

APPENDIX



MUSIC OF THE HEART

From *Women: God's Secret Weapon*, ch. 4 by Ed Silvano

Women awaken in men the most intense feelings. Poetry, drama, songs and music capture the depth and intensity of those sentiments in a never-ending harmonious cascade. From the mothers that first held them close to their bosoms to the wives that encircled them with their arms to the daughters they carried on their shoulders, men have had a most intimate relationship with women. Nothing can touch the heart of a man like a woman. She can cause wells of tenderness to spring up all over the rugged surface of his soul.

CASTAWAY IN A SEA OF LOVE

I vividly remember the day when, as a teenager, I saw a picture that would change my life.

Soon after becoming a Christian I made a deal with God. I told Him that I did not want to date a series of girls to find out which one I should marry. Instead, I was determined to wait for Him to tell me when the right one came along. It was not easy, but I kept my promise. In the same fashion that the Athenians prayed to the unknown god, I prayed for the unknown girl God had somewhere for me.

A couple of years later, a friend showed me a picture of a family with several girls in it. All of a sudden I felt the Lord say to me, "The girl in the right lower corner is the one I have

for you." I immediately reached for a magnifying glass and told God that He had excellent taste!

As smitten as I was, there was little I could do about it because this girl lived in another province, hundreds of kilometers away, and she attended a church that belonged to a denomination that historically had been antagonistic toward my church's denomination.

Even if she lived in my town or we could communicate at the time, dating among Christians in my native Argentina was a very elaborate process. A potential suitor needed to be invited to visit socially, and this required an advocate. If the girl liked him, permission had to be requested from her parents for courtship to be initiated. If granted, holding hands was as far as things could go until additional clearance was obtained. On strictly a human level, my chances of connecting with her were slim at best.

However, God has a way of bringing about His will. Juan Carlos Ortiz¹ was marrying the sister of the girl in the picture, and they chose to have the civil ceremony in my hometown. The entire family was expected to come. What I did not know was that at about the same time I had heard God's message, that girl had also been shown a picture of our youth group, and she felt God say to her, "The tall guy, in the black leather jacket, he is the one I have for you." When she came to town we were both checking each other out, totally unaware of what the other was doing!

The day she arrived I went to my pastor's house for a "spontaneous" visit, and there was that girl. The moment I looked into her green eyes I became a castaway tossed in an emerald sea. Her hair was a mountain of gold. Her perfect teeth, surrounded by beautiful lips and flanked by dimples, added an incredible frame to a superb picture. Her voice was a purling contralto, and when she picked up the guitar and began to sing, I felt as if I had been transported to heaven.



She touched my heart like nothing else ever had. I knew a river of love existed but was totally unaware of how powerful it was until it invaded my soul. That day my life changed forever. Even though it would take seven years before we held hands at the altar, the day I first saw that girl I was arrested by her. All my emotions became captive to hers. I had set eyes on the sun at noontime, and I was unable to see anyone else. Oases of romance sprang up in my soul. Once again, like innumerable times through the ages since the beginning of the world, a woman had touched and changed a man forever.

That girl, the one I first saw in the photograph, is now my wife, Ruth. Together we have built a love nest where four beautiful daughters, Karina, Marilyn, Evelyn and Jessica, have been born and raised.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

While women are capable of stirring the noblest feelings in the male heart, they can also cause the deepest hurts. Music bears witness to that. From the mellow lament of country music ballads to the angry cry of the tango, songs testify to the depth of such ache. Couples who yesterday embraced at the altar, today succumb to alcohol to deaden the pain asphyxiating their once blossoming love. How can something that began so beautifully in a flowerbed end up so tragically in a cemetery plot?

The root of the problem goes all the way to the beginning of the world. Every sin affects relationships on two levels: vertical, between people and God, and horizontal, between two or more people. When Adam and Eve experienced sin, in addition to breaking fellowship with God, they also broke fellowship with each other. The perfect intimacy they once enjoyed was shattered. The same Adam who days before described Eve as "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" and coined the word "woman" to describe her, now disowned her and accused her before God of being the source of his spiritual misery.

The first sin created a gap between man and woman, the gender gap which is the oldest horizontal gap. Since that sad day in the Garden, men and women have suffered its consequences, the most devastating of which is the utter state of incompleteness for both of them when they do not walk in harmony. This in turn has handed the devil a tremendous advantage. Never has the axiom "divide and conquer" rendered higher dividends than when Satan applied it to the gender gap.

Jane Hansen, the president of Aglow International, captured the urgency and the relevance

of this when she said, “When God created Adam He made him in His own image, male and female. Both components were in Adam. When God took part of Adam to create Eve, he became totally male while she came to embody the female dimension of God. It is imperative for men and women to be reconciled in order to be able to fully express God’s image on earth.”² Jane Hansen’s point cannot be emphasized enough: Men and women must be reconciled to reflect God on Earth!

THE FIRST LOSS

Christ came to seek and save what was lost. On the horizontal level, the first loss was intimacy and equality between male and female. Its consequences stretch through the ages. The need for wholeness between genders goes beyond male and female. It affects institutions, secular and religious, as well as families.

Even though the Old Testament closes on a very high note of hope, predicting that in the last days God will turn the hearts of parents toward their children (see Mal. 4:4-6), for this to happen parents must be reconciled among themselves first. Reconciliation is needed because many, if not most of the problems found among youth today are the visible expression of roots hidden beneath unresolved gender issues which trace their original source back to the Garden.

THE ANTIBODY

Reconciliation between men and women is the key. But within this key there is another one: the restoration of women. Men build houses, but women turn them into homes. It is this extraordinary ability to nurse and nur-

ture that has to be affirmed and released.

Like Eve in the Garden, women have been lied to by the devil. Like Adam on that fateful day, men continue to conspire with their silence and judgmental pronouncements. The consequences are painful and have reached epidemic status because every generation is born with this virus.

Even though Christ’s death changed everything, most people, even Christians, are still unaware that a divine vaccine is available. Christ injected Himself with the deadly bacteria and overcame it to produce lifesaving antibodies. “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ [and] there is neither . . . male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:27,28, NIV).

It is about time for the chain of despair to be broken and for women to take the seat of honor that Christ has for them. This is not a passive placement. To the contrary, it is at the forefront of God’s plans. God opens the Bible with a threat to Satan, “I will put enmity between you and the woman” (Gen. 3:15) and closes with a picture of a city where multitudes dwell with God forever because her seed (Jesus) has crushed Satan’s head (see Rev. 21).

The day is fast approaching when women all over the world will hear the word “fight,” and fight they will. But for this to happen, men and women need to become aware of the web of subtle lies they have embraced and through which women have been held down.

The power that enforces those lies is the lack of reconciliation between genders. Not only are women incarcerated, but so are men

because they will never be everything they are meant to be until they become reconnected to the suitable help. Without this reconnection, both men and women are utterly incomplete.

Women are indeed the music of the heart. When they are ignored or abused, it is like the string and brass sections of a symphonic orchestra going mute in the midst of a performance. Worse yet, when women are abused, as we will see in the next chapter, the instruments suffer irreparable damage.

NOTES

1. Juan Carlos Ortiz is a well-known Argentine revivalist and author of the best-selling book, *Disciple: A Handbook for New Believers* (Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 1996).
2. Jane Hansen (presentation at the International Council of Apostles gathering, Dallas, Texas, December 8, 2000).



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