

Bottom Feeders or Trophy Catch?

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the line, and then cast it out into deep water. There it sits on the bottom. Every once in a while, I will reel it back in to check if the bait is still on and cast it back out.

Rarely, do I catch a wanted bass or trout (unless they are lost or are very dumb) on that rig. I usually hook something, but it's unwanted fish: bottom feeders like catfish, suckers, or carp — at least I can tell my wife I caught something. Most of the time, the fish from the bottom is not what a fisherman is trying to catch, and it is rarely something he would ever brag about.

I was thinking of catching the bottom feeders after seeing a young Christian woman's posting on social media. She was showing off how she looked after getting ready for a first-time date. There she was in her tight-fitting dress, far from being modest, make-up that would rival many movie actors, and heels that were nose-bleed high. Although I only have seen actors portraying prostitutes showing their "wares" on television, she was not dressed much differently. I was troubled about what she was doing to herself, and what she was advertising to her date.

Now, I certainly would not say anything to her, but I would like to. I would like to tell her that when a person dresses like that, she would probably end up with a

"bottom feeder," one of those catches that one usually throws back and is not proud of catching.

Her dress-up efforts most likely will not attract someone that is looking for a good wife, not looking for intellect, friendship, good character, a sparkling personality, and a good mother for his future children. Most likely, he will only be attracted to the bait she was offering, would get the biggest bite he can get away with, and will soon swim off to see what else the bottom of the lake has to offer. She will be left all alone, again, more lonely and rejected than she was before, and she may even wonder where she went wrong.

A child of God should not be looking for "bottom feeders." When a fisherman wants to catch a fish worth his time, he uses the right bait and fishes in completely different spots. To catch a desired trout, he fishes the cool, deep holes under a shaded tree. It usually does not look like a likely spot, but that is where you find them. If the goal is a lively, prized, large tail-dancing bass, then a line is cast among the tall grasses and lily pads. A Christian should not be going to the wrong, worldly places to find a mate.

Dating should not be to try to catch everything that is swimming around. That type of "fishing" often does a lot of mental damage to the "fisherman" and "fish" alike, and the result is usually

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A Virtuous Woman

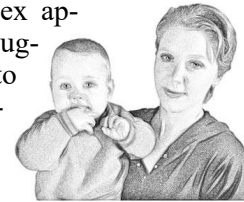
Bill Brinkworth

Throughout the Bible, there is much advice given from father to son. Proverbs 31, however, relays a mother's counsel to her boy.

Most likely, King Lemuel was a godly leader, as his name means "belonging to God." His mother advised the King on how to continue to be a strong leader (Proverbs 31:3-9).

In the rest of the chapter, she helps him with one of the most important decisions of his life. The mother helped her son know the right values to look for when picking the right wife. She knew that a wife could make or break a man's and family's success.

The mother's advice did not include picking a woman for her beauty and sex appeal. Her suggestion was to pick a woman who was faithful to her husband, a hard worker, pure, moral, and industrious.



A good wife should be "virtuous." Beauty will change (Prov. 31:30), but good character and morality will last a lifetime and be beneficial to many. "Virtuous": *practitioner of duty, sexually pure, accomplished, and moral*

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

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Bottom Feeders or Trophy Catch?

Bill Brinkworth

I love to fish. However, I am one of those fishermen that is not an environmental threat. Many times, I come back with nothing, but it still is fun to try.

Sometimes, when I don't seem to catch anything with my lures, or flies, I switch to a sure-fire method that usually allows me to hook something. I find the wiggiest worms, or the smelliest chicken guts I can find. I put them on a good-sized hook, make sure there is a hefty weight on the

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A Virtuous Woman

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According to this Proverb, a virtuous woman:

- ☞ Can be relied upon and trusted (Prov. 31:11).
- ☞ Will do a husband good and make him a better man (Prov. 31:12, 23).
- ☞ Will be industrious, always helping, and providing for the needs of her husband and family (Prov. 31:13-15, 17, 27).
- ☞ Will look for meeting, not only the family's current needs but what will benefit them in the future (Prov. 31:16, 21).
- ☞ Is a hard worker (Prov. 31:18-19, 24, 27).
- ☞ Is kind, even to those outside her family (Prov. 31:20, 26).
- ☞ Provides for her own needs (Prov. 31:22).
- ☞ Is honorable and has a strong character (Prov. 31:25).
- ☞ Is wise (Prov. 31:26).
- ☞ Is respected and relied on by her family (Prov. 31:28).
- ☞ Is godly (Prov. 31:30).

This type of woman was not uncommon in the past. Today, perhaps because of the changing values of women during the 1970s, they are not as prevalent. Unfortunately, it has been drummed into many women's minds that they can do better than being a mother and wife. Many have been brainwashed into believing that being

a housewife is beneath them, and they should seek a career in which they are worthy and is more important.

Being a wife and mother is not a menial task. The awesome abilities and responsibilities given to women are the backbone of a family and nation. It is the mother who can mold young lives and strengthen families and, eventually, even society. She is the silent strength and selfless worker who may not get much limelight, but without her, families and society stumble and crumble, as can be seen today.

Despite what the "unisex" movement tried to convince women into believing, men and women are different. Women have strengths and abilities that a man does not have. Vice versa, a man can do things a woman cannot. It does not imply that one sex is better than the other. Instead of trying to change their created purposes and trying to be what they are not, society would benefit if the sexes would not be confused about what their strengths and gifts are and fulfill the purpose and unique abilities God has given them.

Since the confusion of the sexes increased, the divorce rate has skyrocketed. Many children now come from "broken" homes. Males and females are confused about who and what they are. An increasing number of couples are living together unmarried. Many children do not even know who their parents

are. "Know-better-than-God" and making their own social guidelines have not worked! Humanity is suffering greatly.

Man and woman must return to living the way God wants them to and to be the man or woman He desires them to be. Men and women, especially those that want to please God, should both be virtuous, content, and proud of who they are and to be the best they can be!

Bottom Feeders or ...

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unhappiness. Feelings get hurt. Moral standards get lowered. Regrets remain. Frustration flourishes, and long-time marriage goals may be compromised. Dating should be for mating. It should be an avenue to find a lifetime marriage partner.

Only the right "catch" should be sought. The right catch is one that is spiritually similar. A Christian should only be seeking a Christian as a soulmate. Marriage is a joining ("yoked") of a man and wife intended to be for a lifetime. Two cannot be yoked together if their relationship with the Lord will lead them in different directions. The goals and thinking are too different between a saved and an unsaved person. Often the pressures of these differences cause not only disunity between the husband and wife, but to silence marital problems, the Christian often compromises or hides his spiritual feelings and

desires.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Cor. 6:14

It is quite common that when a believer marries an unbeliever that different problems arise. One wants to flee sin and obey convictions placed in his heart, and the other does not see things the same way. There is not any spiritual commonality between a child of God and a lost person. A spiritual relationship is far more important than married people realize — until it is too late.

This is the reason God tells believers to only "yoke up" (work together — and marriage is a lifetime "work") with like-minded believers. The desire of a Christian should be to spiritually grow. Growth will be inhibited if a mate is not a child of God (I Cor. 5:9-13). Once a relationship with an unsaved person is started, it may be hard to stop it. To avoid regrettable actions, never allow yourself to "bottom feed" in the first place. A regrettable relationship with a lost person will not occur if an unsaved person is never dated.

Set your goals on a trophy catch. Go where the "trout" or "bass" are found. Never lower your expectations or goals. If you are a child of God, you deserve only the best, God-selected trophy catch, and that is God's desire for you also.