

Issacharian Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Dear Girls,

EXHORTED INTO MARRIAGE—PART TWO

Here are some of the other exhortations married women gave me just days before I entered into the blessed estate of marriage:

“The Secrets to a Special Marriage...I asked my husband what these are and he said, ‘there is just one Genevieve needs to know...marry a fantastic man and the rest is easy!’ 1 Peter 3v7 says that husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of life. Being heirs together equals companionship which in turn equals the best relationship earthly life has to offer. Value it. Cultivate it. Be thankful for it. God created you and Pete. He created each of your characters and shaped your being, your life to be a perfect match for each other. Never forget the uniqueness, the specialness of your marriage (the unity, togetherness the oneness). Foster it. Feed it. Grow it. Spend time together talking, sharing, trusting, serving. 1 Peter 3 also says that wives are to be submissive. The person you should look to share your thoughts, heart and life with is your husband—not your friends.”

Receiving exhortation at the Titus 2 Evening.



“Value these first years with Pete working together. Beware of the desire to control. Always be the first to say sorry. The home belongs to you and Pete. Let it be masculine. Don’t

be nagging or contentious. Learn about your limitations. Plan your day so that your husband doesn’t get the dregs.”

“Jonathan Swift once wrote a letter to a young lady on her marriage. I want to share parts of it with you, ‘The grand affair of your life will be to gain and preserve the Friendship and Esteem of your Husband. You are [to be] married to a Man of good education and learning, of an excellent understanding and an exact taste. It is true, and it is happy for you, that these Qualities in him are adorned with great Modesty, a most amiable Sweetness of Temper, and an unusual disposition to Sobriety and Virtue: But neither Good-Nature nor Virtue will suffer Him to esteem you against his Judgement. And although he is not capable of using you ill, yet you will in time grow a thing indifferent and perhaps, contemptible; unless you can supply the loss of Youth and Beauty with more durable Qualities. You have but a very few years to be young and handsome in the eyes of the World; and as few months to be so in the eyes of a Husband, who is not a Fool. For I hope you do not still

dream of Charms and Raptures, which Marriage ever did, and ever will, put a sudden end to. Besides yours was a match of Prudence and common Good-liking.

“You must therefore use all endeavours to attain to some degree of those Accomplishments which your Husband most values in other People, and for which he is most valued himself. This must produce in your Husband a true Rational Love and Esteem for you, which old Age will not diminish. He will have regard for your Judgement and Opinion in matters of the greatest weight; you will be able to entertain each other with a Third Person to relieve you by finding Discourse.

“I will add one thing although it be a little out of place, which is to desire that you will learn to value and esteem your husband for those good Qualities which he really pocessteth, and not to fancy others in him which he certainly hath not. For although this latter is generally understood to be a mark of Love, yet it is indeed nothing but Affectation or ill Judgement. It is true, he wants so very few Accomplishments, that you are in great danger of erring on this side.

“I can give you no Advice upon the Article of Expense, only I think you ought to be well informed how much your Husband’s Revenue amounts to, and be so good a Computer as to keep within it, in that part of the Management which falls to your share. And not to put yourself in the number of those Politick Ladies, who think they gain a great Point when they have teased their Husbands to buy them a new Equipage, a lac’d head or a fine Petticoat, without once considering what long Scores remain unpaid to the Butcher.’

“The only thing I would add to Mr Swift’s eloquent words would be for you to always look to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things, at all times. There will be times (although now you can’t possibly imagine how or when) that you and Pete won’t see eye to eye, when an issue becomes insurmountable or life is just too hard. When (Lord willing) you have four children under 5, the plumbing doesn’t work, the cat just spewed on the baby, and Pete is out of town. Especially at times like those (and they will come, sooner or later) trust in the Lord. He is your comfort and joy, your strength and light in the dark. May God bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”

“The ABCs of marriage are Appreciation (with a smile) Best Friend (make time with each other) Cuddles and Kisses.”

“Proverbs says, ‘a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband’ and do you know what a crown does? It sparkles! Your husband needs to see love for him shining from your eyes. Therefore prepare your heart and mind by dwelling on the good and excellent. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise [in your husband], think on these things.”

“Beware of Overtiredness (overdoing things), Overcommitment (outside the home), O Poor Me! (feeling sorry for oneself), Overbearing (towards husband) and O What a Mess! (your children need to help with the housework). While all these things are normal at times we need to recognise them and re-plan things so these things don’t put undue strain on our marriage. Stand back from the situation and plan your day or week so that the stress times are avoided.”

“**First**, regarding cheerfulness and contentment: My usual piece of advice has to do with cultivating a heart of cheerfulness and contentment in your life as this will enable you to face life and all that the Lord brings along as you walk down life’s pathway together. But you’ve left me with nothing to say on that as you’ve already sought to cultivate that at this stage in your life which can be one of the early testing times: when you are in your 20s and still single! **Second**, regarding Proverbs 31v25 which says: ‘She is clothed with strength and

dignity; *she can laugh at the days to come.*' I've found this verse to be a real encouragement to stay close to the Lord. To be able to do this, you have to live without fear. And the only way to minimize fear is to know Him and His character so well, that you can completely trust Him with whatever He may bring into your life such as loss of property, draughts, fire, plagues of insects (like Australia is prone to!), loss of loved ones, health issues, disabilities, accidents, even just waking up one day and thinking, 'I didn't know Pete thinks this or that!' Not that 'serious' things will happen immediately in your married life, but I don't know what the Lord has in store for you—what trials and joys you will have to face. But whatever the Lord has for you to face, may He enable you to 'laugh at the days to come' because you walk with Him and can trust Him with every aspect of your life. Psalm 112v1, 7 says, 'Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.' **Third**, remember these faces: May you always find encouragement in remembering these ladies and these evenings [I have put on a Titus 2 evening about once a year for the past five years—Genevieve]. Because we're not always surrounded by people who are able to encourage us to do and believe what we believe is right before the Lord, may the memory of the faces of these ladies strengthen you and keep you faithful to the personal standards that you've set for yourself. With moving around into different churches we've found that there is always a measure of pressure to conform to be like 'the group'. 'If you want to fit in here you must look like us, think like us, speak and behave like us.' May you be strengthened to live above and beyond these pressures as you remember these faces."

For the Greater Glory of God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Genevieve de Deugd
Issacharian Wife