

KOVAC

PERSPECTIVES™

A KOVAC COLLECTIVE PUBLICATION

FAITH
IDENTITY
RELATIONSHIPS
PURPOSE
LIFE

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2
SEPTEMBER 2026

REAL WOMEN.
REAL CONVERSATIONS.
A MORE ALIGNED YOU.

WAITING WELL

*We've been told
to wait until
marriage.
But has anyone
taught us how
to wait?*

STOP AUDITIONING FOR THE WIFE POSITION

*Love shouldn't
require a
performance.*

WANTED ≠ LOVED WELL

*Attention is not
the same thing
as healthy love.*

CHOOSE, TOO.

*Discernment
changes the question
from "Does he want me?"
to "Is this good for me?"*

THE WOMAN WHO

Stopped WAITING TO BE CHOSEN

Some of us weren't taught
how to choose a healthy
relationship. We were taught
how to be chosen.
There's a difference.

A HEALTHIER ME
BRIGHTER DAYS
BIGGER PURPOSE

Kontina Vanessa Clark

FOUNDER • AUTHOR • CREATOR • VISIONARY

HEALING DEEPLY. | THINKING BIBLICALLY. | LIVING COURAGEOUSLY.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Woman, *You Get to Choose Too.*

I spent years thinking the question was, "Will he choose me?"

I didn't realize there was another question I was equally entitled to ask: "Do I choose him?"

Like many women, I learned a lot about becoming the kind of woman someone would want to marry. Be a *good woman*. Carry yourself well. Love God. Be supportive. Be patient. Be forgiving. Protect your body. Prepare yourself for marriage. Pray for your future husband.

But somewhere in all that preparation, I'm not sure we spent nearly enough time teaching women that we are also participants in the choosing process. We were taught to recognize the honor of being chosen without always being taught the responsibility of choosing wisely.

And there is a difference.

Because being wanted can feel wonderful. Attention can feel validating. Chemistry can feel promising. Someone pursuing you can make you believe you've finally found what you've been waiting for.

But as I have grown—and healed—I've learned to ask better questions. Not simply, *Does he want me?* But: *Is he good for me?*

This September issue of *KOVAC Perspectives* isn't about teaching women to distrust men. It isn't about becoming so independent that we convince ourselves we don't need anyone. And it certainly isn't about creating an impossible checklist that no human being could satisfy.

It is about **discernment**.

It's about recognizing that your heart, your peace, your body, your purpose, your family, your future, your calling, and the life you've worked so hard to build are valuable. Access to that life deserves consideration.

“
*A discerning woman
doesn't just hope for a good future.
She helps create it.*”

I still believe in love.

I still believe healthy marriages exist.

I still believe companionship can be beautiful.

But I no longer believe a woman's greatest relationship accomplishment is simply getting someone to choose her.

I believe there is something beautiful about becoming healthy enough, secure enough, prayerful enough, and discerning enough to stand in front of an opportunity for love and remember: I have a decision to make, too.

So as you read this issue, I hope you'll stop asking yourself how to become more desirable and begin asking how to become more discerning.

I hope you'll stop auditioning.

I hope you'll learn to wait without postponing your life.

I hope you'll pay attention to fruit instead of becoming intoxicated by attention.

And above all, I hope you'll remember that your yes is valuable.

You don't owe it to someone because they pursued you.

You don't owe it because you're getting older.

You don't owe it because you've been single for a long time.

You don't owe it because everybody else thinks he's wonderful.

You don't owe anyone a yes simply because they chose you.

You get to choose, too.

With grace,

Kontina V. Clark

Founder • Author • Creator
The KOVAC Collective



HEALING DEEPLY.
THINKING BIBLICALLY.
LIVING COURAGEOUSLY.

WE WERE TAUGHT HOW TO BE

Chosen

*But were we ever taught
how to choose?*

There is a subtle lesson many women learned long before anyone called it a lesson.

Be the kind of woman a good man will want.

Be kind. Be feminine. Be supportive. Be patient.

Learn how to cook. Carry yourself well. Don't be too

loud. Don't be too difficult. Don't give too much away.

Save yourself for marriage. Pray for your husband.

Prepare to become a wife.

And there is wisdom hidden inside some of those lessons. Character matters. Sexual integrity matters. Kindness matters. Learning how to love another person well matters.

But somewhere along the way, the conversation became remarkably one-sided.

We spent so much time teaching women how to be chosen that sometimes we forgot to teach them how to choose.

MORE THAN A FAIRY TALE

Many of us grew up on love stories—fairy tales, romantic movies, and cultural messages that told us the goal was to be chosen, proposed to, and finally feel whole. We were shown the wedding, but rarely the work. The ring, but not the character. The title, but not the discernment.

So we learned to focus on being desirable instead of developing the wisdom to discern what was actually good for us.

But God never intended for you to simply hope for the right person to find you. He also entrusted you with the wisdom to recognize, evaluate, and choose well.

You are not just a potential wife.

You are a woman with purpose, wisdom, and a choice.

“

*We spent so much time
teaching women how to
be chosen that sometimes
we forgot to teach them
how to choose.”*

HEALTHY STANDARDS

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

EMOTIONAL MATURITY

A LIFE I LOVE

THE QUESTION

We Forgot to Ask

When your focus is being chosen, your questions sound very different than when your focus is discernment.

For years, many of us measured our worth by whether a man noticed us, pursued us, or committed to us. We asked ourselves questions that revealed our insecurities, our desire to be loved, and our hope for a future. There's nothing wrong with desiring love and marriage, but when our questions are only about whether he chooses us, we can miss the more important question: *Should I choose him?*

QUESTIONS OF BEING CHOSEN

When your focus is being chosen, your questions sound like:

- ♥ Does he like me?
- ♥ Am I attractive enough?
- ♥ Did I say the wrong thing?
- ♥ Why hasn't he called?
- ♥ What can I do to show him I'd make a good wife?
- ♥ Will he commit to me?
- ♥ Am I doing enough?
- ♥ If I just wait a little longer, will things change?
- ♥ What did I do wrong?
- ♥ Is he still interested?

QUESTIONS OF DISCERNMENT

But discernment asks different questions:

- ♥ Do I like who I become around him?
- ♥ Does his character match what he says he believes?
- ♥ Can he communicate honestly when things are uncomfortable?
- ♥ Does he respect my boundaries without punishing me for having them?
- ♥ Is there evidence of spiritual maturity—or simply spiritual vocabulary?
- ♥ Does this relationship produce greater clarity, peace, integrity, and health in my life?
- ♥ Is he emotionally available?
- ♥ Is he consistent, not just charming?
- ♥ Does his lifestyle align with a God-honoring future?
- ♥ Am I choosing him—or just accepting attention?

Discernment is a form of self-love.



“

“The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.”

PROVERBS 14:15

FROM AUDITIONING TO EVALUATING

These questions shift you from auditioning to evaluating. They move you from performance to purpose. They help you see beyond potential and recognize patterns. They allow you to value peace over excitement, consistency over confusion, and character over chemistry.

Discernment isn't about being negative or suspicious. It's about being wise. It's about protecting the life God entrusted to you. It's about having the courage to ask the harder questions before you give access to your heart, your time, and your future.

You can't build a healthy future with someone you never took the time to truly see.

REFLECTION

- 1 What questions have I been asking from a place of insecurity rather than wisdom?
- 2 Where have I confused attention with alignment?
- 3 What does it look like for me to choose well, not just to be chosen?

BEING CHOSEN ISN'T THE PRIZE

A proposal doesn't equal a healthy future.

Sometimes we celebrate getting the relationship before we've stopped to examine the relationship we've gotten.

Someone wanting you does not automatically mean that person is good for you. A proposal doesn't transform unhealthy character. Chemistry doesn't create compatibility. Church attendance doesn't guarantee emotional maturity. And somebody knowing Scripture doesn't necessarily mean they've allowed Scripture to transform the way they treat people.

The goal isn't simply to become someone's wife. The goal is to build a healthy, God-honoring covenant with someone capable of participating in one.

Those are not the same thing.

It's possible to be chosen and still be in the wrong relationship. It's possible to be pursued and still be poorly treated. It's possible to be wanted and still be emotionally unsafe.

That's why discernment matters.

YOU ARE A DECISION-MAKER, TOO

Healthy relationships involve two people choosing. Not one person pursuing while the other waits to see whether she's worthy of selection.

You have agency. You have wisdom. You have preferences. You have boundaries. You have a calling. You have a life God entrusted to you. And anyone entering that life should be discerned—not simply welcomed because they knocked on the door.

This doesn't mean approaching relationships with suspicion or creating an impossible checklist. It means recognizing that your yes has value.

You don't have to settle to keep someone interested. You don't have to ignore red flags to be chosen. You don't have to abandon your standards to feel loved. You don't have to prove your worth through your willingness to tolerate less than you deserve.

You can be both loving and discerning. Soft and strong. Open and wise. Hopeful and honest.

DISCERNMENT
TODAY
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS



GRACE NOTE

You don't have to convince someone you're worthy of choosing. And you don't have to choose someone simply because they chose you.

Sometimes maturity sounds less like, "God, please let him want me," and more like, "God, help me see clearly enough to know whether I should want this."

Because perhaps the question was never only, *Will I be chosen?*

Perhaps God has also been teaching you to ask,

What will I choose?

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and He will establish your plans."*

PROVERBS 16:3

CHOOSE WISELY.
LIVE INTENTIONALLY.
TRUST GOD WITH THE REST.





WAITING UNTIL MARRIAGE ISN'T THE WHOLE

Lesson

*We've been told to wait.
But has anyone taught us
how to wait well?*

Many of us heard the instruction early:
Wait until marriage.

Don't have sex. Guard your body. Don't put yourself in compromising situations. Keep yourself for your husband.

For Christian women, that message can become so central to the conversation about singleness that waiting begins to sound almost entirely sexual.

But what happens when you're actually living it? What happens when you're grown, single, faithful—and lonely?

What happens when you desire companionship, affection, touch, intimacy and partnership?

What happens when you've been waiting for years rather than months?

What happens when you're doing your best to honor God, but you're also a human being with legitimate emotional and physical desires?

"Wait until marriage" tells us what not to do. It doesn't necessarily teach us how to live while we're not doing it.

And perhaps that's the conversation we've been missing.

“

*Waiting well
isn't a season of lack.
It's a season of preparation,
purpose, and a deeper
becoming.*

WAITING WELL IS...

- ♥ Learning how to steward your whole self while honoring what you believe.
- ♥ It isn't pretending you don't have desires.
- ♥ It isn't spiritualizing loneliness.
- ♥ It isn't being ashamed because you want intimacy.
- ♥ And it certainly isn't putting your entire life on hold until a spouse arrives.

WAITING REQUIRES *More Than Willpower*

*It's not just about what you don't do—
it's about how you live while you wait.*

Waiting well is a daily decision. It requires intention, wisdom, and the right support. It's not always easy, but it is possible. You don't have to figure it out alone, and you don't have to simply hope you can make it. God has given us everything we need to live with integrity, purpose, and joy—right now.

WHAT YOU NEED WHILE YOU WAIT

1 BOUNDARIES

You need boundaries. Not boundaries copied from somebody else's relationship, but honest ones based on what you know about yourself. Protection is not punishment—it's wisdom.

2 COMMUNITY

You need community. Romantic partnership cannot become the only place you expect to experience closeness, belonging and connection. Surround yourself with people who encourage your growth, hold you accountable, and remind you of who you are when you forget.

3 A LIFE

You need a life. Purpose isn't a consolation prize for being single. Travel. Create. Build. Laugh. Learn. Serve. Rest. Make memories now. Your life can be full and meaningful right now.

4 HONESTY

You need honesty. There is no holiness in pretending temptation doesn't exist. You can acknowledge desire without allowing desire to make every decision. Bring your real thoughts to God. He can handle the truth.

5 DISCERNMENT

You need discernment. Loneliness can make attention look like compatibility. Sexual chemistry can make an unhealthy connection feel significant. Take time to evaluate character, not just the connection.

6 GRACE

And you need grace. Biblical sexual integrity isn't supposed to produce a woman who is terrified of her own body or ashamed that she desires love. Grace gives you the strength to say no, the wisdom to walk away, and the peace to keep going.

*Grace, not shame,
teaches us to live well.*

“

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness ... and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”

TITUS 2:11-12

REAL TALK

LET'S BE HONEST.

- ♥ Waiting can be lonely.
- ♥ There will be moments of doubt.
- ♥ You may question if it's worth it.
- ♥ You may feel like everyone else is moving forward.
- ♥ You may struggle with temptation.
- ♥ You may get tired of doing the right thing.
- ♥ You may even wonder if God sees you.

And all of that is real.
But real doesn't mean wrong.
It just means you're human.

This is not about pretending.
It's about preparing.
It's about becoming.
It's about learning to steward your heart,
your mind, your body, and your emotions
while you wait.

*It's a process.
And the process is producing you.*

*You can honor your conviction
and still enjoy the journey.*



DON'T SPEND THE WAITING ROOM *Staring at the Door*

*There is a difference between waiting
for marriage and waiting to live.*

You can honor your convictions and still have a beautiful life. Waiting season is not a wasted season. It's preparation, growth, discovery, and divine positioning.

Marriage may become part of your story.
But marriage is not permission to begin your story.

YOU CAN...

- ♥ Buy yourself flowers.
- ♥ Take the trip.
- ♥ Decorate your home.
- ♥ Go to dinner.
- ♥ Build friendships.
- ♥ Dance in your kitchen.
- ♥ Take care of your body.
- ♥ Grow spiritually.
- ♥ Build financial stability.
- ♥ Discover what makes you laugh.
- ♥ Learn what gives you peace.
- ♥ Become intimately acquainted with the woman God created you to be.

A full, joy-filled life now does not diminish your future. It actually prepares you for it.

*Marriage may be part
of your story, but it is
not the starting point
of your purpose.*

GRACE NOTE

Maybe waiting well isn't about becoming exceptionally good at going without.

Maybe it's about becoming exceptionally good at living faithfully with what you already have.

Your life isn't sitting in God's waiting room. You're living it right now.

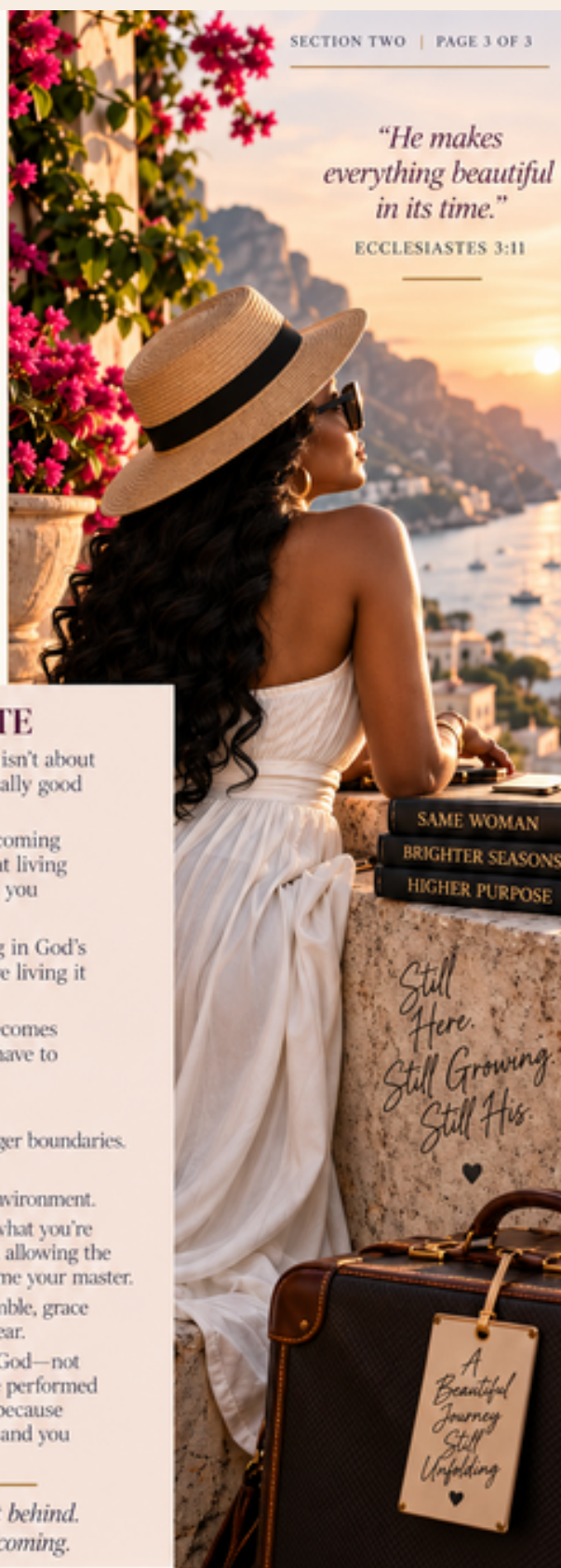
And when desire becomes difficult, you don't have to pretend. You can:

- ♥ Pray.
- ♥ Establish stronger boundaries.
- ♥ Call somebody.
- ♥ Change your environment.
- ♥ Acknowledge what you're feeling without allowing the feeling to become your master.
- ♥ When you stumble, grace doesn't disappear.
- ♥ You return to God—not because you've performed perfectly, but because He is still God and you are still His.

*You are not behind.
You are becoming.*

*"He makes
everything beautiful
in its time."*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11



WAIT FOR MARRIAGE IF THAT IS YOUR CONVICTION.

But Don't Wait for Marriage to Live.

*"You are
already enough.
The right love
will see it,
not require
you to perform it."*



*The
Real Me
Looks
Good
On You*



PEOPLE
PLEASING

OVER GIVING

SMALLER ME

TOLERATING

AUDITIONING

*You are not a résumé being submitted
for somebody's wife vacancy.*



STOP AUDITIONING FOR THE WIFE

Position

*Love shouldn't require
a performance.*

Somewhere along the way, preparation for marriage can quietly become performance for marriage.

You start wondering whether you're feminine enough. Submissive enough. Domestic enough. Easygoing enough. Attractive enough. Available enough. Spiritual enough.

So you begin presenting the version of yourself you believe will be easiest to choose.

You laugh when something isn't funny.

You say, "It's fine," when it isn't.

You minimize your needs because you don't want to appear demanding.

You tolerate behavior you would tell another woman not to tolerate.

You become endlessly understanding while requiring very little understanding in return.

You cook. Support. Encourage. Pray. Pour. Accommodate.

And sometimes, without realizing it, you're no longer getting to know someone.

You're interviewing for a position.

PREPARATION AND PERFORMANCE ARE NOT THE SAME.

There is nothing wrong with becoming a woman capable of loving another person well.

- ♥ Grow.
- ♥ Heal.
- ♥ Learn communication.
- ♥ Develop patience.
- ♥ Become financially responsible.
- ♥ Strengthen your relationship with God.
- ♥ Learn how to apologize.
- ♥ Learn how to forgive.
- ♥ Learn how to establish boundaries.

Those things don't make you "wife material."
They make you healthier.

WHEN “BEING A GOOD WOMAN” Costs You Yourself

Sometimes the performance looks like virtue.

Sometimes the audition is difficult to recognize because it looks good on the outside. It looks like patience. It looks like grace. It looks like loyalty. It even looks like being a godly woman. But when the cost is your peace, your voice, or your self-respect, it's no longer virtue—it's performance.

HOW PERFORMANCE CAN SHOW UP

- ♥ **Patience** can become tolerating disrespect.
- ♥ **Grace** can become refusing to hold someone accountable.
- ♥ **Submission** can be distorted into silence.
- ♥ **Forgiveness** can become repeated access without changed behavior.
- ♥ **Being “low maintenance”** can become refusing to communicate legitimate needs.
- ♥ **Loyalty** can become staying somewhere long after wisdom told you to leave.
- ♥ And being a “good Christian woman” can become the pressure to remain pleasant while your spirit is screaming that something isn't right.

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

Notice the mutuality. Biblical love isn't one person endlessly pouring while the other simply receives.



HEALTHY LOVE DOESN'T NEED YOUR DISAPPEARANCE

A healthy relationship should leave room for you:

- ♥ Voice.
- ♥ Needs.
- ♥ Boundaries.
- ♥ Calling.
- ♥ Personality.
- ♥ Friendships.
- ♥ Opinions.
- ♥ Growth.
- ♥ Joy.

Marriage involves sacrifice. But sacrifice and self-erasure are not synonyms.

CHECK THE PERFORMANCE

Ask yourself:

- ♥ Am I saying what I actually think?
- ♥ Can I disagree without fearing he'll lose interest?
- ♥ Am I giving because I genuinely want to—or because I'm trying to prove my value?
- ♥ Have I lowered a boundary because I'm afraid he'll leave?
- ♥ Am I becoming healthier—or simply becoming easier for someone else to consume?

That last question deserves time.

Virtue should never cost you your voice.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EARN HEALTHY *Love*

*The right relationship won't require
a carefully rehearsed version of you.*

The right relationship won't require a carefully rehearsed version of you. That doesn't mean you arrive without growth areas. You will have them. So will he.

Healthy love isn't two perfect people finally finding each other. It's two people with enough maturity to tell the truth, take responsibility, grow, repair, communicate, and love one another without requiring either person to disappear.

You shouldn't have to perform peace while experiencing confusion.
You shouldn't have to perform strength while carrying everything alone.

You shouldn't have to perform contentment because you're afraid expressing what you need will make you "too much."

And you certainly shouldn't have to perform holiness to earn someone's commitment.

*The right relationship
will choose the real you,
not just the version
that's convenient.*



GRACE NOTE

Maybe you were taught that being chosen would validate everything you worked so hard to become.

But your worth was never waiting at the altar.

Marriage doesn't award womanhood.

A relationship doesn't certify your femininity.

And somebody calling you wife doesn't make you more valuable than you were when nobody was calling.

Become healthy because you deserve to experience the fruit of your healing.

Become wise because wisdom protects your future.

Become whole because God has given you a life worth stewarding.

And when love comes, don't hand it an audition tape.

Bring your real self.

Let him bring his.

Then let both of you choose.

“

*You are not
too much.*

*You are not
behind.*

*You are not
defective.*

*You are becoming
exactly who
God designed you
to be.*

AND THAT IS
ALWAYS ENOUGH.



DON'T BECOME "WIFE MATERIAL."

Become a Healthy Woman.

SHE'LL NEED THAT LIFE WHETHER SHE MARRIES OR NOT.

BEING WANTED IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING *Loved Well*

*Attention can flatter you. Compatibility can excite you.
Neither automatically equals character.*

Being wanted feels good.
The text that says, "I'm thinking about you."
The phone call that lasts until midnight.
The compliments.
The chemistry.
The anticipation of seeing his name appear
on your screen.
The feeling that someone has noticed you—
and likes what he sees.

There is nothing inherently wrong with enjoying
any of it. But attention can make us feel valuable
before we've determined whether the person giving
it actually knows how to value us.

Those are two different things.

“

*Being wanted tells you
something about his desire.
Being loved well tells you
something about his character.*

Someone can be attracted to you and still lack
the capacity to love you well.

Someone can pursue you intensely and still
be inconsistent.

Someone can desire access to you without being
prepared for responsibility toward you.

Someone can enjoy your presence without having
the character necessary to protect the relationship
you're building.

**And character deserves more weight
than chemistry.**

*Attention may open the door,
but character determines
whether it's safe to stay.*

*Chemistry
gets the conversation
started. Character
determines whether
there's a future.*





LET THE FRUIT SPEAK

- ♥ Consistency over chaos.
- ♥ Communication over confusion.
- ♥ Actions over words.
- ♥ Respect over pressure.
- ♥ Accountability over excuses.
- ♥ Peace over anxiety.
- ♥ Character over chemistry.
- ♥ A future you can trust, not just a feeling you can't explain.

*The right relationship
doesn't just make your heart race.
It makes your life better.*



CHECK THE FRUIT, *Not Just the Feeling*

*A relationship can feel exciting and still be unhealthy.
So instead of evaluating only how he makes you feel,
pay attention to what the relationship consistently produces.*



DOES IT PRODUCE CLARITY—OR CONFUSION?

Healthy interest doesn't require you to spend every night decoding someone's intentions.



CONSISTENCY—OR UNPREDICTABILITY?

Anybody can create a beautiful moment.
Character reveals itself through patterns.



RESPECT—OR PRESSURE?

A person who respects you doesn't need to punish, manipulate, withdraw affection, or become angry because you established a boundary.



ACCOUNTABILITY—OR EXCUSES?

Maturity isn't never getting something wrong.
It's being able to say:

"I was wrong."

"I hurt you."

"I need to change that."

And then demonstrating change.



PEACE—OR ANXIETY?

Peace doesn't mean you'll never experience uncertainty.
But if the relationship consistently leaves you anxious, confused, depleted, insecure, or questioning your worth, don't dismiss that information simply because the chemistry is strong.

"By their fruit you will recognize them."

MATTHEW 7:16

You don't have to diagnose someone.
You don't have to label them.
You don't even have to make them the villain.
Sometimes you simply need to observe the fruit.

LOVE WELL, OR LOVE ME FROM A *Distance*

You can love someone and still decide they aren't healthy for you.

Healthy love isn't perfect. There will be misunderstandings. There will be disagreements. There will be moments when two imperfect people unintentionally hurt one another. But healthy love has something unhealthy relationships resist: repair. Healthy people communicate. Healthy people listen. Healthy people take responsibility. Healthy people respect boundaries. Healthy people make adjustments. Healthy people don't expect forgiveness to eliminate accountability.

And healthy love doesn't require you to continuously sacrifice your emotional safety to prove that you're committed.

YOU CAN LOVE SOMEONE AND STILL DECIDE THEY AREN'T HEALTHY FOR YOU.

That's an important distinction.

Sometimes we assume that walking away means the love wasn't real. It can be real. And still not be sustainable.

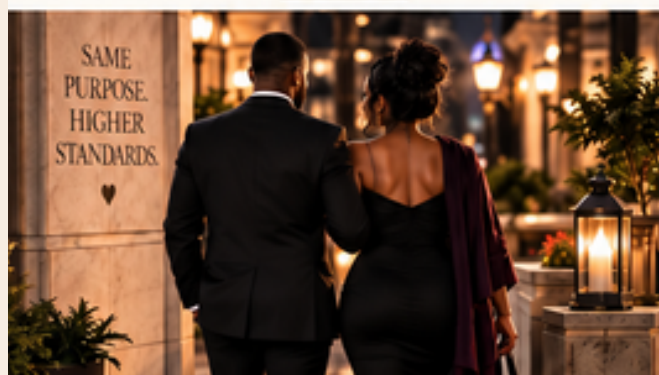
You can care deeply and recognize incompatibility.

You can forgive and discontinue access.

You can pray for somebody and stop participating in dysfunction with them.

You can wish someone well—
from a distance.

*Not everyone who wants you
is prepared to love you well.
And not everyone you love is meant
to walk with you.*



GRACE NOTE

Don't ask only:

Does he want me?

Ask:

How does he handle my heart once he has access to it?

- ♥ Does he bring honesty?
- ♥ Consistency?
- ♥ Respect?
- ♥ Accountability?
- ♥ Kindness?
- ♥ Self-control?
- ♥ Safety?
- ♥ Mutuality?

Because ultimately, the goal isn't to find someone who cannot imagine life without you. The goal is to build something with someone who understands how to love another human being well.

DON'T JUST PAY ATTENTION
TO WHO PURSUES YOU.

*Pay attention to what their
pursuit produces in you.*

CHOOSE, *Too.*

*You are not merely waiting to be selected.
You are discerning who receives access
to the life God entrusted to you.*

For so long, the relationship question may have been: *Will he choose me?*

Will he call?

Will he pursue?

Will he commit?

Will he see enough value in me to stay?

But there's another person making a decision here.

You.

You are not standing on a shelf waiting for someone to determine your worth. You are a woman with a life.

- ♥ A calling.
- ♥ Responsibilities.
- ♥ Dreams.
- ♥ Relationships.
- ♥ Peace.
- ♥ Purpose.
- ♥ A future.

And when someone asks to become part of that life, your responsibility isn't simply to feel grateful that he came. Your responsibility is to discern whether his presence belongs there.

That changes dating.

You're no longer asking only whether you're desirable.

You're observing whether he's dependable.

You're no longer trying to convince him that you'd make a wonderful partner.

You're determining whether the two of you can build something healthy together.

You're no longer afraid that standards will make you harder to choose.

You're allowing your standards to help you choose wisely.

“

*You aren't waiting for somebody
to decide your future.
You're participating in the decision.*





*Not every good man is your man.
Not every right time is your time.
Not every opportunity
is your assignment.*



YOUR YES SHOULD HAVE *Requirements*

*Not superficial requirements. Not perfection.
Not a fantasy man assembled from every romantic
ideal you've ever imagined. We're talking about fruit.*

Before you give someone deeper access to your life, ask:

-  Can I trust his character when nobody is watching?
-  Can we disagree without disrespect?
-  Does he take responsibility without requiring me to drag an apology out of him?
-  Does his faith affect how he lives—or merely how he talks?
-  Can he celebrate my calling without needing to compete with it?
-  Does he respect the life I built before he arrived?
-  Can I be fully myself around him?
-  Are we actually compatible—or simply attracted?
-  Do our values point toward a future we could both genuinely live?
-  **DO I ACTUALLY WANT HIM?**
*Not: Do I want to be married?
Not: Am I tired of being alone?
Not: Would everybody think we make a beautiful couple?
Not: He's a good man, so shouldn't I want him?
But: Do I freely, clearly and authentically choose this person?*

A man can be good and still not be your man.
You don't have to manufacture compatibility because
someone checks respectable boxes.

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault."*

JAMES 1:5

Ask for wisdom.
Then give yourself permission to use it.

CHOOSE FROM WHOLENESS, *Not Fear*

*Fear makes terrible relationship decisions.
Wholeness makes wise ones.*

Fear says:
What if nobody else comes?
What if I'm getting too old?
What if I regret saying no?
What if this is my only opportunity?
What if being single means something is wrong with me?

Wholeness asks something different:

Is this relationship healthy enough to deserve the life I've worked so hard to build?

That's not entitlement. That's stewardship.

You don't need someone flawless. You need someone whose imperfections can exist alongside humility, accountability, honesty, growth and grace.

And he gets to discern you, too. That's the beauty of mutual choosing.

Neither person is the prize while the other auditions. Neither person is doing the other a favor by committing. Two whole human beings stand before one another and say:

I see you clearly.

You see me clearly.

And we are choosing this together.

GRACE NOTE

Maybe the greatest shift isn't finally being chosen. Maybe it's realizing you were never powerless in the choosing process.

God can guide you.

Wisdom can inform you.

Community can counsel you.

Experience can teach you.

Scripture can ground you.

But ultimately, there will be moments when you have to decide what receives your yes.

So don't give it simply because someone asked.

Don't give it because loneliness got loud.

Don't give it because the calendar made you nervous.

Don't give it because somebody looks good on paper.

Give your yes where there is something worthy of building.

And if the answer is no?

No is also a decision.

*A wise woman doesn't just hope for a good future.
She helps create it.*



YOU DON'T JUST GET TO BE CHOSEN.

You get to choose.



*The right people
will walk with you —
not pull you away
from who you're
becoming.*

CHOOSE A LIFE THAT HONORS THE WOMAN YOU'RE *Becoming.*

*You don't have to chase love.
You don't have to audition for it.
You don't have to abandon
yourself to keep it.*

HEAL DEEPLY.
THINK BIBLICALLY.
LIVE COURAGEOUSLY.

DISCERNMENT
PEACE
PURPOSE
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



KOVAC PERSPECTIVES
VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2 | SEPTEMBER 2026

TheKovacCollective.com



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