

## **Holy Harmony - Part 3**

*Elizabeth Elliot*

### I. Introduction.

- A. A holy harmony means walking with God and in company with Him.
- B. Only can two walk together if they are in agreement.
- C. The rule of our life must be, Thy will be done.
  - 1. In the Garden, man chose what he wanted.
  - 2. We propagate this decision today.
  - 3. However, we have numerous daily opportunities to choose his will.
- D. See in any difficulty “a chance to die.”
- E. Our values must go back to the cross.
- F. God is the sovereign controller of all things.
  - 1. If we really believe this, then it becomes easier to give it all to him.
  - 2. If we really believe that God can run the molecular dance, it is plainly ridiculous to assume that we can handle our lives better than he can.
  - 3. Some desperately want to get married, and some do not want it at all. Others are at peace where they are. Whatever the end, His design is perfect for us. He wants no less than the best.
- G. In His love we can surrender ourselves to His will and accept His daily bread.
  - 1. Even though the Father never gives us bad gifts, some of our requests are scorpions and stones. (Psalm 84:11)
  - 2. Any man can bear the conditions of today for today. Do not let the worries of tomorrow bear upon today.

### II. What God wants to do:

- A. He wants to teach us His love, which is not loneliness but communion.
- B. He wants to reveal to us His will, which is not misery but joy.
- C. He wants to prove to us His trustworthiness, which is not fear but peace.

D. He wants to make known day by day, hour by hour His intimate presence when it seems like He is doing nothing.

E. God is not going to do the whole job - we must offer Him our trust and our whole self.

### III. The subject of chastity.

#### A. The Christian rule that never changes.

1. The rule is either marriage with faithfulness or complete abstinence. (C.S. Lewis)

2. It is not true that the body is for lust. It is for the Lord. (I Corinthians 6:13)

3. The will of God is for us to be holy - specifically to avoid fornication. (I Thessalonians 4:3)

a. Fornication includes all types of sexual sin.

b. Each must learn to gain mastery over one's body.

c. It is not "your body."

4. It is not natural to exchange the instinct for sexual satisfaction; either Christianity has gone wrong or our instincts have gone wrong. (C.S. Lewis)

a. There is nothing shameful about sex. But the state that sex has gotten to is shameful.

b. Sex is not in the same category as food.

c. We sympathize with Augustine who prayed that the Lord would make him chaste...but not yet.

5. When a thing must be done, never think the impossibility, just do it.

#### B. Repression and suppression are two different things.

1. To resist a conscious desire is not repression.

2. Resistance brings light and indulgence brings fog.

### IV. Pursuing one's desire for a spouse.

#### A. The business of relationships is a dangerous game for Christians.

1. We are sinners.

2. We have distorted what sex is to mean.

a. Even polygamy in a culture that had an economic need had rules.

- b. There is great confusion in Christian books today.
- c. There is little for paradigms in the Bible for relationships.
- d. "Relationship" is a word that is already dangerous.

1) The example of a man who looked for a wife with qualities of mind and heart. He surrendered his desires to God, yet He provided the right wife for the man.

2) The Bible talks about arranged marriages, but one cannot assume that we can go back to that today.

#### B. Eight principles.

1. Surrender to the will of God. There is nothing wrong with having a desire, but your desire is to be surrendered.
2. Faithful performance of the duties God has given.
3. Expectancy that God will guide you.
4. Watchfulness as to that guidance.
5. Setting character as a priority.
6. A new commitment of natural feelings.
7. No dating but a frank conversation of love in the first conversation.
8. The recognition of God's gift.

#### C. The story of Abraham who sent out a servant to find a wife for Isaac.

1. Abraham believed that God would send an angel before the servant.
2. If the woman was unwilling, the servant would be released - Abraham was realistic about the possibility.
3. The woman found was a hard worker - a unique woman.
4. The servant prayed silently.
5. Rebecca was a virgin and was very beautiful. Rebecca was polite and had character.
7. The servant was watching quietly.

#### D. To the men.

1. You seek the woman in the context that the Lord has placed you.

2. Set character as a priority.
3. Dating has been a very poor method - it is a do it yourself method.
4. When you reach adulthood, turn it over to God.

E. Scriptural principles.

1. Foundation of prayer - it is going to be the will of God - nothing more, less, or else.
  - a. Example of a man of prayer whom God unveiled His choice for his wife to.
  - b. The woman also felt like it was God's will.
  - c. There are too many examples of people who did things the natural way, but things did not work out.
2. Take counsel from spiritual mothers and fathers who know how to pray. In the multitude of counselors there is safety.
3. It is the husband's responsibility to be initiators - as Christ is the initiator, so too is the husband supposed to be an initiator.
  - a. Masculinity is responsibility.
  - b. Masculinity has too easily been confused.

**Application questions.**

1. What are the four things that God wants to do? How should these impact our thoughts about Him and about our future?

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2. Summarize some of the speaker's concerns with dating. Is the defense of her position biblical? Why or why not?

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3. Why is prayer and surrender so important to discerning God's will, accepting what He has for us, and receiving His guidance? What place do these two principles take in your own life? What can you do to make them more prominent?

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