do. He laid out "your world," "your domain," with work for you to do for Him. Does this sound like our first lesson on ruling, subduing, and being fruitful for God? It should, because Christ died to fulfill His original purpose—that we should rule for Him and with Him.

11. If a person is saved does their body stop getting old? Do the frustrations of life, "thorns and thistles," go away? Do they stop sinning altogether?

.....

After we are saved—adopted by God to be His daughters—we still have a fallen body. Our minds still struggle against darkness, our consciences against hardness, and our hearts against rebellion. However, we have a new spirit, a regenerate spirit that loves God and calls Him Father. The goal of Christian growth is that your new spirit will flood your mind, will, attitudes, and actions such that you become like Christ, the first born Son in the family of God. Princesses reign successfully or unsuccessfully. Read the verses from Romans in the sidebar.

12. According to Romans 5:17, 21, two things reign in Adam, and two things are said to reign in Christ. What are they?

.....

**Romans 5:17,21**

*17 For if by the transgression of the one [Adam], death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. ... 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Romans 6:11-14**

*11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

**1 Corinthians 15:42-45, 49**

*42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving spirit.... 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.*

13. How should a true daughter of God rule her body according to Romans 6:11-14 (sidebar)?

.....  
.....

As restored princesses we have the **authority** to rule because we are true daughters of the King—God is our Father.

We have the **capacity** to rule because our mind, will, and emotions are now indwelt by a new re-born spirit.

We have the **power** to rule because we know the amazing fullness of God’s love.

### *Regal Future for Daughters of the King*

Remember God’s salvation is a big plan. First we are born into His family by faith in Jesus Christ—this is adoption. Next, we grow in power and obedience by understanding God’s great love for us—this is maturing in Christ. Finally, in the next life we will be transformed, not just our spirits, but our bodies, our domains, everything—this is **glorification**.

God saves us in the same order in which we fell. Adam’s spirit fell first and then later his body died. In salvation, our spirits are reborn first and then later our bodies will be made immortal. We don’t know a whole lot about what it will be like to have a resurrected, immortal body, but we know some things.

14. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-45, 49 (sidebar) and list the words that describe the Christian’s body in this life and the next.

<b>Body in This Life</b>	<b>Body of Believer In Next Life</b>



## *Because this is true, what should I do?*

There are many fairy stories about princesses—Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, and The Little Mermaid to name a few. The prince awakens Sleeping Beauty with a kiss; Cinderella finds her Prince at the Ball; and Snow White miraculously recovers from a poison apple. These are only stories; but, lost parents, wicked queens, poison apples, horrible curses, and miraculous princes are “more real” than you may realize. If you are human and a Christian, all the following sentences are true about you even though they sound like the stuff of fairy stories.

15. Write a sentence or two on the topics provided below, using facts from your own princess story.

I was born into a slave family. . . . .

This is how it happened that the King adopted me. . . . .

Now that I’m a princess, my realm is expanded. . . . .

An evil lord hates me. . . . .

I do not have to rule my domain alone. My overlord provides help. . . . .

I am looking forward to living in my Father’s palace. . . . .

## *Responding to God ...*

Praise God for adopting you.

Repent of allowing sin to reign in your body.

Acknowledge that salvation is a free gift, not a reason to boast.

Intercede for friends who have not been saved.

Supplication—ask God to lead you in the good works He’s prepared.

Equipping—ask for wisdom to rule well for Christ.

### **I m p o r t a n t T e r m**

**glorification:** happens after death when a believer is purged of the sin nature, given an immortal body like Christ’s, rewarded for the deeds done in the flesh, thereby taking his proper place in God’s eternal kingdom.

Our earthly fathers are meant to be pictures of God, the Heavenly Father. Some men are good representatives of God; others are not. You should honor your earthly father as a man, respect his office, thank him for his goodness, and forgive him for his failures.

Probably the most important part of growing from being a girl into a woman is learning to root your identity and security in your Heavenly Father instead of your earthly father. Ask God to bless you in this transition as you continue to grow into full maturity as a woman and a daughter of the King.

### *Visualize it this way...*

The classic story, *The Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, illustrates the importance of knowing who we are to God. Sara, the main character, is able to endure many misfortunes at the boarding house where she has to live, because of the love her father has for her. During his absence and feared death, she remains stable because she remembers she is precious to him. When the headmaster at the boarding house is cruel, dresses her in rags, and treats her like a servant, she remembers she is still her father's little princess.

We each have a heavenly Father who loves and cherishes us much more than Sara's father cherished her. As we experience various tests and trials in this life, our identity and security should be rooted in our Heavenly Father's unfailing love.

### *The big ideas are...*

1. By receiving Christ, I am adopted by God as His true child.
2. In obeying Christ, I can become the regal and responsible ruler of my world.
3. In Christ's reward, my domain and I will one day be gloriously transformed.

### *The important words are...*

salvation  
adoption  
regeneration  
glorification

### *Summing up...*

True "princess power" is based on knowing the love of God our Father and King.



*Daughter of the King* : life lesson  
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•  
•  
•

## *The Character Profile*

Basis of the *Daughter of the King* : woman is created in God’s image to rule the earth.

Roles of *Daughter of the King*: ruler, subduer, producer, steward of creation for God, manager, conqueror

Characteristics of the *Daughter of the King*: responsible, decisive, dependable, independent, organized, persevering, efficient, determined

## *Who Fits the Profile?*

When you have learned the biblical aspects of femininity well, you will start seeing them all over the place—in yourself, your mother, aunts, sisters, your girlfriends, in books, in movies, and in the news. Because all women were created by God to be women, they have these aspects. Of course all women are also fallen, so we see lots of perverted versions of the aspects as well.

To help you practice learning to see the aspects, we will consider women from four categories in each *Life Lesson*—from the Bible, from history, from literature, and from film.

To get you started, an example is supplied in each category. Add a character of your own in each category explaining how you see the *Daughter of the King* aspect in this woman.

*“Life lessons” are provided at the completion of each aspect for review, reflection, and application. After studying each aspect as it was created, fallen, and redeemed, it is good to practice “seeing” it in the world around us. The more accurately we understand Daughter of the King in day-to-day life, the better we will live it out as redeemed women.*

1. From the Bible:

The Shunammite of 2 Kings 4:8-10 built Elisha a room.

other— . . . . .  
. . . . .

2. From history

Corrie Ten Boom served God in horrendous circumstances.

other— . . . . .  
. . . . .

3. From literature

The Little Red Hen turned the wheat into bread.

other— . . . . .  
. . . . .

4. From films

Widow in *Places in the Heart* made the cotton farm productive.

other— . . . . .  
. . . . .

5. What part of the *Daughter of the King* aspect do you most want to be a part of your life?

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .