

The Classic Christian Woman
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"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
Romans 12:1

There are many ideas of what a classic is. The dictionary meaning according to Webster is, "serving as a standard of excellence :of recognized value". As I began delving into what makes a classic, I realized that striving to be a classic Christian woman might be a good thing. We aren't cars that someone will drive in a parade someday or that may end up in a museum, but each of us can set a standard that our children, family, and friends can look up to. Our lives can have a recognized value in the way that we live it.

Think about some of the wonderful women that are a classic to you. Corrie Ten Boom comes to my mind. She had such a hard life and yet she shined throughout it. Her courage and desire to serve the Lord is an inspiration to many of us. What about Fanny Crosby? She too had struggles, but all of the words she wrote in her poetry and the hymns we have from her pen reveal that she lived as a classic woman of God should. How about Timothy's mother and his grandmother? They had to have such an impact on him. They must have taught him well. The Bible tells us concerning Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15.

Here are some things to check to see if we are a 'classic'.

1. Heritage.

Classic cars, toys, and other things classic, are mostly known by their maker or manufacturer. As a Christian we have a wonderful heritage. We are God's children.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;
but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;
And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;
if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."
Romans 8:14-17

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son,
then an heir of God through Christ."
Galations 4:7

If someone turned you over to reveal your maker, would you have the right mark of identification?
Have you accepted Christ as your personal Savior?

"And whosoever was not found written in the book
of life was cast into the lake of fire."
Revelations 20:12

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
Romans 10:13

2. Quality.

When we think of a classic, we usually think of something that has quality. We think of the effectiveness and the essential character that it has. As Christians what could be more fitting as our quality, than holiness, because we serve a holy God.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,
and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought
unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient
children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former
lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you
is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
I Peter 1:13-16

3. Value.

We normally hang a pretty high price tag on our classics. Think how much a classic car can range. In Christ, we have value too. It is nothing that we are on our own. In contrast, He gave us our value when He died on the cross to save our souls. What is more compelling to make us want to live our lives in His will and to reflect that value He has given us?

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple
of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God,
and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
I Corinthians 6:19,20

4. Recognizable.

Classics of any type are easy to recognize. There's that little detailing that marks them as unique. How about us? When people look at us, do they know we are a Christian? Can they tell who our Maker is?

"A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have loved you,
that ye also love one another. By this shall
all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have
love one to another."
John 13:34,35

5. Timeless.

You all know those movies we consider classics, such as "It's A Wonderful Life" or a classic book, such as "Little Women". The classics are ones we can watch over and over or read over and over again. How many of our lives would we want replayed? Are we living in a way that our actions and deeds are worthy of being a classic? Are we leaving an example for our children? Are we leaving a heritage that is worth remembering or is all we've made just a fad that fades away? Conforming to the will of God and being in tune with Him in all aspects of our lives will help us live the life we should and make our lives worthy of remembering.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed
by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that
good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:1,2

I trust that we'll all strive to be classic Christian women. If we are mothers, we should strive even so much more because we have children that take our lives for their examples. We don't even have to be dead and gone to see what effect we have on our children. We can see it in them as they continue to grow from day to day. Our children should have wonderful strengths and qualities that come out in them by what they learned as a result of our examples. Christ was our ultimate example,

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us,
leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin,
neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled,
reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not;
but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"
I Peter 2:21-23

No one should have to turn us over to check the mark of our Maker. We should live in a way that it exudes from us. When we've left this earth, other's memories of us should conjure up something with the classic lines that a well-lived life of a godly woman should have.

So, do you consider yourself a classic?