

Say Goodbye to Your Mean Girl:

Becoming a Woman of GRACE

Adorning the walls of the ballroom were life-sized blown up photos of each of the senior girls who had been invited to host the dance. Beautiful pictures from when they were babies and their senior pictures side by side. Smiling, confident, somebody pictures. I wasn't on that wall.

I felt as if I were less than a nobody. Rejected by mean girls.

Those experiences branded a defined image of a mean girl in my mind. Mean girls were beautiful. Mean girls were spoiled. Mean girls were judgmental and made fun of other people. I was determined to be none of those things. Funny thing was that in the process, guess what?

I became a mean girl. Fact is, I was born a mean girl. What I'm going to say next may make you uncomfortable. We're all mean girls. The minute sin entered the world through the choice of Adam and Eve disobeying God in the Garden of Eden, our fair gender became a bunch of mean girls. Only the power of a relationship with the living God through Christ can change us. Only the realization that each of us has a purpose to live out can transform us. And yes, only the honest realization that we have a mean girl living inside of us called sin nature can start us on the journey to becoming woman. In the Greek, *gunai*.

In Scripture, the word "woman" is used just two places so definitively without "the" or "a" in front of it – in Genesis, when God refers to Eve, and in the New Testament, when Jesus addresses His mother (see Genesis 2:23; John 2:4; John 19:27). In 8 key areas of a woman's life, Irene explores the biblical foundations that help us say goodbye to our mean girl and become women of grace.

Genre:
Non-fiction;
Approximately
35,000 words;
Completion date:
February 1, 2014



About the Author

Irene Herring currently serves as the Director of Communications and Family Ministries at First Church in Pella, Iowa, a quaint town known for its charm and spring tulips. She served in Protestant Women of the Chapel, a ministry to women in the Armed Forces, for 10 years after 9/11 while her husband was an Army chaplain. She has also been on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ as a promotional writer and in discipleship ministries. Irene's passion is communicating fresh truths about the Word of God and encouraging women to get out of their comfort zone to know the fullness of Christ. She and her pastor husband Mike have 3 daughters, 2 son-in-laws, 2 grandchildren and 2 pets who might as well be children. She writes to all women, no matter their age or stage of life.



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