

Vessels of Honor

By Brenda DuBmage

*Since you are precious in My sight,
Since you are honored
and I love you.*

Isaiah 43:4a



Flowers of Splendor

By Sally Pickard

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the
display of His splendor.*

Isaiah 61:3

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Dulmage

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IN DEDICATION

To our husbands,
Maurice and Duane for their
encouragement, love, and support.



WE ACKNOWLEDGE

We would like to thank our dear friend, Harriet Gallaway, who assists us at our seminars, prays for us faithfully, and gave us much encouragement during this adventure of writing *Vessels and Flowers*, and *Vessels of Honor & Flowers of Splendor*.

We would like to thank Sally's sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lee and Lester Young, who allowed us to use their lovely home to do most of the writing.

We would like to thank our Golden Threads, Betty, Peggy and Vicki who continued to say encouraging words along the way. And a very special thank you to Lynn Jamros and Stacy Frye who carefully and expertly edited our book. We also thank Sharon Beachy and Isobel Dunkley for editing this revised edition.

We gratefully acknowledge God's divine hand in bringing the ideas of *Vessels and Flowers* to us as we endeavor to present to women how God chose us as honored and splendid in His sight.

- Brenda & Sally

FORWARD

Without a doubt, the subject of personalities has been a popular topic through the years, for understanding the differences in people is very essential to living in community. Knowing how we function differently from others is vital in the workaday world, education, and family living. The Christian community, particularly, has found this subject of utmost importance as Christians seek to find where they function best in the body of Christ.

Sally Pickard and I attended Northwestern College together, and we have been long time friends through the years. Many times I have listened to her share her heart concerning a desire to help people who have difficulties in life due to a lack of understanding of the personalities. In reading through *Vessels and Flowers*, I have also sensed that same heart in Brenda Dulmage. Here are two women, very different from one another in personality, yet given the same burden to use their gifts together to help others.

Particularly of interest to me is the information concerning the extrovert and introvert. The authors have given us a depth of understanding in this area that may be new to many. There has obviously been misunderstanding concerning this through the years.

The reader will find this approach to the subject of personality differences unique and fresh, and while the information is helpful to anyone, it will especially minister to women, which is the chief desire of the authors.

- Marilyn Sonmor

Marilyn has a B.M. from the University of Northwestern; has an M.A. from Fuller Seminary; was a missionary for 10 years in the Philippines; taught and was Dean of Women at Southwestern College in Phoenix; was in *Who's Who in Education*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the West*, and *Who's Who in American Christian Leadership*.

PREFACE

Learning about the differences in people and accepting them is at the heart of *Vessels and Flowers*. It starts with information and ends in understanding. Sally and I recognize that the beginning of our ideas and understanding came from numerous sources over the span of many, many years.

In the years since we started writing this book, we have integrated this understanding of differences into our personal lives, marriages, families, friendships, churches, business relationships, and ministries. We have expanded on the original information in our own unique ways, so it would be impossible to give credit for every single idea on this subject.

We acknowledge that a great deal of our original knowledge came as we learned from other sources, especially the information on temperaments. Other's work formed some of the stepping-stones that have formed our present understanding of this subject. They are so much a part of us that it is difficult to determine where other's ideas end and ours begin.

It has been an exciting journey to discover, and teach about the unique differences in people, and to now enlarge it all to a broader audience through this book.

Vessels of Honor & Flowers of Splendor is an expanded version of the original book, *Vessels & Flowers*

- Brenda Dulmage

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago I, Sally, had a women's retreat at my home in Coshocton, Ohio. I invited Brenda to come and participate by presenting a workshop, as well as enjoy the fellowship with other ladies.

On Friday evening Brenda presented a workshop about women and grieving, and woven through her material was information about women's temperaments. On Saturday morning my workshop was about how God designed us to function. During the course of the day, other women spoke and gave workshops on a variety of subjects. But that evening as we all sat around the large, homey dining room and chatted, the subjects of temperaments and how we are designed for function kept coming up.

The women began to realize that this information could be very important in their lives. They asked question after question until very late. Suddenly someone said, "You two ought to write a book." And the rest of the women chimed in, "Yes, Yes! You need to write a book!"

I threw back my head and laughed. Brenda, said, "Let's get started!"

I had read material and listened to speakers on the subject of God's Design for Function over the years. I had much the same interest in that subject as Brenda had in the Temperaments. We had taught in the same ladies Bible study group for a while.

After that, we both thought about it for some time, but we were not sure just how to begin. Then in the Fall of 1996 I attended a women's seminar that was about women's temperaments. I enjoyed the seminar very much.

However, I came away realizing that Brenda and I had a vast amount of information that would also be helpful and encouraging to women. I just knew there had to be a way to explain to women that the blend of our Temperament and our Design for Function is an important part of who we are.

Of course, when I mentioned this to Brenda she was ready to start right away. It was at that time that we began the process of working out how to present accurate word pictures of these truths.

We decided that the best way to get started writing on this subject was to put together a seminar. So, in December we began planning a women's seminar. As we worked on our ideas, God gave us word pictures that described Temperaments and Design for Function. We prayed for feminine ideas that women could relate to. Temperaments became "Vessels." Design for Function became "Flowers".

"Vessels & Flowers" was born!

We shopped for several weeks for just the right vessels and flowers. Then we realized that Christmas was coming fast, so we took a break and promised we would start working on it again in January.

During the first week of January a very dear friend of ours, Harriet Gallaway, called and asked if our seminar material was ready.

Her church was having a “Woman’s Advance” (They didn’t want to Retreat.) and she was in charge of the speakers. It was only a couple of weeks away. Could we be ready? Well, if we hadn’t spent the time in December--no way. But God was giving us our first opportunity to share with women the wonderful truth of how God made them.

Over the next year we presented more seminars, co-authored and published a beautiful workbook, and put together two display boards that illustrated our lovely word pictures. We have watched the material grow and expand as many women have asked questions and added insight to who they are.

As we presented word pictures, using Vessels for Temperaments and Flowers for Design for Function, we realized more and more how accurately they portrayed the traits of each.

Since then we have given several seminars in Ohio, Michigan and even in Arizona. However, women kept asking us to write this material down in book form. We would get much of the material into the seminars, but by the time it was over we were exhausted working so hard to get it all in.

We realized we did need to write it all down. So we took about two and a half years to write *Vessels & Flowers*. We then put the most important part of what we had written into our first publication. It has been great to have the book available during our seminars.

Now we have gone back and included a lot more of our earlier manuscript and added even more into *Vessels of Honor & Flowers of Splendor*.

The original book is still in the bare bones of this book. But we have developed it into much more.

In this new revised edition it is still our heart's desire for you to be able to see yourself as a specific Vessel and Flower and realize how God planned it for you. When you discover the right ones it will be like the Homecoming part of your continued journey.

- Sally Pickard

THE
MASTER'S
PLAN

Chapter One

The Heart of Who You Are

*Before I was born the Lord called me; from my birth
he made mention of my name.
Isaiah 49:1b*

Brenda's Story About Sandy

Sandy (not her real name) walked into my office dressed in her black smock. She sat down in her usual chair at my small conference table as she had done once a week for several months. That morning she came dressed ready to go to work immediately after our Bible study session.

She worked at an up-scale beauty salon and always tried to set the pace for her clients. Her make up was impeccable. Her hair was cut and colored in the latest style. I looked at Sandy and couldn't help but mention, "You are such a pretty woman." It was my honest observation of her obvious physical beauty.

I then asked her a question that was about to change her life. I asked, "Do you know how beautiful you are?"

I was asking her if she knew the truth of her beauty based on God's Word.

I could **feel** her response - stiffness, then withdrawal. My words were meant to encourage and build her up, but they were met with a wall as high as Sandy's world could reach. Though she remained silent, her message to me was loud and clear, "No way in! Stay out!"

I knew Sandy had heard those words before. She didn't believe or trust them then, how could she now? If they were really true, why did she feel so ugly?

Over the next few months, as we continued our Bible study, the truth of what God believed about Sandy penetrated her heart.

She read what God's Word said about her:

I am enthralled by your beauty.

You are precious and honored and I love you.

*I created you, formed you, named you,
redeemed you and I have a plan for your life.*

The truth will set you free.

She began to believe that maybe it was different now. Slowly the walls came down. She began to understand so many wonderful truths about who she had become in Christ, God's love for her, her identity, and her purpose. Sandy also learned how God created her to have a specific temperament and that He fashioned her in a particular way in which she would function.

Sandy no longer asks God, "Why did you make me this way?"

The Master Creator's Plan

There are a lot of women like Sandy in the world, including Sally Pickard and Brenda Dulmage. We say the wrong things, respond the wrong way and occasionally want to be like someone else. There are times when we want to be **anyone** else.

Like Sandy, we wonder, "Who am I?"

And now we want to ask **you** the same question, "Dear Friend, who are you??"

Who are you when you entertain, when you are going out to dinner, when you are shopping, when you are attending a ladies' luncheon, when you are teaching a Sunday School class or when you are comforting your child?

Who are you?? Are you all of these women?

Perhaps the first time you read Proverbs 31, the famous "Wife of Noble Character" chapter, you thought, "I will never be able to do or be all of that!!!" When it asked, "Who can find?" did you think, "Yeah, who can find that babe?" She would have to be Betty Crocker, Mary Kay, Princess Grace, Ruth Graham and Mother Theresa all rolled into one.

Does God expect us to be all of those different types of women in Proverbs 31? That woman "has it all."

She gets up early and stays up late. We love to stay up late but if we have to get up early too, we are going to fall asleep on someone that day.

She gets "food from afar." We try to shop wisely, go to several grocery stores to get the best buys and even clip coupons.

However, we run out of things sometimes and have to pay too much at the convenience store and our coupons usually expire before we can use them.

We certainly don't feel noble when we get up with our husbands to make him coffee at 5:00 a.m. or forget to buy toilet paper. We don't feel noble when we lock ourselves out of the car or house. The fact is, if we have to try to be all of those women, we will never really be noble wives or women. In other words, we **don't** have it all. It just seems too much sometimes when the people in our lives, and life itself, want us to be that "Super Woman." Does God want that of each of us too?

Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever asked that question of yourself? Or have you ever allowed yourself to try to figure it out? Where would you start?

Now, let's read about this woman who appears to be perfect.

The Wife of Noble Character

A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

*Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.*

*She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.*

*She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.*

*She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.*

*She gets up while it is still dark;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her servant girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.
She sees that her trading is profitable
and her lamp does not go out at night.
In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.
When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the
land.
She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.
She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is
on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:*

*“Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”*

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works
bring her praise at the city gate.*

Proverbs 31:10 – 31

Now that you have read it, are you confused or discouraged, or maybe a little angry that God expects all of that from you? Ask yourself that question all over again. Who am I?? Do you see yourself in there?

Well first of all, we don't think any of the women reading this book live in a gated city or pack her husband's lunch so he can sit in the street (at least we hope not). So many of the things this woman does are cultural, like having servant girls and weaving her own cloth. These are not the types of things any woman in our culture would do.

This Scripture is not about a woman's identity; it is about the **essence** of a noble woman, a generic woman. You are not a generic woman. You are a very specific creation of God. When God created the world He spoke it into existence very specifically. As Isaiah 49:1 and other Scriptures suggest, when He created you He also spoke you into existence very specifically. He formed you in your mother's womb. He even called you by name.

And He wants you to know **WHO YOU ARE**.

The Journey Begins

Have you ever asked that question, “Why did you make me this way?”

Or—“Who am I anyway?”

“Why do I do the things I do?”

“Why do I respond the way I do?”

“Why? Why? Why?”

There is a film used in science classes to teach the inner workings of the human heart. Little men get in a little boat and navigate their way through the vena cava, aorta, and valves, dodging blood cells along the way. The journey in a boat is a very effective learning tool.

We would like to take you on a journey too. One that will help you discover the answers to the above questions about yourself. But instead of two men in a boat it will be two women, Brenda and Sally, with a passion to take you on the journey to uncover **your heart**.

Bag It!

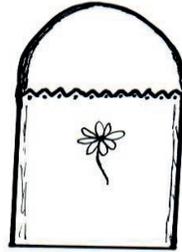
We know that you have probably heard messages and read other books about the subjects of your temperament and how you function. So have we. You have probably formulated some ideas and come to some conclusions regarding these two subjects.

We have devised a way to help keep all the previous information out of the way while you take this different road on the journey of finding out **WHO YOU ARE**.

See this cute little bag. Before we begin this journey, we encourage you to put all of the following in there. Yes, put it all in there! Then take a giant clothespin and clip it on the top.

Please place these in your bag:

- Preconceived ideas
- Seminar material
- Books
- Speeches
- Earlier conclusions



We will help you know your temperament and how God designed you to function. It is an experience of knowing how God specifically and uniquely fashioned you. So you will be able to say, "Now I understand."

THE GRAND AHA!!!

Our desire is for you to know who God created you to be so that you will have what we call a "Grand Aha!" experience. We want you to see that God created

your:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| freckles | cute smile |
| voice | love of music |
| nose | love of nature |
| shyness | need for activity |
| assertiveness | need for quiet |