

Of Use to the Master Julia Bettencourt

"...a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use,
and prepared unto every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21

Have you ever looked around your home and noticed the things that are just cluttering up space? They just aren't useful? It doesn't matter what they were originally intended for. Now they are just of no use to anyone. Things get outgrown, out used, broken, and worn. Some things even stay in perfect condition but if they aren't useful, they are just taking up space.

If you'd peek under my kitchen sink you'd find a deep dark graveyard of unusable appliances. It's where all good appliances go to die. Some of them haven't even been opened and still in their original boxes. However, they are not useful to me. They make so many things nowadays to make our lives more convenient but by the time you drag them out, put them together, use them for a 2 minute job, it sometimes isn't worth it. I've found that if you just give me a good paring knife and a whisk, I can accomplish more in the time it takes to drag out those appliances.

I've got useless things in the rest of my house too. Awhile back I was just so impressed at all the new plastic storage containers they offer now and bought myself several to get organized. Now what do I have but several beautiful colored boxes in my closet full of useless things.

Just like a vessel, all those things were made to be useful in some way. Our lives as Christians are to be vessels for Christ. I just wonder sometimes how many of us are just taking up space. How can we as women be the type of vessel Christ would have us be?

V Virtuous.

Are you a virtuous woman?

Virtuous means characterized by moral virtue, usually connoting a general moral excellence.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10

I think the only way we can improve in this area of our lives is to start analyzing the choices we make. Is this fitting for me as a child of God? Will this further the cause of Christ? A great way to have a check up in this area is to use the Philippians 4:8 guide in everything we do and say.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8

I can't pass up in saying that to live that kind of life is great, but to have the solid foundation in order to live in a virtuous way to the fullest is far better. Are you a child of God? Is your salvation settled? In order begin to improve yourself as a vessel of Christ, you must first know the Master.

E Exceptional.

Are you an exceptional woman?

To really be a good vessel we are going to have to be exceptional. We oughtn't be satisfied with just living a hum drum average life as a Christian. Just going through the motions won't accomplish much. We have to strive to be better, to be of a better quality of a vessel. We need to improve ourselves, hone our skills.

It sure amazes me how so many people will go the extra mile to make the time to pick up a class of some type to improve themselves for their job but they won't take the time to study the Bible, take a Bible study course, attend a revival in their church, or even attempt to improve themselves to be a better Christian.

I love how Paul lived the Christian life. He wasn't content to be average.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:13,14

S Selfless.

Are you a selfless woman?

If we want Christ, our Master, to use us, we are going to have to empty ourselves of self. I know it is so easy to get caught up in our selfish ways. We are human and it's something I think all of us battle with but if we are really going to be used, we are going to have to let Christ have complete control.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

S Separated.

Are you a separated woman?

How can we ever be a vessel of use to Christ if we are living and breathing and accepting all the world has to offer and making those things manifest in our lives? Too many Christians want to live in the 'grey' areas. Personally I don't think we as Christians should have 'grey' areas. We have to set some boundaries in our lives. I don't think we can look at others and what they do. I think we have to search things out for ourselves. Find what you know God would have *you* do. Study God's Word. Breathe it in for awhile and you will be better able to determine what is right and what you know is right for you as a Christian.

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient..." I Corinthians 6:12

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

E Exemplary.

Are you an exemplary woman?

If we are the type of vessel that is used of God, we will be a good example to others. The world has the philosophy that we should just 'live and let live' but as Christians we always have to be aware how others view us because we are representing Christ. Do you win people to Christ just by the example you live or are you a hindrance to their salvation? Do you think other Christians would want to be the type of vessel you are?

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" Colossians 1:10

L Laboring.

Are you a laboring woman?

We as vessels of Christ have a job to do. Sharing Christ to a dying world should be a priority to us. If we are going to be of any use, we have to do the things Christ left us here to do. Are there things holding you back from doing those things?

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37,38

2 Timothy 2:21 talks about being ***"meet for the master's use"***. We are not our own. We are Christ's. His vessels. He's our Master. We are the clay so everything we do bears on how He can use us. We have to let go and let Him mold and make us.

So, are you just taking up space, or are you of use to the Master?