

Understanding Women and Their Issues

Many Christian women have NOT invested much time in their own discipleship and growth. Therefore, you must operate from certain assumptions about the spiritual condition of the women in your groups and whom you disciple. Regardless of how long she's been identifying as a Christian, every woman (including you!) has Lordship Issues, a Spiritual Posture, and a Life Mode.

How to use this resource: read it together with women and have them identify their own Lordship Issues, Spiritual Posture, and Life Mode. In turn, you can share your issues, posture, and mode and let iron sharpen iron.

LORDSHIP ISSUES

Each of us is a fallen human being whom Jesus is seeking to restore to His image. That means Jesus wants us to recognize and surrender our Lordship issues to Him. The following Lordship issues are *not* exhaustive or in any particular order:

Singleness	Contentment, comparisons, sexual compromise, choosing vices to fill loneliness
Marriage	Staying married, bitterness/unforgiveness, withholding sex, infidelity
Personality	Controller, perfectionist, enabler, manipulator/charmer
Identity	Lack of self-worth, pride, shame, gender confusion, victim mentality
Emotions	Anger, worry, bitterness/unforgiveness, easily offended, self-pity, shame
Finances	Overspending, discontentment, hoarding, fear of the future
Addictions	Emotional eating, alcohol, drugs, screens
Sex	Fantasies, masturbation, same-sex attraction, porn, perversion, aversion, shame
Mouth	Negative, critical, abusive, profane speech
Bias	Denominational, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, cultural, political
Kids	Yelling, abusive discipline, lack of discipline, controlling, children over husband
Church	Consumer mentality, holding on to church hurt, church hopping, critical spirit

SPIRITUAL POSTURES

Every woman has a spiritual posture that mostly defines her, though she may also relate to more than one:

The Unsaved Woman: She has not responded to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What she needs from you: The Gospel

The Spiritually Prideful Woman: She has a high exposure to all things Christian and is well-versed in church life. She may be knowledgeable in the Word and serving in leadership. She might be territorial, resistant to change, unteachable, and non-transparent.

What she needs from you: An understanding of the Kingdom of God and freedom to be authentic

The Lukewarm Woman: She doesn't have a regular devotional life, exhibits no real hunger for God, which is evidenced by her choices. She may be worldly in her priorities and attends church and Bible study when they fit into her schedule.

What she needs from you: Help owning her discipleship through the Christian disciplines (quiet time, prayer, etc.)



The Cheap Grace Woman: She is often morally compromised, expecting heaven without holiness, eternal life without Christian living, and blessing without ministry.

What she needs from you: Accountability and increased understanding of obedience and reverence for God

The Well-Churched Woman: She's a faithful attender and often a spiritual information junkie, but she may not be characterized by impacting people with her faith.

What she needs from you: An understanding that she is called to participate in the Great Commission

The Spiritually Hungry Woman: She's faithful, available, and teachable (FAT). She wants to grow, to change, and to live intentionally for Jesus Christ.

What she needs from you: A mentor – someone who will invest in her discipleship

Even if a woman can honestly say she is the spiritually hungry woman, she needs to recognize that there was a posture that mostly characterized her prior to spiritual hunger.

LIFE MODES

Each woman has a *modus operandi* – a way that characterizes how she generally operates:

The Reaction Mode: Passively dominated by the “tyranny of the urgent” and perpetually reacting to life. Always playing catch-up and feeling out of control. Rarely operates out of a sense of purpose. Marked by worry, anxiety, depression and/or lack of faith and trust. *Circumstances rule.*

The Conformity Mode: Doesn't want to stand out, stays with the pack, does what is mostly popular or acceptable. Generally misses God's personal will for her life. Marked by maintaining the spiritual status quo, seeking other people's approval, and various levels of compromise. *People Rule.*

The Independent Mode: Generally rebellious, while believing herself to be “free.” Often dismissive to authority, both spiritual and secular. Prone to ignoring God's authority and will, while pursuing her own wants and wishes. Marked by control, anger, and forgiveness issues. If married, she may be divorce minded. *Self rules.*

The Intentional Mode: Living within the context of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Seeks progressive submission to the will of God. Marked by obedience, purpose, and intentionality in ministry and relationships. *Jesus rules.*

As Christians, we all need to operate from the *intentional mode*. FYI - we cannot be in the intentional mode and CHARACTERIZED by one or more of the other three modes at the same time.

Your discipleship in a woman's life should address her Lordship issues, help her embrace a healthy spiritual posture, and an intentional life mode. With accountability, she will be positively impacted and better able to contribute to making disciples.