

Do You Stink?

And walk in love, as Christ has loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. Ephesians 5:2

There is just something about roses that everyone loves. If there are freshly cut roses in a room, everything seems brighter and happier. We buy items for ourselves and for our homes with roses on them. We have rose covered tablecloths, bedspreads, curtains, and even clothing with roses on them. People in love send them to one another, there are songs written about them, and some women are even named after the rose. Why do we love roses so much? It could be simply because they are beautiful, but I think that it is more than that...They also smell wonderful! What a great combination, beauty with fragrance!

I once read an article talking about how it is probably a great combination for Christian women to have as well? Wouldn't it be great if not only could people look at us and tell that we were Christians, but after we left, we left a sweet smelling fragrance behind us?

Unfortunately, some of us don't always leave a pleasing aroma behind us when we leave. It's not a physical thing – I'm sure that we are all diligent in washing with soap, using deodorant, toothpaste, and perfume. It's pretty simple – most of us don't want to stink. It's not culturally acceptable to walk down the street smelling bad. So why do we think it's o.k. to be a stinky Christian? We think that if our attitude is just a little off, we're still o.k., nobody will notice. Or we think we'll just keep this ONE bad habit in our lives and it won't affect us TOO much. Or we can speak mean words to someone without a second thought as to the fragrance we are leaving behind us.

Have you ever noticed that people with body odor usually don't know that they have it? They have not taken care of their cleanliness in so long that they don't even know that they are offending others. It's the same way with us as Christians. We start letting our attitudes slide, our time with God dwindles, and pretty soon our "rose" has lost it's "fragrance".

We need to get back on track to being sweet smelling women for the Lord. Here are a few practical ways that we can refresh others and leave a pleasant fragrance behind us:

- **Be Kind.** Nothing stinks more than someone who isn't kind. The fragrance you leave behind you stinks more than any other kind. Being mean is the exact opposite of what God commands us to be (Ephesians 4:32).
- **Be Forgiving.** How can we send out a pleasant fragrance if we hold grudges and don't forgive people when we know we should (Ephesians 4:32)?
- **Be Joyful.** No one wants to be around a miserable person. When you aren't happy in the Lord, you rub off on other people. Find joy in the Lord, spend time with him in prayer, study, and fellowship (Psalm 35:9).
- **Be Content.** Grumbling and self-pity usually come hand in hand. It isn't very refreshing to be around a discontented person (Phil. 4:11).

We can either choose to be a breath of fresh air or we can dampen the spirits of those around us. A Christian without a pleasing fragrance won't be very effective in the Lord's kingdom. We need to be more like Him, the "Rose of Sharon".