

## CHAPTER 31

### ***Proverbs 31:1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.***

Who is king Lemuel? Who is Agur, the son of Jakeh (*Proverbs 30:1*)?

Who were Ithiel and Ucal? What is the book of Jasher (*Joshua 10:13*)?

Since the Lord did not tell us, their identities are not important. Let us not speculate about the Lord's secrets and miss the inspired wisdom we have here. We know the Author (Holy Spirit) of these Words, even if we do not know the writers.

Whether Bathsheba's advice to Solomon, Abijah's advice to Hezekiah, or the advice of a foreign queen to her royal son, it matters little. God inspired these Words for us, since it is a prophecy; and which is further confirmed by the virtuous woman's summary (*Proverbs 31:30*).

Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs (*1Kings 4:32*), but the men of Hezekiah copied out only a few select ones (*Proverbs 25:1*).

The men of Hezekiah likely added two appendices, the Proverbs of Agur (a wise teacher) and the royal advice of Lemuel's mother, both by God's providence. They could even be the same person; but again, there is no proof nor profit in such conjectures.

God inspired a woman to teach her son: Rules for moral protection (*Proverbs 31:3-7*).

Rules for honorable use of his office (*Proverbs 31:3-9*).

Rules for domestic tranquility (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

These are some of the most valuable and pleasant Words in the Bible. And every woman should humbly realize it was a woman who gave the lofty description of the virtuous wife that follows.

Wise women will recognize their important role in the training of children, even their sons. Bathsheba taught Solomon (*Proverbs 4:3-4; 6:20*).

Solomon expected mothers to teach their sons (*Proverbs 1:8; 6:20*).

But helping with homework and doing laundry is not enough; for this woman taught him plainly on real subjects like women, justice, and marriage.

Hannah clearly taught, Samuel well, for the religious life at Shiloh; for we read he worshipped God there,

when she left him with Eli, just after his weaning (*1Samuel 1:21-28*)!

Lois and Eunice, grandmother and mother respectively, communicated their sincere faith, to Timothy and taught him the Holy Scriptures from childhood (*2Timothy 1:5; 3:15*).

Let every holy woman rejoice to train her sons in the fear of the Lord and vital issues of life (*Proverbs 22:6*).

Let every son cherish, honor, and obey such a precious mother (*Proverbs 1:8; 6:20*).

We do not know details of Mary's relationship to Jesus, but we know He was in subjection to her, and she pondered His Words in her heart (*Luke 2:51*).

Being a virtuous woman, we know she taught Him good doctrine; and Jesus honored her (*John 19:25-27*).

### ***Proverbs 31:2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?***

Behind every great man there is a great woman! And it is not necessarily his wife! It is usually his mother!

A mother's love and training molds the character for life! By the time a man marries, most of his character is already formed. A wife receives the man, which the mother made from scratch, by the grace of God!

Here is a royal mother lovingly seeking her son's attention, who became a king. Let mothers and sons take heed!

We cannot prove the identity of King Lemuel or his mother (*Proverbs 31:1*).

They could be Solomon and Bathsheba; they might not be. See the comments on *Proverbs 31:1*.

We do not need to know, to profit greatly from this Proverb. Here is a mother addressing her son by Holy Spirit inspiration, so we shall trust inspired wisdom elsewhere to fill in the details of this verse.

The three repetitive questions are not significant. Lemuel may have asked for advice, which triggered them.

His mother may have been searching for the finest Words of wisdom she could give him.

She may have been admonishing him over possible weaknesses. Every noble mother knows the Words well! Every noble mother knows their source and intent!

They are passionate yearnings bursting from a mother's heart! Let every Christian mother rekindle them! Let every Christian son hear and feel them! Here is inspired mothering!

We can be certain of the affection of the chosen Words. She calls him her son, which to every mother is a very dear term, for bringing a man into the world (**John 16:21; 1Corinthians 11:12**).

She says, "You are mine. God gave you to me. We are unique in the earth.

She says, no one else can be your mother. I brought you forth, and now you are a man.

She says, I have doted on you as my darling from your very conception. Now hear my best advice."

She calls him the son of her womb. She recalls what only mothers know, the bond of conceiving, carrying, and birthing a son.

She uses this simple fact to describe their union, express her love, and grab his attention. She says, "You are truly mine, and not another's. You were not adopted. You were of me, in me, and by me.

I rejoiced at your conception. I carried you happily, and I loved you even before birth. I nourished you in a hidden place. I gladly gave you life and breath with my own labor. Now hear my best advice."

She calls him the son of her vows. Rather than marriage vows, she recalls dedicating her children to the Lord, as did Hannah. She reminds him of her many prayers and promises to God to train him in the fear of the LORD. She says, "You were a gift from God to me.

She says, "I committed you to the LORD and righteousness even before birth. I willingly gave you back to the LORD, Who gave you to me. I prayed for you then and to this very day. Now I appeal to you to fulfill those holy ambitions I have had for you. Hear my best advice."

Solomon described his mother, Bathsheba, as having such affection for him. He wrote earlier, **Proverbs 4:3** *For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.*

No matter what, his mother doted on him and loved him. He could hardly do wrong; and if he did, her love was still there for him. It is this secure affection, that helps make men great!

Here is where tender mothers, separate themselves from overbearing and efficient ones!

The rod and reproof truly give wisdom, and mothers deserting these means, will bring shame to themselves (**Proverbs 29:15**).

Her request in this Proverb leads to teaching (**Proverbs 31:1**).

Lemuel's mother will quickly get to her reproving advice (**Proverbs 31:3-31**).

But she begins with the tender appeals of a mother. She prefaces her instructions and warnings based on her personal, biological, and spiritual connection to him. What conscious son could resist this instruction?

Mothers should teach sons (**Proverbs 1:8; 6:20**).

Mothers should define, good and evil from early days. Such lessons will remain. Many men recall later in life the precious lessons learned from their mothers.

Mothers have their children for much time during their formative years, so mother's have a dear opportunity, to make a great and godly man.

Mother, do not let this privilege waste. Thank God for the blessed time! Then use it for His glory and true virtue in the earth.

Rather than homework, which carries little value for life, good mothers will emphasize godliness and the realities of life, as this mother does to warn against women, wine, and injustice (**Proverbs 31:3-9**).

She then lays out the most detailed and practical description of the kind of woman he should marry (**Proverbs 31:10-31**).

Only wise women can address these subjects to hold a young man's attention, and only such women will be sought out by their son.

Hannah vowed, conceived, carried, birthed, nursed, and trained one of the greatest men to ever serve the LORD (**1Samuel 1:11, 22-28; Jeremiah 15:1**).

She had Samuel no longer than five years! But he worshipped the LORD, at that tender age (**1Samuel 2:28**)!

What a glorious mother! What a great son! How? By her vows and womb and training, with God's grace!

Lois trained a daughter, Eunice, to be a godly mother. Together they formed the young Timothy with faith and the Word of God (**2Timothy 1:5; 3:15**).

So successful were they, that Paul declared Timothy his most trusted minister, in the New Testament (**Philippians 2:19-23**).

How great was Obed, with Naomi and Ruth as nursing grandmother and mother (**Ruth 4:13-17**)?

Who nurtured David to be the spiritual, gracious, courageous, righteous, and faithful man he became?

Was it the influence of these two women, two generations later?

**If** there were more Hannahs, would there not be more Samuels?

**If** there were more Eunices, would there not be more Timothys?

Could a grandmother and mother mold another David? Christian mother, **If** you would have a Samuel or Timothy, you must be a Hannah or a Eunice.

**If** you think small, mother, by feeding, dressing, and getting your son through college, you will miss these high honors. They are reserved for great women.

Christian mother, here is your calling! What a blessed privilege to turn the curse of conception and childbirth, to God's glory and your joy (**Proverbs 23:25; Genesis 3:16**)!

Mary did wisely with her Child (**Luke 2:51; 1Timothy 2:15**).

What are you doing with yours? Will your son say, "*O LORD, truly I am thy servant; and the son of thine handmaid*" (**Psalms 116:16**)?

We do not find here the overbearing, nagging, and critical mother, who always has a better way for her son to do things.

Who is disappointed with most of what he does. Who neglects the real thoughts and ambitions of his male mind. Who is too busy and efficient to dote and flatter. Who is too preoccupied with herself to claim his soul. Not a chance!

Such an odious woman drives her son from her and her home. The woman, with un-ruled, choleric or melancholy tendencies of perfectionism, criticism, efficiency, and loud talking will lose the very man to whom she gave life. He will reject her as his heart shrinks under her questions, harshness, disapproval, and fussing about other things.

Many men, are only a fraction of what they could have been, with a mother's full heart and sober instruction. Solomon was "tender and only beloved" in the sight of his mother. What a waste for both mother and son! What a lost opportunity!

Your son will learn the right way to do things, in time. Why not provide him the loving affection that enlarges his heart?

Why not provide him the loving affection that elevates his soul?

Why not provide him the loving affection that lifts his head?

Why not provide him the loving affection to be a great and noble man?

Why not provide him the loving affection and fill him with confidence, faith, and power to be virtuous?

Why not give him love no wife can replace?

Why not build his courage and nobility like a mountain?

Why not be the great woman behind a great man?

Why not send forth, a man child, for the greater glory of Christ?

Reader, **If** you had a godly mother, give thanks to God and to her.

Is her love the best you will ever know? Hardly! Listen to our blessed LORD compare His concern for His children. "*Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb?*" (**Isaiah 49:15a**).

Hardly! But they may! So our blessed LORD declares, "*Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee*" (**Isaiah 49:15b**). Thank you, God!

***Proverbs 31:3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.***

The queen mother appealed to her son King Lemuel as only a mother can do and warned him against the greatest threat to his life and reign, women! (**Proverbs 31:1-3**)

Kings, due to their power and riches, were great objects of seduction by whorish women.

Kings, by their power and riches, lived luxuriously, which promoted lascivious living and the lusts of their eyes and flesh.

This great mother, despised whores and warned her son against them.

Kings ruled nations, raised armies, and conquered empires. Kings are the greatest rulers in history. Kings made weighty decisions that affected the lives of those in and out of their kingdoms. Kings had absolute authority of life and death over every citizen.

To influence a king, was to influence nations and the lives of millions. For a king to become infatuated with a woman, was to give his strength, duty, and honor to the base lusts of his loins!

How many kings have been destroyed by evil women affecting their decisions? Or would it be easier to ask how many kings have not been so affected!

The threat was real; the historical record bleak; and the consequences terrible. All men in authority, must be stricter and stronger in resisting women than other men. Power, is an aphrodisiac and an opportunity for the flesh.

On these two counts, men in leadership, must be vigilant. They must deny the flesh, to keep themselves, their offices, and their charges.

King Lemuel's mother, knew good women, for she wrote the loftiest description, of the most perfect woman ever imagined (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

She wanted her son the king to have one woman, a virtuous, God-fearing woman, to be his wife.

She did not desire a harem for him. She did not allow thoughts of mistresses. She despised concubines and courtesans. She knew his success depended, on one great woman as his wife. Consider this well, men!

Samson was judge of Israel, but the conniving whore Delilah, brought him down to terrible destruction.

David had a harem of wives; but taking the wife of one of his best friends brought him sore trouble, nearly destroyed his kingdom, and cost him dearly for the rest of his life.

Solomon followed David's horrible example against his own wisdom and is left in ignominy <sup>dishonor</sup> and shame in the Bible (*1Kings 11:1-11; Numbers 13:26*).

What can we say about such foolish rulers as Julius Caesar and Marc Anthony, who were seduced and destroyed by the Egyptian whore Cleopatra?

Only Augustus knew how to treat her, so she did the best thing for all concerned and committed suicide!

Entire history books have been written of royal adultery and sex scandals, from ancient Babylon to the Caesars and popes of Rome to Edwardian England. Women have destroyed many rulers!

What are the lessons here? Great mothers warn their sons plainly about the danger of whorish women. Great men set godly examples for their sons.

Great men, especially in positions of authority or leadership, must take extra precautions, to be vigilant against this dangerous threat. And if women can destroy gifted rulers, common men should be even more careful.

Great women, will realize their sexual power, and restrain it, for righteous purposes only with their husbands.

There is only one King never moved by evil. David wrote of his distant Son, "*He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain*" (*2Samuel 23:3-4*).

Jesus Christ is that perfect king. Tempted in all points like other men. Jesus Christ never sinned (*Hebrews 4:15*).

Jesus Christ was moved, with eternal affection and dying passion, for His one true love, the children of God His Father, that comprise His bride (*Psalms 45:10-17; Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:5-9*)!

***Proverbs 31:4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:***

#### **Your Rank Dictates What You Should Drink!**

The command is clear: "*it is not for kings to drink wine.*"

The LORD never commended, even moderate use of wine and strong drink. The LORD strictly condemned drunkenness. The LORD warns all men in leadership positions to be careful even with what you drink.

Rulers must be above reproach to execute their offices well (*Proverbs 31:5*).

These Words are advice from a queen mother to her son, King Lemuel (*Proverbs 31:1-2*).

Whether King Lemuel, is Solomon and the queen mother is Bathsheba, cannot be proven. But the Words are inspired wisdom from God, and they were appended to Solomon's Proverbs, for the advice they have about temptations facing kings, primarily women and wine.

Wine and strong drink are not good for anyone (*Psalms 104:14-15; Ecclesiastes 10:19*).

The queen mother includes proper uses of them in her warning (*Proverbs 31:6-7*).

Using fermented wine is an evil! The use of fermented wine leads to drunkenness, and the abuse of food is gluttony; and both are sins in the sight of God!

Note: (Proper use of Scripture is to compare Scripture teaching with all other Scripture teachings on the subject matter. Once done honestly, an assumed wickedness that is the accepted view of God will fade, with many Scriptures indicating, a true godly view. This means, when we take the carnal view, we are interpreting this scripture wrongly.

There are many verses that seem to indicate one thing but are overwhelmed with a volume of verses in opposition.

Such are *Proverbs 31:6-7* verses.

The carnal view is it is okay as long as you don't get drunk.

How about, how does verse 31 strike you? *Habakkuk 2:15; Proverbs 23:29-35*

How about all the leaven in the Old Testament sacrifices, houses, food?

There are literally dozens and dozens of verses that teach the opposite of these verses. Therefore, conclude that these verses are not saying it is okay to be a social drinker. *Proverbs 31:6-7*

God clearly indicates many times in many ways in the Scriptures that the fermentation of food and fruits were not acceptable to be sacrificed to Him in any way.

Therefore, could anyone conclude that His only begotten Son would indulge in drinking fermented wine? To suggest that Jesus created fermented wine and would provide it to men, that may get drunk thereby is clearly wrong!

A good king must rule fairly and justly at all times, therefore he must have all his wits at the ready (*Proverbs 16:12; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 2Samuel 23:3*).

Wine and strong drink, because of the alcohol they contain, relax the central nervous system and can impair memory, reduce decision-making ability, and cloud moral judgment, by dulling normal inhibitions (*Proverbs 23:33*).

***Proverbs 31:5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.***

Alcohol, by depressing the central nervous system, impairs human judgment.

Those in authority must never use it. While the relaxing effect is seems to be benefit for men in physical or emotional pain, it is dangerous. (*Proverbs 31:6-7*)

Especially for kings, princes, or other rulers, who must strictly control their thoughts and words to protect others (*Proverbs 31:4-5*).

King Lemuel's mother warned him against wine and strong drink, in his ruling position (*Proverbs 31:1*).

The other half of this Proverb reads, "*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink*" (*Proverbs 31:4*).

Lemuel's mother warned, that the duties of high offices, prohibit the use of wine and strong drink, even if allowed to others (*Proverbs 31:6-7*).

Kings and princes must apply laws consistently and fairly and make just and right judgments. Wine and strong drink could easily hinder them in these duties.

Wine can alter awareness, control, judgment, and sobriety. Solomon told its sinful effect on eye sight, heart, and speech (*Proverbs 23:33*).

Noah was naked while drunk (*Genesis 9:21*).

Lot committed incest with his daughters while drunk (*Genesis 19:30-38*).

Nabal might have been more civil to David without wine (*1Samuel 25:36*).

Men have used it for date rape (*Habakkuk 2:15*).

David tried to use it, to corrupt his friend Uriah to sleep with his wife (*2Samuel 11:6-13*).

This effect is called being under the influence. Alcohol impairs the judgment of drivers, leading to many fatal accidents, so driving in such a condition is punished.

Anyone who must make quick and intelligent decisions, whether a boss, a judge, or a pilot, is strictly warned against the use of alcohol while on the job.

And many children have also suffered, from imprudent fathers, who made terrible decisions while under the influence of alcohol.

A man in authority must use all his wits, heart, and soul to give righteous judgment and avoid judging merely by appearance (*Exodus 18:21; 2Chronicles 19:5-10; John 7:24*).

Rulers were ordained by God to punish evildoers and reward good behavior (*Romans 13:1-4; 1Peter 2:13-14*).

But this high and honorable intent will be destroyed, **If** the ruler is intoxicated and thereby angry, blinded, confused, distracted, emotional, hasty, impulsive, or partial.

God hides truth from the foolish, the proud, or the self-righteous; He reveals truth to the diligent, the humble, and the wise (*Matthew 11:25-26; 12Peter 3:16*).

God-called men are to read the Word of God distinctly, give the sense, and cause others to understand it (*Nehemiah 8:8; Malachi 2:7*).

By rightly dividing Scripture, the man of God declares pure truth from God's Words (*Proverbs 22:17-21; Psalm 119:18; 2Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17*).

Giving an interpretation is not corrupting His Words: it is giving them their correct sense to avoid errors on either side.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect King! Though He appreciated wine as the gift of God (*Psalm 104:14-15; Luke 7:33-34; John 2:1-11*).

The Lord Jesus Christ, never consumed fermented wine and compromised righteousness, mercy, or truth (*John 7:46; 8:29; Heb 1:9; 7:26*).

If you are in a position of authority or leadership, make sure you, restrain your use, of wine and strong drink, lest you pervert your privileged position. Let The Lord Jesus Christ, King of heaven be your holy example and guide.

***Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.***

**Note to my sons:** I have spent literally decades writing and researching for these commentaries on every verse in Proverbs. I tried very hard to remain doctrinally pure.

Many of the commentaries I researched come from men who love the Word of God, but have doctrinal positions not in keeping with what I believe should be taught fermented drink. I have tried to be careful to only write, what you have always been taught, all your lives by trusted men of God.

Therefore, I have spend many hours rewriting and editing out doctrinal heresy. Thus, for verse 6, I have used Dr. John Phillips comments; "Exploring Proverbs" Volume 2; pages 586-587.

For verse 7, I edited out all insinuations toward moderate and social drinking as God ordained.

I do not believe, that fermented, decaying grape juice is sanctioned by God for mans use. I do not believe that Jesus ever consumed a fermented wine beverage. (If there is found in any of my

comments doctrinal problems of any sort, please note them and make necessary changes.)

Lemuel (The view of the Talmud that Agur and Lemuel were other names for Solomon) was a king, a ruler, a respected leader, and a wise man.

Therefore, what he had to say was considered important to the surrounding peoples.

His mother was the source of his wisdom, teaching her son and advising him not to get involved with women or alcoholic drink.

She recognized that those are vices which would distract him from his responsibilities as a king which were to keep the law, aid the oppressed and the poor, and to judge fairly without partiality.

David knew the law of God for the priests: *Leviticus 10:9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:*

This law was given right after Aaron's son's Nadab and Abihu "offered strange fire before the Lord" and were instantly and supernaturally slain where they stood (*Leviticus 10:1-2*).

The obvious inference is that they were drunk at the time.

A second inference is that the same prohibition applied, by extension, to others of the Lord's anointed: His prophets and His princes.

In actual fact, remarkably little is said in the Mosaic law about drinking to excess, though in (*Deuteronomy 29:6 Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the LORD your God.*). We read a comment on the total abstinence of Israel in the wilderness.

In (*Numbers 6:1-4*) we read the vow of the Nazarite required total abstinence of him as long as his vow lasted.

Perhaps the cases of Noah and Lot were sufficient warning against drunkenness. Drunkenness does not seem to have been common in the early days of Israel's history, but it became a terrible vice toward the end of the monarchy. (*Genesis 9:20-27; 19:30-38*)

Bathsheba knew enough about the perils of drunkenness to make her want to warn her son against the sin. She may have had many long talks with Abigail, who had once lived with a drunken husband (*1Samuel 25:36*).

Abigail would have told her sad stories about her wretched life with Nabal.

No doubt Bathsheba also remembered with horror how David had made Uriah drunk so that he would lose his determination to abstain from sex while his comrades were facing danger and death at the front (**2Samuel 11:13**).

So Bathsheba knew the dangers of fermented wine and she wanted her son to beware of its delusions. (**Proverbs 31:6-7**).

Some people see in the opening clause of verse 6 and injunction to use wine as a medicine.

They say that out of deference to this statement the women of Jerusalem provided a drink of drugged wine to prisoners on the way to crucifixion. But remember, this was the very drink that the Lord Jesus refused to accept (**Matthew 27:34**).

The whole tenor of **Proverbs 31:6-7** is better summed up by the image of people trying to drown their problems and sorrows in drink.

They look for courage or cheer, they imagine lies at the bottom of the bottle, but all they do is add drunkenness to their other troubles.

Bathsheba was not advocating drink to Solomon or anyone else. She was simply pointing out to her son, heir to a throne, beloved of God, that he, of all people did not need, either stimulus or the solace that strong drink supposedly gives.

***Proverbs 31:7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.***

A memory is not always a good thing. It may remember problems you had today, or recall bad news it heard about tomorrow. It may remind you about bills that are coming due and the limited funds available to pay them.

Unless there is something immediately at hand to do, these thoughts can be disturbing, disruptive, and distracting.

Here is advice to King Lemuel from his mother (**Proverbs 31:**):

She warned him about the dangers of women and alcohol, and she gave him a detailed description of the perfect wife (**Proverbs 31: 1-7; 10-31**).

Bathsheba was a woman of great understanding. She was known for objective truth, especially God's truth, and not mere emotion or sentiment.

Consider the value of the Word of God. God, who humbles Himself to consider things in heaven or earth, cares about your daily thoughts and troubles!

God is bothered **if** you have a heavy heart, He wants you to be glad, relax, and enjoy life (**Psalm 127:2; Ecclesiastes 9:7-10**).

God knows, men often carry job worries and other concerns home with them, which steal the peace, pleasure, and restorative purpose of the evening and night.

Consider the value of the Word of God. God gives practical advice, to save men from the mental distresses, of life. Why allow, your misery or poverty to also disturb the peace, of your marriage and family? The Bible is a goldmine of practical advice!

Consider the value of the Word of God. God condemns drunkenness, the use of wine or strong drink, which perverts the memory and leads to poverty or worse (**Proverbs 20:1; 23:21, 29-35; 31:5; 1Corinthians 6:10**).

Here is God's holy balance "temperance" (**1Corinthians 9:25; Philippians 4:5**)!

God instructs man to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**).

Neither wine nor strong drink, is the cure for man's frustration and loneliness. Only God can truly satisfy the human soul (**Psalm 73:25-26; Isaiah 26:3-4; Hebrews 13:5**).

***Proverbs 31:8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.***

Believe it or not, others depend on you, and it is your duty to defend and help them.

This rule especially applies if you are in authority. **If** a poor or weak person is being hurt or threatened, it is your job to rescue him. Open your mouth to argue and fight for those who cannot speak or defend themselves, the poor and needy (**Proverbs 31:9**).

### **You Are Your Neighbor's Keeper!**

King Lemuel's mother gave him this inspired rule (**Proverbs 31:1-2**).

She nobly desired he would be the best king possible. As a great mother, she taught him to use his throne to uphold justice and to deliver the oppressed.

Rather than think his royal authority gave him opportunity for personal gain, she taught him to use his privilege of power to help others.

Open thy mouth! The defense of any cause or person begins with words.

**If** you hardly ever speak, or speak slowly, or avoid confrontation, then you need this warning more than others.

**If** something wrong is happening, or **If** someone is being wronged, you must speak! Say something! Stop the harm or violence, and protect those counting on you.

Why do many remain silent when they could say something? They fear being opposed ridiculed, rocking the boat, peer pressure.

They fear making a mistake, getting involved and not being able to easily get out.

They feel their effort will not be appreciated, they lack confidence, commitment, and community.

**Who are the dumb?** They are those who cannot speak for themselves. Why do they not speak in their own defense?

Because their voice may be ignored because they are poor, lower class, young, the wrong race, the wrong sex, mentally handicapped, a child, lacking privilege, old and feeble-minded, intimidated by the situation, or countless other reasons.

How are they appointed to destruction? Circumstances or enemies threaten them, and they will be hurt or destroyed, unless someone intervenes to save them. It is persons in danger of oppression.

A reason God ordained authority in the world, husbands, fathers, masters, rulers, and pastors, is to defend the cause of just such poor and needy persons.

Consider some biblical examples: Joseph spoke to Pharaoh for his whole family (**Genesis 47:1-12**).

Isaac gave the best blessing he could to Esau, in spite of what Jacob had done (**Genesis 27:38-40**).

Elkanah intervened to honor Hannah over his other wife (**1Samuel 1:1-8**).

Jonathan spoke to his father for David's life (**1Samuel 19:1-7**).

Solomon intervened to protect a prostitute in a dispute for her child (**1Kings 3:16-28**).

Esther spoke to Ahasuerus for her people, and he in turn spoke for her against their enemies (**Esther 7:1-10; 8:1-14**).

Consider some other examples: The Good Samaritan gave instructions to the innkeeper to take care of the wounded Jew (**Luke 10:30-35**).

Paul used his weighty authority and reputation to assist Phebe, Onesimus, and the young minister Timothy (**Romans 16:1-2; 1Corinthians 16:10-11; Philemon 1:8-21**).

John promoted Demetrius (**3John 12**).

A king could intervene for those threatened by civil suits, tax cases, criminal proceedings, property disputes, and so forth.

But there are everyday opportunities you can use to help and protect others.

Consider: A bullied child at school, a reticent employee at your firm, a neglected widow down the street, an abused child on the next block, a poor member in your church, a child picked on by siblings in your family, a waitress berated by a rude customer, an innocent colleague conspired against by others, and many other such cases.

Have you spoken up recently for anyone? Have you defended any poor and needy person? Do not say you have not seen anyone in need, for opportunities arise often, but it is man's wicked nature to look the other way (**Proverbs 29:7**).

God sees your choice to not get involved, and He will judge (**Proverbs 21:13; 24:11-12; 28:27**).

Consider king of heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ did not open His mouth to defend Himself, when laying down His life for His people (**Isaiah 53:7; 1Peter 2:23**).

Jesus Christ did plead the cause of a Canaanite woman (**Matthew 15:21-28**), children brought to Him (**Matthew 19:13-15**).

Jesus Christ did plead the cause of a sinful woman at Simon's house (**Luke 7:36-50**),

Jesus Christ did plead the cause of a woman taken in adultery (**John 8:1-11**), and

Jesus Christ did plead the cause of his own mother's care while He was dying (**John 19:25-27**).

Let His holy example direct your mouth to silence for yourself and a loud cry for others!

**Proverbs 31:9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.**

**If** you are in a situation where you can defend someone, you better do it. Get your mouth open and say something! Defend righteousness and truth against liars and oppressors.



Argue for those, who are being attacked or are in trouble and cannot defend themselves. Stand up and use your mouth to silence the wicked. Do not let sin stand!

King Lemuel's mother taught him how to be a noble and great king (*Proverbs 31:1-9*).

As an autocratic ruler, a king had power to allow or disallow judgment against any person. Though there might not be any financial reward for pleading the cause of poor and needy parties, a virtuous king would love and serve righteousness and truth anyway.

What hinders men from being great and noble: They are afraid to speak up, in case it might cost them something.

Men do not want to get involved, because they value peace and quiet more than harm to an innocent person. They do not want to go against popular or politically correct opinion.

Men are intimidated by others holding a strong opinion.

Open thy mouth! You cannot do any good being silent and allowing evil to occur. It is your duty before God and men to rebuke and warn sinners (*Leviticus 19:17; Ezekiel 3:18; 1Thessalonians 5:14*).

Speak up! Say something! **If** you allow wickedness to take place, you are an accomplice. In the present day, take your keyboard and type for righteousness and truth.

Judge righteously! Do not measure any issues: by feelings, by habit, by opinion, by authority, or by tradition.

Righteousness is what God judges to be right, and that is plainly revealed in the Word of God. Take your stand on what the Scriptures teach and nowhere else.

All actions must be tried by the Word of God, and anything contrary must be rejected (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20*).

Plead the cause! You must form arguments and defend virtue and godliness against attack. Show sinners their errors! Fools their folly! The malicious their malice! Get intense!

**If** you can help victim, then fight against those seeking to do harm.

Pilate or Herod could have intervened to save Jesus Christ. But they had neither the courage nor the virtue to do so. They allowed an angry mob of Jews to rule the day and kill the Lord of glory. And they have gone down in history as cowardly compromisers.

To be ready to defend the poor and needy, you need the certain Words of truth fitted in your mouth in order to plead effectively against error (*Proverbs 22:17-21*).

Exalt God in your heart and be ready to give reasonable explanations for the truth (*1Peter 3:15; Jude 1:3*).

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

Only few men find a truly virtuous woman, for they are very rare. And they are more rare today, thanks to the curse of the modern woman.

Here are the inspired and time-honored Words of a mother to her son, the king (*Proverbs 31:1*).

Wise men will consider how to find such a woman.

Wise women will consider, the divine standard of a great woman.

The question is rhetorical, assuming you know the answer, not many do!

Odious women are everywhere, and average women miss the standard of virtuous woman by far.

A virtuous woman, who is defined by the next twenty-one verses, is the exceptional woman this mother desired for her son (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

There are few virtuous woman in the earth, and they are very valuable.

It is good to give a virtuous wife a diamond, for it shows her value far above rubies. But this universal tradition shows, that most men are defrauded of their money, for their wives only deserve a tiny ruby at best (*Ecclesiastes 7:26-28*).

What is marriage to an average woman? A 50-year lesson in disappointment and grief!

And the poor man fooled into marrying an odious woman should have bought a hangman's noose, for himself (*Proverbs 11:22; 30:21-23*)!

Who can find a virtuous woman?

The man who dates around?  
The man who sleeps around?  
The man who marries and divorces in his search?  
The man who pursues beauty?  
The man who pursues kind and flattering favors?  
The man who worships education?  
The man who marries within his church?  
The man who marries by the vote of his peers?  
The man who marries the valedictorian?

The answer to all these questions is **No!**

Who can find a virtuous woman?

Do you find her by the same major in college?  
By compatibility in temperament?  
By liking the same pizza toppings?  
Working in the same profession?  
Wanting the same size families?  
Ease of conversation?  
Fun on dates?  
Money in the bank?  
Sexual aggressiveness?  
A sense of humor?  
Childbearing hips?  
Flattering lips?  
Best apple pie in the county? No, no, no!

Virtuous women are extremely rare, but the rules for eliminating odious and average women are not difficult.

Finding a diamond of a woman is not impossible. God and Solomon teamed up to save you from 50 years of trouble. Humble yourself, and read. The criteria are simple; they are ranked; and any man can apply them.

She must fear the LORD (*Proverbs 31:30*).

She must be gracious (*Proverbs 11:16; 30:21-23*).

She must be very hardworking (*Proverbs 14:1; 31:13-29*).

First, the Bible exalts the fear of God over favor and beauty (*Proverbs 31:30*).

Favor: kind or flattering service, is often used to deceive men (*Proverbs 2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5, 13-21*).

Beauty: a horrible measure of character and beauty does not last long (*Proverbs 11:22; Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Corinthians 7:36*).

A beautiful woman will be more tempted to adultery and be a greater source of jealousy to her husband. Demand the fear of the LORD! (*Numbers 5:14; Ezekiel 16:15*)

Fearing God: is a humble reverence for Him and His judgments, and it is an awestruck appreciation for His favor and mercy.

Fearing God is also hatred of evil (*Proverbs 8:13*).

Fearing God is departure from evil (*Proverbs 3:7*).

Fearing God is sacrificial desire to please God (*Genesis 22:12*).

Fearing God is supreme obedience (*Exodus 1:7*).

Fearing God is an upright walk (*Proverbs 14:2*).

Fearing God is delight in His commandments (*Psalms 112:1*).

Fearing God is singleness of heart (*Colossians 3:22*).

Fearing God is general submission (*Ephesians 5:21*).

A virtuous woman will have overall behavior that becomes holiness (*Titus 2:3*).

She will worship God as her highest goal in life. She will be totally committed to living by every Word of God, no matter how unpopular.

A wife that fears God will bring the marital dowry, of God supplied blessings (*Psalms 34:9*):

Such as her advantage over wealth (*Proverbs 15:16*).

Such as her riches, honor, life (*Proverbs 22:4*).

Such as her preservation, happiness, blessing (*Psalms 128:1-4*).

Such as her confidence (*Proverbs 14:26*).

Such as her longer life (*Proverbs 10:27*).

Such as her fulfilled desires (*Psalms 145:19*).

Such as her Lord's pleasure (*Psalms 147:11*).

Such as her Lord's pity (*Psalms 103:13*).

Such as her Lord's providence (*Psalms 33:18*).

Such as her Lord's memory (*Malachi 3:16*).

Such as her wisdom (*Psalms 111:10*).

Such as the angel of the Lord. Glory to God what a woman! (*Psalms 34:7*)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and includes delight in His commandments and such a woman has this (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Psalms 112:1*)!

A woman that fears God will love and treat her husband exactly as God teaches in the Bible.

A woman that fears God will also reject ideas about women that are contrary to God's Word.

A woman that fears the Lord will not be moved by marital difficulties, for her trust, is in the Lord, not her husband.

Because God made the woman for the man, a man would be a fool to neglect this simple but perfect criterion.

A woman's fear of God may be proved or improved by using the definition above and by testing her by the Word of God. Wise tests could include facing her with God's requirements:

- In her finances.
- In her friends.
- In her appearance.
- In her relationship to her parents.
- In her hair.
- In her personal habits.
- In her temperament.
- In her submission.
- In her training of children.
- In her understanding of God's standards for men and women.

A woman who fears the Lord, puts God first in every area of her life, both inward and outward.

The Bible exalts graciousness (*Proverbs 11:16*).

Graciousness is: A pleasing and attractive character. A charming and winning grace.

She is special in the manner of being merciful and compassionate.

She is characterized by kindness and courtesy, especially condescending kindness, indulgence, and mercy to inferiors.

This woman is never offensive or haughty, always agreeable, discreet, and modest, and is delightfully charming in every way.

A gracious woman is always adored (*Proverbs 11:16*).

She does not spoil her fragrance with a little folly (*Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

Her graciousness is based in the very attractive qualities of moral purity and discreet speech (*Proverbs 22:11*).

Kind and gracious speech is a great part of graciousness (*Proverbs 16:13; 17:27; 31:26; Ecclesiastes 10:12; 1Peter 3:3-4*).

A beautiful woman without graciousness is a contradiction (*Proverbs 11:22*)!

An average woman without graciousness cannot be described! This requirement will eliminate all odious women (*Proverbs 21:9, 19; 30:21-23*).

You find this woman by counting friends and listening for praise.

A gracious woman has many virtuous friends, and everyone admires her, especially those of noble character.

She is highly esteemed by young and old alike; her reputation is flawless.

In her presence, you feel comfortable and relaxed.

You are honored by her agreeableness, gentleness, politeness, selflessness, sincerity, and warmth.

You feel very secure, and your noble instincts of affection, chivalry, honor, and protection rise quickly in your heart.

The Bible exalts diligence (*Proverbs 14:1; 31:13-29*). A virtuous woman is very hard working.

She does not seek leisure. Naps are only for necessity.

She does not pace herself during a day.

She despises shortcuts that sacrifice quality.

She rises early and stays up late.

She is prudent, confident, and has foresight.

She is creative, ambitious, and persistent.

She finishes every job; she delights in a job well done; and she always looks for more to do.

She feels guilty on the phone or Internet.

She tries to outwork her husband.

A hardworking woman before marriage helps her mother, eagerly cares for children, has excellent grades, has an early job with success, a savings account, no debts, an immaculate room and car, attention to detail in appearance, is punctual, appreciates quality, has a balanced checkbook, volunteers to help others, is cheerful during work, never complains, is an early riser, has no absences anywhere.

Who can find a virtuous woman? The man who trusts God and requires fear of the Lord, graciousness, and diligence (*Proverbs 18:22; 19:14*)!

Abraham's servant sought a wife for Isaac. He found a woman, willing to water his ten camels without being asked!

Rebekah after hearing the proposal, she was ready to leave her family immediately to honor God and her husband.

Rebekah clearly feared the Lord and was both gracious and diligent (*Genesis 24:1-67*).

**If** you try any other method for qualifying a wife, you better be shopping for a tiny ruby or a hangman's noose.

Solomon tried 1,000 women by other criteria, and he said they were more bitter than death (*Ecclesiastes 7:26-28*).

**If** you reject the wisdom of this Proverb, you must love the slow death of 50 years with a disappointing or painful woman (*Proverbs 8:36*).

If you humble yourself before the inspired wisdom of this Proverb, you will enjoy 50 years of heaven on earth.

God, Who ordained marriage, knows how marriage can be perfected; and He will bless you in your search.

If you seek Him in the matter, and follow the written instructions (*Proverbs 18:22; 19:14*).  
May the Lord bless you to find a diamond!

***Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.***

How is a virtuous woman rare and her value far above rubies (*Proverbs 31:10*)?

King Lemuel's mother described in detail, the perfect woman, that would be a proper wife for her son (*Proverbs 31:1-2*).

Every woman should aspire to this lofty description, written by a queen mother, and every man should only marry a woman, following this holy and inspired description.

She is first and foremost trustworthy, so her husband has no doubts or fears about her.

The virtuous woman may be trusted personally, the virtuous woman may be trusted sexually, the virtuous woman may be trusted domestically, the virtuous woman may be trusted economically, and the virtuous woman may be trusted spiritually.

Her life is based on the solid foundation of fearing God and doing righteousness, regardless of circumstances, temptations, or opportunities for compromise.

A husband risks his heart with a wife. She can break his heart by giving her body or love to another (*Numbers 5:11-31; Matthew 1:18-19*).

She can defraud him of adoration or sexual fulfillment (*Esther 1:12; 1Corinthians 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:33*).

She can break his heart by being lazy and allowing the family or house to suffer (*Proverbs 14:1; Ezekiel 16:49; 1Timothy 5:14*).

She can be odious, contentious, and shameful in private and in public (*Proverbs 12:4; 27:15-16; 30:21-23*).

A man married to a virtuous woman, who fears God and does righteousness, has his heart totally at rest, he is fully confident of all she thinks and does (*Proverbs 31:28-31*).

This is the ultimate in love and marriage for a man in this sinful world. Any other woman will disappoint, defraud, and destroy him in one or more of the sins above.

A godly woman fully submits all her desires, loyalty, and service to her husband (*1Corinthians 11:9; Ephesians 5:22-24*).

Contrast the trust of a virtuous woman to the pain felt by a husband on a business trip (*Proverbs 7:18-20*); Potiphar in Egypt (*Genesis 39:7*); Jacob (*Genesis 31:19*); Samson (*Judges 16:15-17*); and David (*2Samuel 6:20-23*).

The longest parable in the Bible was written to describe the unfaithfulness of Israel as God's chosen bride (*Ezekiel 16:1-63*).

A woman that cannot be trusted is as rottenness in a man's bones, a toothache, and a sprained ankle (*Proverbs 12:4; 25:19*).

Domestic trust is the emphasis in this Proverb, for the following context exclusively describes, the virtuous wife's diligence and industry in managing the home and contributing income to the estate (*Proverbs 31:12-27*).

Hardworking and prudent wives, who fulfill the lofty description in these wonderful verses, build great families and estates. But foolish wives will destroy a man and his family (*Proverbs 7:12; 14:1; 1Timothy 5:13*).

The priority in a woman's life is serving the family and home. She was created to help Adam (*Genesis 2:18*).

When he is away on business or other matters, she is to make sure all runs as smoothly as if he were there. When he is home, she is to relieve him from any worry about the children or house.

She is to pursue any investment or work opportunities by which she can add to the family income. Such is the virtuous woman (*Proverbs 31:13-27*).

A godly woman is a keeper at home (*Titus 2:5*).

This does not mean she cannot leave the home or even spends most of her time there, for that would contradict the description of the virtuous woman (*Proverbs 31:13-27*).

But it does mean the home is her priority and responsibility, and she is to avoid any foolish distractions away from it (*1Timothy 5:13-14*).

A good woman can be a great family and estate builder, and it requires more elbow grease and sweat equity than it does intelligence and seminars for super moms.

"Spoil," is goods taken from an enemy in war, or anything taken by force or other injurious means.

The husband of a domestically diligent wife, will be fully supplied and never think of taking things from others, for he has plenty at home by the faithfulness and wise labors of his wife.

A sexually defrauded husband is tempted: To fantasy, to pornography, or to adultery.

A domestically defrauded husband is tempted: To covetousness, to overworking, or to theft. Such a man must go beyond his bounds to make up for losses caused by his wife.

Women can be romantically distracted, personally spoiled, sexually selfish, domestically lazy, financially wasteful, or verbally disrespectful.

Any one of these sins can build fear and mistrust and eventually break a man's heart. Women must examine their lives and make every effort to remove any and all doubts and fears from their husbands' hearts.

Men often choose wives for frivolous reasons like looks, which generally only add to mistrust.

A wise man will measure the character and track record of a woman, for trustworthy faithfulness and prudent diligence, especially in domestic duties. The future of his heart, life, children, and estate depend on it.

Here is inspired wisdom from God for godly and prosperous marriages.

Let every woman take heed that her life closely follows that of the virtuous woman described in this chapter. And let every man encourage and pursue only those women like her.

***Proverbs 31:12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.***

**Here Is The Virtuous Woman!  
Here Is The Perfect Woman!**

A mother described this virtuous woman, to her son the king, to help him pick a perfect wife (*Proverbs 31:1*).

This virtuous woman treats her husband well every day of her life. She never does him wrong. She dedicates her life to always doing him good.

The virtuous woman knows her purpose in life, which is the foundation for her attitude and actions. She knows she was created to be her husband's helper, even before sin was in the world (*Genesis 2:18*).

The virtuous woman knows she was made for him, not him for her (*1Corinthians 11:9*).

The virtuous woman approaches life every day with the intent of being a good wife for her husband.

Considering the context of this Proverb, we find it follows a description of her husband safely trusting her (*Proverbs 31:11*).

The husband of the virtuous woman can always trust his wife, because he knows she always does what is good and right toward him. He never has to worry about getting less than her best either in public or private. He totally trusts her.

The context following describes a very industrious, frugal, efficient, and productive woman. She not only balances domestic duties and financial pursuits, but she excels at both!

Her husband and children praise her domestically (*Proverbs 31:28*).

She is highly productive with her own works that praise her (*Proverbs 31:31*).

She excels all women (*Proverbs 31:29*)!

How does a woman live the perfect life of the virtuous woman? One day at a time! Each day a woman must remember her purpose, apply herself totally to the goal, and quickly correct any mistakes.

**A Successful Life Is A String Of Successful Days!**

A woman who will obey this Proverb today, and do the same tomorrow, will become the virtuous woman.

The virtuous woman is described by action, she does her husband good; she does not do him bad.

It is the virtuous woman who is active in serving her husband.

She works willingly in manual labor (*Proverbs 31:13*).

She avoids foolish shortcuts (*Proverbs 13:14*).

She does not sleep in, but gets up early (*Proverbs 31:15*).

She is financially creative to enhance family wealth (*Proverbs 31:16*).

She exerts herself with intense effort (*Proverbs 31:17*).

She confidently stays up late to finish projects (*Proverbs 31:18*).

She will gladly make things from scratch (*Proverbs 31:19*).

She uses spare time to help the poor (*Proverbs 31:20*).

She sees to it that her family is properly clothed (*Proverbs 31:21*).

She is careful to look her best (*Proverbs 31:22*).

She honors her husband and others know it (*Proverbs 31:23*).

She starts a business to help with income (*Proverbs 31:24*).

She works hard and does what is right (*Proverbs 31:25*).

She has only wise and kind speech (*Proverbs 31:26*).

She does everything the family needs (*Proverbs 31:27*).

The virtuous woman does her husband good romantically. She never defrauds him of sex a day in her life. She knows the inspired rule to satisfy him in every way (*1Corinthians 7:1-5*).

She loves Solomon's Song for inspirational reading. She knows true lovemaking includes her soul and response, not just submission; her creativity, not just availability.

She will do him good verbally, by using her words to praise and reverence him (*Ephesians 5:33; 1Peter 3:6*).

She will not contend, complain, question, or whine (*Proverbs 19:13; 21:9, 19; 27:15*).

She uses affectionate and kind words to build his soul and comfort his heart. She does not make needless suggestions, raise questions, or otherwise nag her husband.

She will do him good financially by working willingly and looking for opportunities to earn more and spend less. She will stretch a dollar.

She will not waste, shop foolishly, or complain about savings or cutting back on the family budget.

She will cheerfully allow her husband to spend on himself. She will not begrudge him his use of money.

She will do him good with the children by praising him to them and supporting his decisions with cheerful agreement.

She never undermines his authority or objects to his standard of godly discipline. She creates a united front that builds the marriage and thwarts rebellious children. She makes the children's father the chief object of their love (*Proverbs 17:6*).

She will do him good in her clothing by dressing in the most attractive and modest way possible to be his jewel and prize. She does not let her appearance decline without a fight!

She refuses to be dowdy <sup>lacking in smartness or taste</sup>, due to age or childbearing. She will never dress to be noticed or flattered by other men. She cares about the attention of only one man's eyes.

She will do him good by a cheerful and agreeable spirit, even when he wants her to do something she dislikes (*Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 5:18*).

She will not complain, pout, drag, or otherwise object to anyone, especially her husband. She knows that submission can only be practiced when her husband asks her to do something she does not want to do.

She will do him good by praising him to others, especially her family, her friends, and the children. She will not complain or criticize her husband, unless to wise counselors in a matter of righteousness.

She focuses on her own deficiencies and faults, rather than collecting and broadcasting his. She works on her beam rather than his mote (*Matthew 7:1-5*).

She will not fantasize about other men or flirt for attention. She will not read romantic novels or watch soap operas or movies for vicarious pleasure with another man. She would never go near the embrace of another man, nor even accept any related looks.

The virtuous woman does not neglect adoring and serving her husband due to middle or old age. She looks forward to the children moving out to have more time with her man!

She rejects any notion that sex ends at 50, 70, or even 90! She is a sport for anything her husband wants to try, and maybe more! She does not let the marriage get old! Neither does she excuse herself at all from her duties, just because she has discovered his faults. She knows his faults do not affect the virtuous woman at all.

She treats him well in spite of them, for she knows this conduct is what truly pleases the Lord (*1Peter 2:18-23*).

She knows she has as many or more faults herself to work on for the rest of her life. She also knows God in His sovereignty chose her husband before she was born just for her!

She will be sensitive to his needs and be there for him with helpful service, rather than berating him to herself, to others, or to him.

She will learn his temperament and the burdens of his soul to comfort him, rather than despise, nag, or criticize him.

She will do him good, even when he is discouraged or depressed. She will be creative and show initiative in doing all she can to make him happy.

She will use every meal for a happy time to honor her husband before family or friends. She will do all she can to lift his spirits and encourage him in his labors and problems. She wants her meals to be pleasant time of peace and pleasure to rejuvenate him in body and soul.

She will never use silence to punish him. She rejects any thought of a cold war with her husband. She would never use tears to befuddle or punish him. She works at making his job of husband as easy as possible.

She always wants to apologize first, rather than waiting for him to do so. She does not believe separation makes the heart grow fonder.

She rejects the notion of leisure ladies that sleep in, shop for sport, wear sweat suits, attend bridge clubs, drink tea, play tennis, blabber on the phone, and chauffeur children (*Ezekiel 16:49*).

She knows the primary trait of the virtuous woman is her industrious labor in and out of the home (*Proverbs 31:13-27*).

She will never let a job or children compete with her husband. She knows she was made a wife first, mother second.

She will always dote on her husband more than the children. And no matter how successful at a profession, it is not nearly as important as her man. She desires nothing more than to be with her husband and do what she can to please him.

The virtuous woman is good to her husband spiritually. She supports his spiritual activities with the greatest zeal she can muster.

She cooperates fully in any family devotions or other religious activities. She does not question, complain, criticize, or make suggestions that even slightly dent his role as teacher of the family.

She despises David's Michal and thinks her punishment was perfect (*2Samuel 6:14-23*)!

This great woman is a crown to her husband (*Proverbs 12:4*).

Everyone knows her husband is very blessed, because a great woman cannot be hid (*Proverbs 11:16; 31:23*).

She conducts herself most carefully, lest she allows a fly in the ointment and spoils her husband's crown (*Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

Is such a woman possible? How do you find such a woman? There is one simple and rare criterion, and it never fails.

A woman that truly fears the Lord will live her life this way, because this is what she read from her Lord in the Bible (*Proverbs 31:30*).

### ***Proverbs 31:13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.***

A virtuous woman is not above dirtying her hands and working hard at manual labor. She has no illusions or pretensions about her role. She knows that productivity and wealth begin with her hands, not with her mouth.

Though capable of using her brain to leverage her assets and labor, she has no qualms about adding her sweat equity to the family estate. Let every lazy or pampered woman humble herself before this wisdom from God.

Here is a trait of a perfect woman, which king Lemuel learned from his mother to find a great wife (*Proverbs 31:1, 10*).

Women must grasp, that a woman wrote this lofty description, in case she thinks: The bar is set too high, the traits lack sufficient glamour, or they emphasize a wife as her husband's helper. (*Proverbs 31:10-31*)

God made the woman for the man, and learning this lesson, is an important step to being a great woman (*Genesis 2:18; 3:16; 1Corinthians 11:9*).

A virtuous woman does not need everything done for her. She hunts for raw materials to make useful or valuable things for her family. She is a willing worker, cheerful and content; and she has initiative to work hard on her own.

She does not need prodding. She sees a need, and she rolls up her sleeves and attacks the project. She does not hope her husband, will do it for her after his work; she finishes it to spend the evening with him!

A pampered wife flitting from tea to reading to drawing violates God and women. It is not found in God's Word or in any prosperous society.

God made women to work, and they realize one of their chief goals by diligent use of their time.

Every Christian woman must make sure a "keeper at home" has nothing to do with taking it easy and making the husband the only or primary worker.

Some women think they have it rough to get up with their husbands and be expected to accomplish a day's work while he is at work.

They prefer rising late, pacing themselves through a few chores, talking on the phone, surfing the Internet, reading a book, visiting the spa, getting their nails done, and then asking their husbands to bring supper home.

It is terrible that many of these are so-called Christian women! Great women work as hard or harder than their husbands, and they are agreeable and thankful to do so.

In a glorious pursuit of a wife for Isaac, Abraham's servant found beautiful Rebekah fetching water at a well (**Genesis 24:15-16**)!

What about her violin lessons? Forget it! How did he qualify her? He waited to see if she would graciously volunteer to draw water for his camels (each camel can drink 20 gallons in 10 minutes!). What did she do? She ran to get the water fast enough for these thirsty beasts (**Genesis 24:18-20**)!

Isaac had himself a winner! If you think this is an exception, then read where Jacob discovered Rachel (**Genesis 29:9-18**)!

Prissy girls can live and die single beside lazy women, or they can dream of effeminate rich men who will pamper them like dolls into boring oblivion.

Marriage is not for a woman to find a gravy train so she can read, shop, and nap most of the day before manipulating her husband to bring supper home.

Marriage is for a man to find a lover who will help him build the family and estate by bearing children and working hard!

The Church is the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of glory. His Father did not choose His bride, nor did Jesus die for her, in order for her to have a life of leisure.

Those who make up the family of God were chosen to serve and work to glorify God and help one another (**Matthew 20:25-28; Romans 14:8; 1Corinthians 10:31-33; 2Corinthians 5:13-15; 12:15**).

Christian female saint, how cheerfully and hard have you worked this day to please your Husband?

***Proverbs 31:14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.***

A great woman is creative and diligent.

A great woman does not settle for convenience, economy, or habit.

A great woman seeks for better dishes to serve her family and better ways to fulfill her other domestic roles.

A great woman puts forth the effort to obtain unique and excellent things for her husband and children.

A great woman is not discouraged that creativity requires extra work and time.

Our generation is addicted to convenience. This has created a lazy generation of women, who have lost the ability and drive to be creative and diligent domestically.

More often than not, they are more concerned about how easy of a supper they can throw together rather than plan an imaginative and pleasant surprise for their family. This is the lesson!

### **Excellence Marks The Virtuous Woman!**

A virtuous woman is not looking for shortcuts; she is looking for the best. Convenience means little to her. Superb eating and great pleasure and comfort for her family are far more important.

A virtuous woman does not care what other women are doing; she wants to reward and honor her husband and children with special service.

Merchant ships did not travel short distances to find whatever was available or on sale; they went great distances to find unique commodities and special products that would command a premium. The ship arriving back in port with the most unusual and useful items would receive much more attention and build the reputation for that merchant.

For a woman to be like the virtuous woman, she cannot sleep in, go to bed early, take naps, talk on the phone, play every day, email all her friends, window shop, watch television, and waste time by other foolish means.

A virtuous woman lives with a sense of time urgency, rather than a pursuit of ease.

A man would get fired, or never get ahead, if he worked the same way, looking to get out of as much work as possible and protect an easy daily routine.

A man is expected to be creative, diligent, and work with a constant sense of time urgency, every day!

Today's Christian woman, piously claiming to be a "keeper at home," leads a life of ease that most other women in the history of the world could not have imagined. Life is close to a perpetual vacation for many such women.



The average woman a few generations ago could outwork any two women of this generation (probably more like ten), and she never complained that her husband did not take the family out to eat enough.

The average woman a few generations ago did not know, what it meant to eat at McDonalds, and she had never begged, bribed, or coerced her husband into ordering pizza! She worked hard!

What do you think is the chief character trait of **Proverbs 31:10-31**?

A virtuous woman knows she can create a more unique and exciting meals for less than going out to eat.

A virtuous woman also knows the atmosphere at home is more conducive to family unity and marital affection. The reverence of her husband and children far outweighs the lazy desire to skip meal preparation and cleanup. And she also knows her meal is much better nutritionally than a fast food "deal."

Of course, a real meal takes longer than macaroni-and-cheese (from a box), pancakes (for supper), frozen TV dinners (from a sale), two-for-one pizza (from a newspaper clipping), and fish sticks and tater tots (from the same frozen food bin)!

Meat, gravy, eggs, potatoes, and biscuits for breakfast do take a little more work than throwing out an array of boxes of sugared puffs with a gallon of milk!

A wise woman will remember the simple fact that "food" from a box is worth only a fraction of the packaging and marketing!

Most men will not complain, as their wives become less creative and diligent. To criticize such things condemns her very existence and person, and it generally leads to interrupted tranquility.

Slothful women know how to mope around and act confused at mealtime to solicit the husband's call for take-out.

So men endure a continually deteriorating routine of domestic slothfulness until they escape by death. (Or their friend, who married a virtuous woman, invites them to eat at his house!)

Christian woman, God's standard for a virtuous wife and mother is incredibly high. But remember that a woman, one of your own, looking out for her dear son, wrote it (**Proverbs 31:1**).

This is the kind of woman that wise men will seek in marriage, and this is the kind of woman who will be honored and adored by her husband and children (**Proverbs 31:28**).

Can you be more creative and diligent in your role as a Christian wife and mother? A woman with a pure conscience and strong fear of the Lord will consider these things soberly.

Reader, as a part of the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, what will you give your Husband this day? Will you settle for the convenient, hurried Bible reading and a quick prayer?

Reader, will you meditate carefully, pray fervently, praise gloriously, and obey faithfully? Do not fall into the religious rut of a form of godliness, as most women fall into the rut of the slothful American housewife. Do not be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Diligently work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12; 2Peter 1:10**).

**Proverbs 31:15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.**

The virtuous woman is an early riser, a go-getter, an ambitious and diligent lady. She is not in love with her bed, the snooze button on the alarm, or cuddling in the blankets until she has to get up.

The virtuous woman knows that a good day is one started on time and started well.

The virtuous woman knows that her husband and family also need a good and timely start to be successful.

The virtuous woman described in **Proverbs chapter 31** is the perfect woman as defined by a queen mother for her son. She wanted him to have the best, as each mother should, so she described this glorious lady in detailed perfection.

She set the bar very high, because she did not want her son settling for merely an average or above average woman (**Proverbs 31:29**).

Rising "*while it is yet night*" means that she gets out of bed while it is still dark, before the morning light appears. This is typically around 6:00 A.M.

This choice, made in the warm comfort of her bed, made every morning, indicates exceptional character, discipline, and devotion to her family. It is much easier to cuddle and rotate until 8:00!

Rather than stay in bed for herself, she is up sacrificially and working to get her family fed nutritiously and at their projects while it is still early.

The virtuous woman is willing and able to rise before others and serve them. Good women fix breakfast for their husbands, no matter how early they rise. But this woman even does so for her servants! What a woman!

It is hard to change morning habits, **If** you have convinced yourself you are not a morning person, and you have reinforced your bad thinking with years of sleeping as late as possible.

There is a radically different approach to mornings, and that is to get started early and energetically. Solomon ridiculed the slothful approach (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 24:30-34*).

Sleep and slothfulness are addicting and contagious (*Proverbs 19:15*).

The more you allow of either, the more you want. The longer you sleep and the slower you move in the morning, the more tired you will feel all day.

**If** you leap out of bed and get at the day, you can rejoice in the vitality and vigor you feel coursing through your body and mind.

Success starts by getting up on time (*Proverbs 20:13*).

Believe it! Staying in bed will ruin you (*Proverbs 23:21*).

Can a hardworking wife be a lover? Yes, an energetic woman beats a sleepy mannequin! Yes, a wife with much done is a happy woman!

Yes, for her positive outlook builds confidence!

Yes, for her devotion wins more love and respect from a good husband!

**If** he keeps her up late at night and burns her candle at both ends, she will fail, and he will lose, in and out of bed. Wise men help their women get to bed on time.

As the bride of Jesus Christ (He is the Lord of glory), every Christian, man or woman, should be up and at his spiritual exercises early in the day as well.

The longer you take to get to your Bible reading and prayer, the more distractions will arise to keep you from them.

The less disciplined you are about these necessary habits, the more other activities will reduce their priority and place in your life. Spiritual success hangs in the balance!

***Proverbs 31:16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.***

The virtuous woman never sits on her hands; she hardly ever sits!

The virtuous woman presses forward in a new direction. Domestic duties do not take all her abilities and time, so she analyzes business ventures, buys real estate, and invests her allowance in earning assets.

These are not a man's Words, who does not know the difficulties of a wife and mother. Wives, King Lemuel's mother gave him these Words (*Proverbs 31:1*).

These are the Words of the Holy Spirit through a mother, who knows creative diligence is the supreme trait of a perfect wife. To this woman, just looking good, cooking, and cleaning is not quite enough! This woman is wise!

*She considereth a field.* She is intelligent and knowledgeable enough to see the potential of vacant land for commercial real estate development.

### **Virtuous Women Don't Miss A Good Opportunity!**

The virtuous woman matches business ideas to the land, measures the capital investment, calculates the potential yield, checks market prices for wine, determines a profitable return on investment, covers cash flow needs, and makes her decision.

*She buyeth it.* Having considered the field's potential and the right price for a profitable return, she spends her precious funds to purchase the field.

The virtuous woman is decisive and bold; she is farsighted and courageous; she is creative and entrepreneurial.

The virtuous woman is confident in her ability, her analysis, and the potential profits to reward her family in time to come.

The virtuous woman uses the fruit of her hands to make the capital investment.

Due to her wise care of the home and other financial matters, her husband has given her a portion of the family income (*Proverbs 31:11-12, 23, 31*). See the comments on *Proverbs 31:31*.

Rather than wasting hours looking for deals on a Caribbean cruise, she looks to invest her money for her family's future.

*She planteth a vineyard.* She avoids social projects of women who have never worked a day in their lives. She wants to work, to be productive.

The virtuous woman not only buys the field; she puts in the work to finish the project (*Proverbs 12:27*).

The virtuous woman buys seedlings, plants them, and waits. She sees the future, as profitable vineyards are not created overnight. What a lady!

Christianity does not teach women to be ignorant homebodies. The virtuous woman worked outside the home. She first provided for her husband and children (*Proverbs 31:10-12, 27-28*).

The virtuous woman knew "*keepers at home*" are condemned by idleness and sinful habits of foolish women; it did not mean staying home all day (*1Timothy 5:13-14; Titus 2:5*).

The virtuous woman put the LORD first, her husband second, family third, and businesses fourth. Her husband and children will praise her, for helping build the family estate.

### **Proverbs 31:17 *She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.***

#### **Great Women Keep Getting Better!**

Great women know being exceptional takes great effort!

Great women prepare themselves for it. A virtuous woman is not content with her abilities, appearance, or achievements;

The virtuous woman continually strives to improve in every area of life.

The virtuous woman does not relax her pursuit of excellence.

The virtuous woman takes her role seriously and intends to be the best. The productivity of this woman is fantastic.

#### **Women Faint When Reading Her Description!**

But here we see her commitment to energetic effort and diligent labor. And every woman who will please God and men must commit to high energy and strength as well. Wife and mother are not comfortable and easy roles, when properly fulfilled.

Note these figures of speech: Girding with strength, is encircling a thing to make it strong and ready for action. (Abdominal crunches strengthen a woman's loins, the area between her ribs and hips. Kegel exercises strengthen the encircling PC muscle in her loins.)

Both exercises are part of a virtuous woman's day, but the metaphor and synecdoche of the first clause intend strengthening her whole person. Setups are not enough!

Bicep curls and tricep extensions will keep a woman's arms firm and shapely, but the synecdoche of the second clause also intends her whole person.

*Her loins*, the center of bodily strength, and her arms, the useful tools of a hardworking woman, are important bodily parts used to represent her whole person: body, mind, and soul.

A great woman strives for excellence. She has drive, energy, strength, and zeal.

A great woman does not rise slowly to drowsily go through the motions again.

A great woman rises with a new lease on life and intends to be better today than she was yesterday.

A great woman takes regular steps to identify, develop, and preserve her abilities. She wants to increase her womanly abilities.

Many "good" women anticipate the husband leaving for work and children for school, so they can go on cruise control. With the labor saving devices of our modern society, she can pace herself at 30% of capacity with frequent pleasantries and still get her work done.

The virtuous woman in the same situation would use the freedom of no husband and children to rev up to 100% and do the work of three women. Love her!

It is not God strengthening her loins and arms here; she does it herself. Do not be a Fatalist and hope for improvement; take charge and improve yourself!

The virtuous woman reads, talks to others, exercises, learns better methods, takes classes, changes habits, breaks routines, buys witty inventions, reorganizes household duties, and any other measure to be better.

The virtuous woman is committed to high productivity, and she will put forth whatever effort it requires!

Because she is the virtuous woman, she has good understanding (*1Samuel 25:3*).

The virtuous woman knows that wisdom can multiply and direct her efforts to greater productivity. She will not be caught with a dull axe (*Ecclesiastes 10:10*).

The virtuous woman is sensitive to better methods, tools, schedules, subcontractors, communication, recipes, or anything to enhance productivity.

The virtuous woman is on the cutting edge of every advantage she can discover to accomplish ever more!

Continuing education is required of many professions and trades, for a changing world demands additional knowledge.

**If** a man will not keep learning and improving, then he will be sent into a different job with less impact on the company profits!

Most employers will pay for tuition and books for courses that enhance an employee's value to the company.

Most employers want employees who are continually expanding their abilities and knowledge to contribute more and more value. And the role and work of a woman is no less important. She must continually improve.

Older women should teach younger women in the Lord's Churches (*Titus 2:3-5*).

**If** this were done, diligently and wisely, each generation of Christian women would be greater than the one before, in terms of holiness and marital and domestic godliness.

**If** this is not the case in your Church, who will change the ungodly trend? And when? Every Christian mother must also rise, above the ungodly prudery or slothfulness to teach her daughters completely.

A virtuous woman is not content burying her talents: She will develop and exploit them to their full potential.

A virtuous woman wants to take her five, invest them well, and gain five more. She does not want her Lord to judge her for squandering the gifts He gave her (*Matthew 25:14-30*).

A virtuous woman remembers the parable of the talents and multiplies hers as well as she can.

Wife, are you the best lover you can be? The best cook? The best mother? The best investor? The best home decorator? The best shopper?

Wife is your house spotless throughout? What is the annual income of your home business? Do you apply yourself with full vigor every day for your family? Or have you retired on the job? Do you attack your duties? Or do they overwhelm you? Gird up your loins! Strengthen your arms!

Remember, the LORD's emphasis for a virtuous woman is on marital and domestic abilities and achievements (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Do not hide behind quoting Bible verses and reading Christian books; God has not made that a priority for your life.

Every reference to the activities of women in the Bible is related to their husbands, children, and home!

Husband, it is not only wisdom to help your wife get enough sleep to run wide open all day, it is a commandment (*1 Peter 3:7*).

You are to know and understand that your wife is a weaker vessel, and in most cases requires more sleep than you. Give her the sleep, and leave this Proverb on her nightstand! Help her start the day refreshed and raring to go!

Husband, it is not only wisdom to help your wife get better by allowing her opportunities to expand and multiply her abilities, it is a commandment (*Ephesians 5:29*).

Husband, you are commanded to love your wife by nourishing her, promoting her growth. Let her take a class, pursue a friendship, buy a tool, or anything that will make her better.

Husband, you must also allow her, the profits, of her productive labor, for her to reinvest it for greater returns (*Proverbs 31:31*). See the comments on *Proverbs 31:31*.

***Proverbs 31:18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.***

A great woman is confident and driven. King Lemuel's mother described the perfect woman in detail, so her son would know what to look for in a wife (*Proverbs 31:1-2, 10-12*).

For a great woman, the fear of the Lord is the first prerequisite, and Diligence is her most obvious character trait (*Proverbs 31:30; 13-31*).

This Proverb identifies a great woman's confidence and drive.

*"She perceiveth that her merchandise is good."* The virtuous woman knows her performance, productivity, and products are good. Her purchase of a field and investment in a vineyard are great ideas (*Proverbs 31:16*);

The virtuous woman is committed to do what it takes to make a success of her income-producing venture (*Proverbs 31:17*).

**Virtuous Women Are Confident  
Of Their Plans And Future!**

**Humility Is Not Defeatist About Abilities.**

Humility is being strong and confident about plans, because you trust the Lord, not just yourself (*James 4:13-15*).

Paul was, a humble and meek Apostle, of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he also declared that he worked harder than the other Apostles, by the grace of God (*1Corinthians 15:10; 2Corinthians 11:5; 12:11-12*).

Great women are not puffed up about abilities, nor do they brag about accomplishments. Never!

Great women know they have a good plan, what it takes to get the job done, and that they can do it.

This confident and strong approach to domestic and outside-the-home pursuits condemns the fear and weakness of many Christian women (*Proverbs 20:4; 22:13; 26:13*).

**A virtuous woman is a confident and strong woman.** Jael is one of the greatest women in the Bible (*Judges 5:24*)!

Why? Intimidation, false humility, timidity, and fear are not Christian virtues, no matter how piously they are presented.

A skilled and gracious hostess knows when a meal is well prepared. To think otherwise is flagrant slothfulness!

*"Her candle goeth not out by night."* The virtuous woman is driven.

The virtuous woman knows there is profit in all labor (*Proverbs 14:23*).

The virtuous woman does not waste time talking. Once she settles on a plan, she goes for it! When she has a job to do, she is going to get it done! Extra effort or extra hours do not discourage her! She finishes her projects! She completes her tasks! She is a success, because she will not quit until the goal is achieved! She does not faint!

Of course, this is a Proverb. It does not mean she never sleeps, even if the Words indicate she works all night long! This is hyperbole, an obvious exaggeration!

The virtuous woman puts forth whatever effort is called for to get the job done. She perseveres energetically. But she does not cross the line that denies the Lord His role (*Psalms 127:1-2*).

***Proverbs 31:19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.***

A woman's hands are important. They are for more than carrying a diamond ring. They are for more than manicuring nails regularly.

A woman's hands are for more than holding while walking in the park. They are for manual labor, and a

virtuous woman is willing to use them diligently and skillfully.

She is not afraid to dirty her hands to get a job done, and she is not afraid to acquire skills with her hands to serve her family and build the estate.

Solomon mentions hands many times, because they are the principal body part for work, especially manual labor. Diligent persons use their hands well (*Proverbs 10:4; 12:24*).

Slothful persons hide their hands (*Proverbs 6:10-11; 19:24; 21:25; 26:6; Ecclesiastes 4:5*).

No wonder job advertisements search for a "hands on" type, who will "roll up his sleeves" and get a job done.

A virtuous woman has busy hands that earn rewards (*Proverbs 31:13, 16, 19-20,31*).

Hands are important. A woman's "elbow grease," by using her hands diligently, can build the family estate with "sweat equity."

Anything a woman finds to do with her hands, she should do it with her might (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*).

A lazy woman destroys the family estate by not using her hands diligently (*Proverbs 14:1; Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

Spiders are in kings' palaces, because they have numerous hands and are not discouraged at all by repetitive tasks (*Proverbs 30:28*).

However, diligent hands are not enough. A woman needs to be skillful at hand tasks. God prepared wise and skilled women to spin the various fabrics for the complex decorating of the tabernacle (*Exodus 35:25-26*).

The English language originally called such skillful women spinsters, though that name now has very different connotations. A woman must know how to do domestic and other hand tasks skillfully in order to be a virtuous wife.

The virtuous woman of *Proverbs 31* was a very competent woman at many levels.

The virtuous woman invested, in and managed commercial real estate and manufacturing businesses to help build the family estate (*Proverbs 31:16, 24*).

The virtuous woman could also spin thread from raw materials. She could take a spinning wheel and loom and teach her maidens how to make cloth perfectly (*Proverbs 31:15*).

The virtuous woman could do the work herself, show how it should be done, and teach others.

A virtuous woman in the 21st century does not spin cloth to make clothes. It would be a waste of her talents and time.

The virtuous woman can buy, the finished product with superior construction and appearance for comparatively nothing.

The virtuous woman, is better off learning other skills and using her earnings to buy clothing and other textile products.

When the situation calls for it, she can "do it from scratch," whether in the closet or the kitchen.

When she needs to, she can make cakes fit for the LORD and savory dishes that would make a chef jealous (*Genesis 18:6; 27:9*).

### **This Is A Woman Worth Marrying Young Man!**

#### **What should a woman learn to do skillfully today?**

- Plan and execute great meals for two or a crowd.
- Keep a computer working.
- Know first aid and be able to converse with doctors.
- Use the Internet for quick research on many subjects.
- Know where she is going and for what when she leaves the home.
- Communicate effectively and quickly by phone or email.
- Know how to source, the optimal food, furnishings, and clothing at the lowest cost.
- Operate a calculator and balance a checkbook in minutes.
- Use word processing, spreadsheet, or accounting software.
- Decorate a house for appeal, comfort, and investment.
- Find and use the best appliances and tools inside and outside the house.

**This is the perfect woman**, as described by a queen mother for her son (*Proverbs 31:1-2, 10*).

She fears the LORD with all her heart (*Proverbs 31:30*).

This perfect woman husband can trust in her completely, because she will do him good and right every day of her life (*Proverbs 31:11-12*).

After these two priorities, she is a diligent worker to provide for her family, her home, and build the family estate in any way she can. She is diligent and skillful in the use of her hands.

### ***Proverbs 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.***

The virtuous woman has more on her mind than just her family. Her ambitions, her energy, and her plans extend to the poor and needy that God has placed in her path.

Rather than be content with having her husband, children, and home well cared for and happy, she has a conscience that drives her to take care of others who cannot take care of themselves.

The virtuous woman's thoughts, toward the poor and needy, are more than wishful thinking or kind words. Her thoughts result in action, diligent and personal action, which are the only thoughts, that count in the sight of God and men (*Proverbs 3:27-28; James 2:15-16*).

The virtuous woman knows that true love is in deed and truth, not merely in word and tongue (*1John 3:16-18*).

The virtuous woman is moved by God's love for her. She has bowels of compassion to share her ability and substance with the needy.

The charitable giving here is not easy or passive action. "*She stretcheth out her hand,*" and, "*She reacheth forth her hands.*" These Words do not convey casual donations or convenient acts of charity.

A virtuous woman goes out of her way to meet the poor and needy and help them, even if it requires strenuous effort to accomplish the service.

The virtuous woman is not merely available for charity; she volunteers and does the work without any prodding.

The virtuous woman has sympathy for the truly poor and needy (*James 1:27*).

The virtuous woman does not exchange mock charity with friends, subdivision neighbors, or peers at work. She knows that giving to the rich will bring God's judgment (*Proverbs 22:16*).

Neither does she care or worry about the foolish, lazy, or wasteful (*Proverbs 13:23; 20:4; 2Thessalonians 3:10*).

The virtuous woman, like the Good Samaritan, waits for the Lord to put a divine appointment from God, in her path (*Luke 10:25-37*).

The virtuous woman knows godly charity. She knows it begins with the true needs in her extended family, parents, aunts and uncles, and grandparents (*1Timothy 5:4, 8, 16*).

The virtuous woman knows godly charity and then serves the poor and needy in her Church, and those in other Churches (*Matthew 25:40; Acts 2:44-45; Romans 12:13; Galatians 6:10*).

The virtuous woman knows those God puts in her path (*Job 31:16-22; Luke 10:25-37*).

The virtuous woman is given to hospitality for the saints and known for generosity to strangers (*Romans 12:13; 1Timothy 5:10; Hebrews 13:2*).

A man with a virtuous wife, must allow her a discretionary budget for such spending, and it will come back to praise her and him (*Proverbs 31:23, 31; 2Kings 4:8-10*).

Stingy husbands can crush their wives' hearts and deprive the poor, and they will suffer for it now and later.

A virtuous woman is loved by all and praised by husband and children (*Proverbs 31:28-31; Acts 9:36-42*).

A virtuous woman her greatest glory is yet to come, when the King of Kings will take special notice of her charity before the universe (*Matthew 10:40-42; 25:31-40; 1Timothy 6:17-19*).

***Proverbs 31:21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.***

#### **The Virtuous Woman Is Diligent!**

The virtuous woman and has foresight, and also classy. She looks and thinks ahead, so that future needs never catch her by surprise.

The virtuous woman is ready for winter or any other situation, that requires special preparation. Not only does she prepare in advance, but she also has a sharp eye for quality and appearance.

The virtuous woman's family is well prepared for the cold weather, but they will also look good in the fine clothing, she obtains for them.

The ideal woman fears the Lord above all else, which lays the foundation for her perfect character and conduct (*Proverbs 31:10-12, 30*).

**Diligence is the primary virtue of the wonderful woman in this extensive description.** Verse after verse describes her energy, initiative, labor, and productivity, both in the home and in her business enterprises.

The virtuous woman is not distracted or diverted by amusement, recreation, sleep, or vacations. She is a worker.

#### **Work Poorly Directed Is Wasted Effort!**

Wisdom is valuable for directing energy and strength in productive projects. A tree is cut down most efficiently with a sharp axe, rather than more effort applied with a dull one (*Ecclesiastes 10:10*).

A virtuous woman has a mind as well as a back!

The virtuous woman thinks as well as works! She looks ahead and sees the needs that are coming, so she can prepare for issues in advance and be ready when they arrive.

For those living in parts of the world with seasons, one of the duties of a great woman is to have clothing prepared for the cold weather of winter.

With growing children, this requires obtaining whole new sets of sweaters, coats, boots, and other protective clothing for each child.

Since most budgets cannot afford all the expense at once, a wise woman plans ahead and begins securing the clothing items long before the first snow falls.

#### **The Foolish Or Lazy Live Day To Day!**

The foolish woman barely makes it through each day. The future overwhelms and intimidates her, she hardly has the commitment and energy to survive today.

The foolish woman is preoccupied with taking a nap, getting out of fixing supper, or planning a vacation. Future needs that require budgeting and prudent shopping can wait, she says.

The foolish woman does not see the coming evil, and she does not hide from it (*Proverbs 22:3; 27:12*).

How does scarlet protect? Can a bright red color warm the body? The ideal woman knows rags were not dyed scarlet! Her family has warm clothing ready, but it is also attractive and stylish.

This Proverb, a short pithy saying with hidden wisdom, describes a great woman's concern for quality and class, not just functionality.

The ideal woman is diligent, has foresight, concerned about quality, and conscious of beauty. She overlooks nothing!

The ideal woman knows appearance, image, and reputation have a limited value, so she includes them in her planning and buying.

Woman, what will your family soon need? Does the house need painting? Do the gutters need to be cleaned?

Woman, does a garden need to be planted? Does the nursery need to be furnished? Does the freezer need to be filled?

Woman, do your daughters need to be educated about marriage? Do clothes need to be prepared for your husband's business trip?

Woman, do you have long-term care planned for your parents? Do you plan for a preventive physical for them or you? Does money need to be set aside for an insurance bill?

A wise woman will have such things taken care of with style!

***Proverbs 31:22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.***

A virtuous woman is preeminently diligent, exceeding selfless, and ultimately practical, in serving her husband and children (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

A virtuous woman also appreciates beauty and takes care of her appearance. There is no virtue in being dowdy! It is shameful for a woman to be less than her feminine best! Can a woman do both? She must, to be the virtuous woman!

A great woman knows how to prioritize her goals and use time well to achieve them all.

A great woman knows both her home's appearance and her own appearance are high honors to her husband and children.

A great woman makes sure they are included in her daily routine. To ignore or neglect any of these is defrauding, encourages slothfulness.

*She maketh herself coverings of tapestry.* This creative woman has elegant decorating ideas of her own and uses them to uniquely beautify her home.

A great woman honors her husband by emphasizing its enduring importance to her. She covers walls, furniture, and beds with those decorative and ornamentally embroidered, painted, or woven fabrics called tapestries. She makes sure the bedroom remains an inviting place (*Proverbs 7:16*).

*Her clothing is silk and purple.* Consider further Bible descriptions of these features of excellent clothing. She chooses fine material for her garments and selects glorious colors. (*Proverbs 7:16; Esther 8:15; Ezekiel 16:10-13; Luke 16:19; Revelation 18:12*).

There is no doubt this virtuous woman knew how to look, and cook! Here is a glorious rebuke to the dull, drab, and plain look of false modesty used by women too lazy to fulfill their God-given charge.

Virtuous women consider their appearance as well as function. They know that functional practicality is not enough to maximize a marriage or a family.

Virtuous women develop, rather than stifle, the attribute of their sex, to make things, places, events, and themselves attractive to the eye and senses.

Virtuous women remember they were created for their husbands, so they maintain their own attractiveness for him in their home. (*1Corinthians 11:9*).

The woman is the glory of the man, and she should be glorious for him. She should not say, "I just don't have the time or desire or ability," about something so important to her family. (*1Corinthians 11:7*)

What ugly places homes can become without the beautifying touch of a woman! And money is not the great hindrance, but rather, it is a lack of desire!

A virtuous woman decorates her home and bedroom to keep an elegant and inviting atmosphere.

A virtuous woman makes, and takes, the time for exercise, hair, nails, and other bodily improvements.

A virtuous woman wisely selects a few fine garments that enhance her appearance, and she makes sober choices of accessories and makeup to finish the picture.

A great woman's husband and children are happy to be seen in public, with her (*Proverbs 31:28; Genesis 12:11; Esther 1:10-11*).

Modesty in dress and manner is a law for the virtuous woman (*1Timothy 2:9-10; 1Peter 3:3-4*).

Being modest, does not mean out of date. There is no contradiction between these two passages and our Proverb.

A harlot dresses and conducts herself to quickly arouse sexual lusts in men (*Proverbs 7:9-21*).

An arrogant and worldly woman puts all the emphasis on appearance

A great woman's clothing reveals, rather than conceals; and it is similar to lingerie in effect. (*Isaiah 3:16-24*).

Classy garments and noble conduct by a virtuous woman do not do this. Condemning dressing well in an effort to be modest is the same as, condemning bread to avoid gluttony, and rejecting electricity, like the Amish, to avoid worldliness!



Such "touch not, taste not, handle not" rules are a Pharisee extreme, that was corrected by Jesus Christ and Paul (*Matthew 12:7; Colossians 3:20-23*).

Mankind by nature rush to extremes, they by nature place too much emphasis on appearance or not enough.

This Proverb was given by God to describe the precious balance kept by the woman who fears the Lord (*Proverbs 31:30*).

Virtuous women blessed with beauty were beautiful to look upon (*Genesis 12:11, 14; 24:16; 26:7; 29:17*).

The virtuous woman does not hide under lampshades or sweat suits. Neither did she neglect her appearance.

Virtuous women are attractive to behold, but by modest apparel and noble and pure conduct, she discourages ungodly thoughts.

A great woman does not provoke sexual lusts in men, for their clothing is not designed to do so. Rather than wear the cheap and revealing clothes of a whore, she wants to be of the sober class, of the first lady!

Appearance is not the virtuous woman's first priority in life, that is the fear of God with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit (*Proverbs 31:30; 1Timothy 2:9-10; 1Peter 3:3-4*).

For a virtuous woman, modesty, in appearance and an emphasis on spiritual things, never intended a homely appearance, when the means are available to honor her husband and glorify her Creator.

It is possible for a woman to pay too little, as well as too much, attention to appearance; only a virtuous woman finds the place of holy moderation, separate from both extremes.

Christian woman, you took measures to attract your husband in the first place, and it is deceit and defrauding to do less now.

**Our Creator gave you features and abilities that can easily please him.** He is the object of your earthly existence, and you should honor and reward him by keeping an attractive home, bedroom, and personal appearance.

**If** your marriage is dull, try a tapestry and some silk and purple, before another woman does. The results might surprise and please you! (*Proverbs 7:15-18*).

The Lord Jesus Christ bought the church for His own pleasure, and He desires a beautiful bride; so He cleansed her from every spot and wrinkle and will present her, to Himself in regal splendor fit for a king (*Psalms 45:9-14; Isaiah 61:10; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:8; 21:2*).

***Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.***

### **One Measure Of A Woman Is Reputation And Status Of Her Husband!**

When she knows her role and executes it well: Her husband will have delightful children, a wonderful home, a growing estate, and a charming wife.

Her faithfulness and productivity, in domestic and outside pursuits, will create the peace of mind and personal freedom, that make men great. Others will respect him for his blessing and wisdom in marrying such a superior woman.

Of course, the man who marries an odious woman is also known, for he cannot hide the hellion he married (*Proverbs 27:15-16; 30:21-23*)!

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but a contentious woman shames her husband and rots his bones (*Proverbs 12:4*)!

When his friends meet her, all they can see is the smelly pig wearing his wedding ring (*Proverbs 11:22*)!

Many pity him for his pain, but others despise him for choosing her and putting up with her.

Business and legal matters were once settled at the city gate. Cities did not waste money on bureaucracy and costly buildings.

Wise men met at the city's entrance, where they settled business conflicts, legal issues, and civic questions. They also established contracts and enforced the criminal code.

It was a high honor, and it reflected business success and wisdom, for a man to sit in the gate. Fools were not allowed there (*Proverbs 24:7*).

This Proverb is for women, not men! Do not get distracted by a wise man being known among the elite of his city.

The reason for his reputation is the jewel that he married! This Proverb is in the middle of a queen mother's description of the perfect wife for her son (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

The arrogant, lazy, or rebellious women resent these character traits, because they expose their failures.

A wise woman will remember, that God through a mother wrote these Words (*Proverbs 31:10-31*)!

## **A Man Can Only Be Great With A Great Wife!**

It has been said, "Behind every great man, there is a great woman." This woman can be his mother. But it is also his wife (*Proverbs 1:8; 4:3; 6:20; 12:4; 18:22; 19:14; 31:1-3, 10, 28*).

King Lemuel's mother knew her son needed a special woman, to be an honored and successful king. She could save him domestically, emotionally, financially, mentally, morally, sexually, and socially (*Proverbs 5:15-20; 31:10-31*).

A nagging wife drives a husband crazy: She breaks his heart, she crushes his spirit, and she steals his courage: he has an enemy in his own home and bed (*Proverbs 12:4; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24*).

A lazy wife that putters around the house and limits herself, to maid duty and destroys the estate (*Proverbs 14:1; Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

A sexually selfish wife drives him to frustration and adultery (*Proverbs 5:19-20; 31:3; 1Corinthians 7:1-5*).

A woman that tries to be the spiritual leader, corrupts his doctrine and steals the office God gave him (*Genesis 3:16; 1Corinthians 14:34-35; 2Timothy 3:6-7; 1Peter 3:7*).

A bad wife can ruin above-average men, who otherwise might have been great. Average men can be enhanced by a great wife, or reduced to nothing by an odious woman.

A good woman can even shelter and assist a below-average man to amount to something by filling her role well.

Woman! What effect have you had on the abilities and reputation of your husband? What are you planning to do to make your husband greater in the future?

How much of Ahab's wickedness did Jezebel cause (*1Kings 21:25*)?

What do you esteem about Boaz? He married Ruth!

How great could Samson have been, **If** he had obeyed his parents and married a good Israelite girl (*Judges 14:3*)?

How bad was Nabal's sin for wasting one of the greatest women ever (*1Samuel 25:2-3*)?

How blessed was David for marrying this woman after God killed Nabal (*1Samuel 25:32-42*)?

The traits that build up a husband are those of the virtuous woman (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

The context provides all the suggestions for godly women that want to obey God.

**If** a woman were to keep these inspired rules for greatness, her husband would be honored for marrying her; and he and his children would bless and praise her (*Proverbs 31:28*).

Her husband would direct more money her way, and he would publicly acknowledge her accomplishments (*Proverbs 31:31*).

Her husband can always trust her, whether with men or money (*Proverbs 31:10-12*).

She is very creative and diligent to make sure the household is well cared for (*Proverbs 31:13-15, 21, 27*).

She does anything to build the estate, including outside jobs and investments (*Proverbs 31:16-19, 24-25*).

She eagerly helps those in need (*Proverbs 31:20*).

Her speech is always kind and wise (*Proverbs 31:26*).

She keeps her body and appearance up to please him (*Proverbs 31:22; Song of Solomon 1:2; 2:3-7; 3:1; 5:9-16; 8:1-4*).

What drives and motivates a woman to be this perfect wife? Her fear of the Lord (*Proverbs 31:29-30*)!

Her love, for God and desire to obey the Word of God, makes her this delightful creature, that is always honored (*Proverbs 11:16*).

Other men respect her husband, because they know he has a better life than they, due to the woman he married.

## **Men Know Who Has The Best Wife!**

Woman! How do others measure your husband? Do they pity him, because you are a nag? Because you never accomplish more than a nanny, maid, or cook?

Do they despise him, because you try to be the spiritual leader? Or do they know that he was favored by God to find you, and that he is the happiest and most successful married man they know? This is God's measure for you to consider well.

Young man! How do you measure prospects? Does beauty control you? Do favors win you? Both are dangerous and deceitful (*Proverbs 31:30*).

You will never amount to your potential, unless you marry the woman that fears God the most.

She will build your mind, comfort your heart, satisfy your soul, guard your walk, please your body, prosper

your estate, and she will give you godly children. Why would you destroy yourself by marrying anything less?

If you are a Christian, you are the bride of Christ. What honor do you bring Him? Is there praise for your devotion, love, obedience, and service? Or is there pity and anger that you have wasted His grace in marrying you?

Your church is also Christ's bride. Does it diligently follow the Word of God to honor Him, or does it choose contemporary worship instead?

***Proverbs 31:24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.***

A virtuous woman, the kind of woman every wise man seeks to marry, is an enterprising woman. She is not content with merely being a housewife.

A virtuous woman, knows she is capable of more, and so she does more. The example here is a manufacturing and wholesale operation in fine linen and girdles.

A virtuous woman, has an entrepreneurial and industrious spirit that seeks profitable projects to support her husband and build the family estate.

Leisure women, who like the easy life of a housewife and resent, such a Proverb, need to remember that a mother gave this inspired advice!

This chapter of Proverbs has the Words of King Lemuel, but they are the prophecy his mother taught him. Every Word inspired by the Holy Spirit (*Proverbs 31:1-2*).

This great mother gave her son advice from God on how to conduct himself as king (*Proverbs 31:3-9*).

This great mother gave her son advice to identify a virtuous woman for marriage (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

**Wise Men And Women  
Will Take Careful Heed!**

In all fairness, the virtuous woman did have servants (*Proverbs 31:15*).

However, managing servants brings its own burdens. But she did not have refrigerators, telephones, email, easy transportation, microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, and a thousand other labor saving devices, inventions, and sources of information. She was exceptionally diligent, disciplined, focused, and productive.

It is an error of Bible interpretation to believe a woman must be home all the time doing only domestic duties.

Some require this even when children are in school, old enough to care for themselves, or married and gone!

The "keepers at home" of condemns idleness, busybodies, and gossip, which a comparison with shows *1 Timothy 5:13-14* and *Titus 2:5*.

*1 Timothy 5:13-14* warns against the actions of the strange woman, who wanders wantonly in the city (*Proverbs 7:11*).

The Victorian Period, and other factors have caused many Christian women to be decorative, pampered, and unproductive objects at home. God never intended this! These women struggle to put boxes of cereal out for breakfast, or run a couple loads of laundry through machines, and extort pizza out of their husbands for supper. What do they do all day? Nothing! The virtuous woman could do their day in an hour!

The virtuous woman is preeminently a diligent woman, extremely hard working for her husband and children. Fearing the Lord (*Proverbs 31:30*).

This holy woman applies herself physically and mentally from early to late each day. She has no time for chatting on the phone, long emails, window-shopping, sewing clothes that could be purchased, reading for pleasure, art lessons, or other wastes of time.

A woman with small children and no maidens has little time for business, but that is true only for a few years of a woman's life.

If she is a good mother, even girls of 8-12 can do many domestic duties. The heart of a great woman is motivated to do more as soon as possible.

The virtuous woman does not pace herself, protect a leisure lifestyle, or become just a soccer mom.

The virtuous woman wants to outwork her husband and contribute financially, and so she does!

The virtuous woman is creative, diligent, energetic, focused, intense, and most of all, productive. She gets a lot done every day!

She does not lose or waste time. Her family is well cared for, but she does not stop there. She looks to the future and builds the estate.

Men married to such women should give them part of their earnings, so they can plow it into even greater earnings (*Proverbs 31:16, 31*).

Her husband is famous because of her (*Proverbs 31:23, 28*).

Christian woman, here is the perfect standard; here is the ideal, the virtuous woman. The lesson is simple: She takes on financial projects to add earnings to the family, whether it is a paid job or a small business.

She is not content with the leisurely life of a housewife in an age of many conveniences. She finds other opportunities to add income for the family, and she does not sacrifice the family pursuing them. She is the perfect woman. Copy her!

Christian man, here is the perfect standard; here is the ideal, the virtuous woman. There are two inspired criteria that a king's mother taught:

1. A woman that will be a great wife fears the Lord (*Proverbs 31:30*), and
2. She is exceptionally creative and diligent, well beyond mere domestic duties.

Require these two traits, and you will have a jewel with value far above rubies (*Proverbs 31:10*).

If men demanded women like this, the world would be a much better place.

***Proverbs 31:25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.***

#### **Never Sacrifice The Future On The Altar Of The Present!**

A virtuous woman has an eye to the future. She is diligent and makes strenuous efforts to provide for her husband and children.

A virtuous woman values integrity and graciousness very highly and does nothing to spoil her reputation.

A virtuous woman never sacrifices the future on the altar of the present.

A virtuous woman makes the choices now, and applies the efforts now, to yield great rewards in the future. She knows that slothfulness or compromise now will cost much more later.

At the beginning of a woman's married life, requires strength and honor, for her latter end to be joyful and peaceful.

Early in marriage, a wife carries, births, and raises small children, with a high-maintenance husband, on a small budget!

The combination can be fatal for untrained girls! The contrast from the easy life at home during her youth is quite a shock!

But a virtuous woman, made so by God's grace and good training, will put forth the effort and investment to get through the difficult early years. She knows and accepts the old saying, "A father works from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done."

When a woman is young, there are also many temptations for folly, which can ruin her reputation for the future (*Psalm 25:7; 2Timothy 2:22; Ezekiel 23:3, 21*).

She has her own set of fleshly lusts that she must deal with righteously and soberly. Especially in a world obsessed with female freedom and frivolity, young women face many difficult tests in faithfulness, integrity, modesty, and purity.

The virtuous woman is a chaste virgin before marriage, and she is faithful in heart, mind, speech, and body after marriage.

How are *strength and honour* clothing? She puts on these traits as a person would put on clothes. She covers herself with them (*Ephesians 4:22-24*).

What is *strength*? It is diligent labor and strenuous efforts in domestic duties to be the best wife and mother (*Proverbs 14:1; 31:13-27*).

**What is *honour***? It is her gracious and holy life in heart, tongue, and conduct that does not allow folly or sin to spoil her godly reputation (*Proverbs 11:16; 31:11-12, 26, 30; Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

A virtuous woman fears the Lord (*Proverbs 31:30*).

A virtuous woman works harder than other women (*Proverbs 31:29*).

At What Does She Work So Hard? First, she seeks to be an efficient and faithful wife and mother, in duties at home and for the estate (*Proverbs 31:13-27*).

Second, she works hard at graciousness, which will secure her future honor (*Proverbs 11:16; 31:26*).

Thirdly, she knows godly character makes her beautiful, not clothing or accessories (*1Timothy 2:9-10; 1Peter 3:3-4*).

Christian woman! Do not sacrifice your future on the altar of the present! Do not be slack in duties now or compromise righteousness now, for it will destroy your future.

Put in the effort and holiness now, and your future will be blessed.

A virtuous woman will rejoice in the future from her prudent provision for it, her godly and righteous life that leaves a clean conscience, and the praise of others she has loved and served well (*Proverbs 31:28-31*).

Even a little folly can ruin a good reputation, like dead flies in good perfume (*Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

You must always carefully protect your virtue and family, lest slothfulness bring your family down, or folly destroy your integrity.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life, and you can put on strength and honor today.

**If** you are faithful to *strength and honour*, your husband and children will praise you, and so will the Lord Himself (*Matthew 25:21, 23*).

### **Future Happiness Depends On Diligence And Virtue Today!**

**Consider child training.** A child trained well today will give you joy and peace tomorrow; but a child neglected today will give you pain and shame (*Proverbs 10:1; 17:25; 22:6; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

Consider sex. **If** you cheat with romance novels, movies, or fantasies, it will lead to bitterness toward your husband, marital defrauding, and break you down for adultery (*Matthew 15:19; James 1:13-16*).

Christian girl! You are not married yet, you can still put on strength and honor for your future happiness and success.

How? Be more diligent than any other girl in obeying your parents, in keeping your room, in helping around the house, and in doing your schoolwork.

How about honor? Be more careful than any other girl in holy thoughts, in kind speech, in pure relationships with boys, in expressing graciousness to all, and in charity toward your enemies.

Christian reader, whether man or woman: you are the bride of Jesus Christ (*2Corinthians 11:1-2; Ephesians 5:25-27*).

Christian reader, it is your duty to clothe yourself with strength and honor.

What is *strength*? A well fought fight with diligent effort (*2Timothy 4:7*).

What is *honour*? The apostolic faith earnestly kept in spite of heresies and trends (*2Timothy 4:7*).

**If** you have done these two things, at the end of your life's course, there is a crown of righteousness (*2Timothy 4:7-8*)!

***Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.***

A virtuous woman is known by wise and kind speech.

An odious woman is known by foolish and critical speech.

Here is one of the most defining marks of good and bad women, how they talk?

A virtuous woman is always careful, discreet, and helpful with what she says. And she never says anything harsh, negative, or sarcastic.

King Lemuel's mother taught him how to find a great wife (*Proverbs 31:1, 10*).

The rule taught by this Proverb is of great value for all men. Instead of looking at women, listen to them! Looking will deceive you by the temptation of their bodies and eyes (*Proverbs 6:25; 31:30*).

But listening will more accurately reveal their character (*Proverbs 14:7; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14; Matthew 12:34-37*).

A great woman worth marrying speaks wisely. She does not argue or give her opinion when it is not wanted. She does not respond emotionally. She does not cackle or laugh. She does not jest or poke. She does not complain or pout.

A great woman uses her mouth to spread wisdom to her children (*Proverbs 1:8; 6:20*).

A great woman does talk: she feeds many by sober answers with the certain Words of truth (*Proverbs 11:30; 22:17-21*).

### **A Great Woman Only Makes A Noise When It Helps Others.**

An odious woman, the hated, repugnant woman, should never be married (*Proverbs 30:21-23*).

An odious woman, is a curse to the earth! She should be forced to live in isolated misery. Her constant contentions, nagging, and questions drive men and children crazy! So they run to the rooftop or wilderness to get away from her criticizing and irritating mouth (*Proverbs 12:4; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15-16*).

How do you spot this hellish creature before it is too late? Listen, rather than look! She may do her hair and hold her weight to get you down the aisle. But she cannot control her mouth!

Solomon said hiding her was as likely as hiding the wind or perfume (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

**If** she has an opinion without you asking for it, run! Remember the rule of 10!

If she has to give her opinion before marriage, it will be 10 times worse later (*Proverbs 30:21-23*).

How do you spot this hellish creature before it is too late? Count her words. A woman of good understanding says little (*Proverbs 17:27-28*).

A woman of good understanding knows God has commanded and exalted a meek and quiet spirit for women, so she consistently, works at being that (*1Peter 3:3-4*).

A great woman worth marrying is always gracious (*Proverbs 11:16*).

She never uses a sarcastic and cutting tongue (*Proverbs 12:18*).

A great woman is known for gracious lips from a pure heart (*Proverbs 22:11*).

A gracious woman is not haughty, distant, or froward;

A gracious woman is condescendingly courteous. Her graciousness cannot be hid, she will be highly esteemed and loved by all (*Romans 12:16*).

A great woman always has a good and gentle word that puts the whole world in a good light.

There is a law in her tongue, a law she never violates. A gracious woman is always gentle, kind, patient, sweet, thoughtful, and respectful. In spite of her great personal diligence and accomplishment (*Proverbs 31:10-25, 27-29*).

A great woman is still wise and kind in her speech. She does not know how to be critical, harsh, or impatient. Her delightful speech is a very wonderful thing (*Proverbs 15:23; 24:26; 25:11*).

### **A Gracious Woman Is Sweet Music To A Man's Ears And Heart!**

Young man! Follow your ears to prudent words spoken in gentle kindness! You are about to meet one of God's greatest gifts. You have found a woman worth loving the rest of your life (*Proverbs 18:22; 19:14*).

You can count on, her mouth will be worth much more than kisses.

You can be sure her mouth will be the source of daily gentleness, to comfort you in sorrow, encourage you in distress, reward you for labor, seduce you in lovemaking, and ennoble you with sincere praise.

Christian woman, If anyone has even jested you might be hotheaded in disposition, you need more help than other women.

You likely cannot even grasp this lesson, because your mouth has an overpowering urge to speak, to question, to debate, to correct, to nag, to criticize, to complain, and to jab.

You do not even know the pain you cause others. You cannot resist talking. Even your kind speech has an edge that makes people cringe.

Christian woman take stock of yourself. Do noble friends crave your presence? Are you well liked by good people? If not, you likely have a sharp tongue and hurtful mouth.

What can you do about this curse? Stop talking: Let others ask for you to speak (*Proverbs 17:27-28; James 1:19*).

Learn submission. Let your husband give you your opinion (*Genesis 3:16*).

Esteem reverence. Look to treat him like a lord (*Ephesians 5:33; 1Peter 3:6*).

Speak only wisely and kindly. Only say nice things, period! (*Colossians 4:6*)

Christian woman, it is your duty and privilege to rule your tongue for the glory of God and the praise of your delightful character.

If you are older, you are to avoid false accusing and pursue teaching godly virtues (*Titus 2:3*).

If you are younger, you are to avoid tattling and other indiscreet talking (*1Timothy 5:13*).

If you desire a wonderful reputation and the loving favor of others, remember, how you speak is a choice, an easy choice (*Proverbs 22:1*).

Parent, be sure to teach your daughter's the importance of wise and gracious speech.

Wise and gracious speech is more important than her academic education or physical attractiveness. It will bring the attention and honor of God and all good men.

Parent, it is your duty as well to teach your sons to esteem the girls with wise and kind speech over the attractive yapper.

Consider, any time you see a husband henpecked by an ugly yapper, his parents were truly derelict.

The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, is often compared to a virgin bride in Scripture. Therefore, it should be known for its wise and kind speech (*Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6*).

Whether you are a man or a woman in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, your speech should be worthy of our glorious Husband!

***Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.***

The virtuous woman is conscious of her family at all times. She does not overlook any of their needs. She sees what would help and gets it for them.

She does not take it easy as a housewife, and she does not waste time in extra naps, reading, phone calls, Internet surfing, window-shopping, or recreation.

She is very diligent and hardworking. A wise woman is circumspect and redeems her time (*Ephesians 5:15-16*).

A wise woman inspects her family from all angles. That is, she does not take a superficial glance and miss details.

A wise woman does not need to be told what is needed, because she has identified it herself.

A wise woman buys back time by not wasting any and working as efficiently and energetically as possible.

A virtuous woman is a prudent planner (*Proverbs 22:3*).

A virtuous woman's life never takes her by surprise. She is prepared for any needs that might arise.

A virtuous woman thinks ahead prudently for what will be needed in the future and begins preparation before there is a crisis.

A virtuous woman organizes and saves necessary and useful things that will help the family in time to come (*Proverbs 6:8; 30:25*).

A wise woman has initiative. She is not like a child. She does not need to be asked or told what to do, because she has already thought about it and done it!

A virtuous woman does not wait for a need to fully develop, for she sees the need coming and covers it (*Proverbs 13:4*).

A wise woman does not wait until she has to get up. She gets up and gets going for her family (*Proverbs 20:13; 24:30-34*).

A virtuous woman is industrious (*Proverbs 21:5*).

A virtuous woman does not, dislike, fear, or resent hard work. She enjoys working for her family. She willingly works fast and hard; she does not mind sweat and toil.

She reaches deep for extra effort to finish even difficult tasks (*Proverbs 31:17*).

A wise woman gets excited about building her family (*Proverbs 14:1; 24:3; 31:28*).

A wise woman does not destroy it through laziness or distraction (*Proverbs 11:29; 14:1; Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

A wise woman does not get involved in the affairs of other households (*2Thessalonians 3:6-11; 1Timothy 5:13; Titus 2:3-5*).

Why did God consume Sodom with brimstone and fire? Yes, for sodomy! But for what else? For lazy women (*Ezekiel 16:49*)!

That proud and prosperous city was known for idle women, and God burned it to ashes! Let every woman properly fear sleeping in, Internet surfing, window-shopping, yakking on the phone, reading novels, or pretending tennis.

There are not many virtuous women (*Proverbs 31:10*).

Especially in this arrogant and spoiled generation (*Isaiah 3:16-26; 2Timothy 3:1-7*).

Christian women, more than even worldly women, often think their role is to take it easy as a housewife. Try *Proverbs 31:10-31* on for size!

***Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.***

Here is every woman's dream, her children and husband adore her! This measure of character and conduct, though very accurate, and is hard to obtain.

Self-deceit or self-praise will not do, for children and husband know the truth about a woman. They live with her and see every virtue and fault. No one can properly judge a woman like her children and husband. But for the virtuous woman of, praise is the certain result! ***Proverbs 31***

### **Virtuous Character Is Always Recognized And Rewarded!**

Samuel and Jesus grew in favor with God and men (*Proverbs 3:3-4; 1Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52*).

Israel loved David and exalted his name (*1Samuel 18:1-5, 14-16, 30*).

A gracious woman is always honored (*Proverbs 11:16*).

The man with a pure heart and gracious speech will be the king's friend (*Proverbs 22:11*).

A good woman will have a good name that is highly respected by others (*Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1*).

A wife or mother not honored has a clear problem: She is negligent, is odious, or slothful in her life (*Proverbs 11:16; 30:21-23*).

What is an odious woman? A critical, nagging, overbearing, stubborn, and whining woman that irritates her family! Ever seen one? Ever been one? Are you one? You cannot hide, everyone knows (*Proverbs 11:22; 27:15-16*).

Your poor husband and children cannot lie about you to others (*Ecclesiastes 7:26*).

Woman! What keeps your children and husband from adoring and praising you?

Is it your critical, nagging, and overbearing voice (*Proverbs 31:26*)?

Is it neglect of your appearance (*Proverbs 31:22*)?

Is it not adoring and reverencing your husband at all times before the children (*Proverbs 31:12*)?

Is it selfishness for your own time (*Proverbs 31:18, 27*)?

Is it slothfulness when facing a challenge (*Proverbs 31:17*)?

Is it lack of creativity in cooking and decorating (*Proverbs 31:14, 22*)?

What is it? Is it lack of entrepreneurial effort to help build the estate (*Proverbs 31:16*)?

Is it less than total devotedness to your husband (*Proverbs 31:11*)?

Is it not ruling your spirit for cheerful graciousness (*Proverbs 31:25*)?

Is it complaining about your work (*Proverbs 31:13*)?

Is it not promoting your husband (*Proverbs 31:23*)?

What is it that costs you the praise of your children and husband?

The virtuous woman never complains about: Her husband, her work, her children, or her difficulties.

She is altogether selfless, never seeking her own pleasure, at the expense of the least thing for her family. She is cheerful at all times and nurtures those around her.

Woman, are you in touch with reality? What you think about yourself is totally irrelevant.

Children and husbands do not make mistakes. They know **If** they have a great woman or not.

**If** you have a Christian family, their judgment is just that much more accurate.

***Proverbs 31:29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.***

Christian woman, do you want to be the best of the best? Here is a very exceptional woman! There have been many good and virtuous women. But there have not been many like the virtuous woman of *Proverbs 31*!

This description, composed by a queen mother, to identify the kind of woman her son the king should marry, is a detailed list of the marks of a perfect wife. This kind of woman earns the praise of God and men.

Both children and husband laud such an extraordinary woman (*Proverbs 31:28*)!

This verse has the glowing and tender Words of her husband, as this is the only verse in the lengthy description in the second person.

Having known this woman intimately and personally for many years, he praises her for the wonderful companion and helper she was and continued to be.

He rightfully exalts her to a place of preeminence over all other women.

This woman is no average virtuous woman, she is overwhelmingly outstanding!

The standard here is not a low bar: it is very high! This is a woman fit for a king! Remember, King Lemuel's mother drew this portrait (*Proverbs 31:1-2*).

What a glorious sketch of the perfect woman! For ambitious women, your goal should be to learn all there is to know about this woman and best you can, copy her in your life.

The detailed picture of this wife overwhelms most women. They see her amazing daily diligence, tireless industry, domestic foresight, business savvy, tailoring skills, decorating finesse, creative planning, sweet spirit, moral integrity, satisfied husband, spiritual zeal, and happy family, and they forfeit! It is impossible to do all that, they say.

But it is possible, **If** a woman were totally committed to the goal, with the strength of Jesus Christ!



Rather than resent it, women should thank the Lord for such a clear description of the perfect woman. You cannot match her in one day, week, or month.

But diligent efforts will accumulate quickly. Her reputation is achievable. But you cannot even get close with less than all-out effort! The sleepy life of leisure of the average loser is out the window!

Why not be the best? Athletes run to win a prize (*1Corinthians 9:24-27*).

Who runs to lose? Why be an average wife? Crowns are won by temperance in all things, and the virtuous woman is a temperate woman, highly disciplined in self-denial, diligence, graciousness, etc., etc.

Christian woman! Your Creator and all men and women are watching. Your husband and children are watching. How do you approach your day? There is hardly anything more beautiful and praiseworthy than a great woman, especially today.

***Proverbs 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.***

#### **Young Man, Guaranteed A Great Marriage!**

Wives can be chosen by three criteria. Two of them give horrible results, but one is gloriously foolproof!

1. Marry a woman who fears the LORD.
2. Kind affection lies, and physical attraction is worthless.
3. The marriage advice here is of incredible value. Consider it; understand it; remember it; teach it; require it.

This is clearly one of the most precious Proverbs. In just eighteen Words, the LORD gives glorious and comprehensive warning and instruction for one of life's greatest decisions.

Wise men will bow and tremble before this single sentence and know God wrote the Bible. There is more wisdom here than all marriage manuals combined.

Attraction and marriage generally occur for the two poor reasons.

1. Men pursue women for their friendliness and pleasing actions or for their beauty.
2. Most men pick their wives by favor or beauty.

Arranged marriages and political marriages are exceptions.

***Favor***, is the way a woman treats a man. *Favor*, is doing what the man wants, treating him kindly with responsive affection, and obeying his wishes.

Women are experts at being kind, responsive, affectionate, agreeable, cheerful, friendly, feminine, and even submissive, when they want to be.

***Favor***, can extend all the way to sacrificing her virginity and making love to please him. Favor is how a woman seduces a man.

***Favor***, is a deceitful lie. Such women do not treat husbands the same once they are married, for the need to seduce is gone. She has her husband, now her true character will show.

Deceitful favor is a shock, men cannot believe after the wedding to find that dating was a lie.

She is not nearly as happy, kind, and loving as she was seducing him. The man who married her for lying favors, must now stare at the truth and often listen to it, as his wife reveals what she was all along! Remember! An odious woman, is only found, after marriage (*Proverbs 30:23*)!

She was awesome on dates, remember? But thinking about it now is too late!

The trap has been sprung; the rusty iron claws have grasped and pierced your heart; and it will not let go! She's got you!

***Beauty***, is a woman's physical attractiveness. Men desire beautiful women, for God made them to be visually stimulated.

God also designed every feature of a woman to attract the man's sight, and a beautiful woman has these features in abundance and perfection.

In an instant of time, a woman's face, body, hair, or all three can smite a man.

He is in love, or so he thinks. His vision says that marital heaven is beneath the wedding veil and gown.

***Beauty***, is vain and worthless, without value or profit.

***Beauty***, will not make a great marriage; and it often creates more problems than pleasure.

***Beauty***, does not indicate character. A perfect body often houses a deformed soul. You will only know too late.

Beautiful women can be haughty, flirty, selfish, lazy, and shoppers. Husbands are often jealous, forced to support extravagance, forced to beg for favors, and may be limited to sexual looking and wishing.

Most of all, beauty corrupts with time, distorts with sickness, and disappears with age, as the decaying effect of sin takes it away.

The man who sets sail for marital heaven on the ship *Beauty* is in a vessel taking on water! The flower garden he purchased for his life's enjoyment is soon nothing but weeds!

What will hold the marriage together when the beauty queen weighs 225, has gray hair two inches long, and moles the size of grapes!

Remember! A beautiful woman without character is like a gold jewel in a pig's nose (*Proverbs 11:22*).

The beauty of the small jewel cannot make the pig attractive or take away the horrible odor (*Proverbs 27:15-16*)!

Such a man is doomed to twenty-five years of wishing he could love his wife and twenty-five years of wishing he didn't have to!

Remember, young man! When you see the beautiful gold, don't miss the hairy pig wearing it!

### **A Woman Who Fears The Lord Shall Be Praised!**

Her husband and children will praise her for the great happiness, comfort, peace, help, and pleasure she brought them (*Proverbs 31:28*).

Her husband and children will honor her, for she fulfilled their lives with the wonderful blessings of tireless service, tender affection, selfless attention, devoted companionship, and diligent labor.

Read carefully the detailed portrait of this domestic queen written by a royal queen, and see the character and conduct that puts her in a very rare class of wives (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Her husband's life is full of joy, for his heart can safely trust in her (*Proverbs 31:11*).

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life (*Proverbs 31:12*).

Her husband knows she would never betray him; He never has to beg or coerce for anything.

Her husband knows he and his children always get the best; He is thrilled and proud to be seen with her in public; He knows he has the most affectionate woman ever.

Her husband knows she works earlier, harder, and later than he does; He rejoices at her creativity and frugality; He is handsomely rewarded by her entrepreneurial ability and industry.

Her husband knows her kindness is known by all; the beauty and warmth of their home provides the best in hospitality; and he is the envy of all other good men.

The fear of the Lord is a fervent and reverent desire to please God and hate anything that displeases Him (*Proverbs 8:13; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

The fear of the Lord is much more than attending Church: most churchgoers do not fear God.

The perfect woman believes the Bible absolutely and fully, and she wants to obey God's Word in every area of her life (*Psalms 119:128*).

Since the Word of God describes the perfect wife, she therefore has the highest motivation to keep the highest standard for wives ever written.

### **The fear of the Lord, is criterion for picking a wife.**

Consider carefully what the Word of God is to her. She has the highest motivation, for she serves her husband in all aspects to earn the approval of God.

She is following the only perfect guide for wives, written by God, who made the woman for the man.

She and her husband know there is no comparison to marrying a woman who fears the Lord!

But consider further. Only this woman has the Holy Spirit bearing the wonderful fruit of love, joy, and peace in her life!

When the flames of romantic attraction die down, what motive to excel as a wife, lover, and mother do most women have?

They are lost without the internal passion that once drove them. This woman is daily seeking to please her God, who has laid out clearly in Scripture every perfect trait she must have to please Him.

Her love of God and His love of her never vary, so the ebb and flow of marital affection do not affect her.

When marital difficulties arise, and her husband is foolish, only a woman who fears the Lord will remain unchanged.

Her continued performance is not dependent on her respect or even love of her husband. It is entirely based on her love and fear of the Lord.

She will not change, just because her husband shows his selfish, ugly side. She knows there is still a God in heaven, Who expects her to be a wife as unto Him!

Hear me, young men! A wise man will require the fear of the Lord. He will check her love of God, her

devotion to Christ, her esteem of Scripture, and her willingness to be taught.

A wise man will measure how she takes correction, and responds to hard preaching, and makes personal changes to please her Creator.

A wise man will look for that extreme devotion to the LORD that will turn to be his greatest asset, when she will love and serve her husband in spite of any troubles at home.

A wise man will check her prayer life, not her tan, her spirituality, not her cooking. He will look for her in Church, rather than bars, and not just any church.

A wise man will seek a committed woman in an old fashioned Church that emphasizes sound doctrine and holy living. He will test her by the Word of God.

A wise man will look for that meek and quiet spirit that God says is of great price (*1Peter 3:1-6*).

A wise man will look for opportunities to check her submission to authority in personal matters.

At all costs, do not get near any woman emphasizing her favors or beauty to attract you, for these are the signs of the strange woman, the whore who is out to destroy you (*Proverbs 2:16-19; 5:3-23; 6:24-35; 7:5-27; 9:13-18; 23:27-28; 30:20*).

Demand the fear of the Lord! Reject all imitations! Reject all hypocrisies! They will come back to destroy your soul.

Christian woman, do you want to be such a praise-worthy woman? Humble yourself before God and practice everything in this book of Proverbs, especially (*Proverbs 11:16; 12:4; 19:14; 31:10-29*).

Avoid everything in *Proverbs 11:22; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15-16*.

Hate the world and its popular message of liberation for women, for they are destroying the very sex they seek to save by swallowing Satan's perverting lies.

Seek a Church where the pulpit loudly proclaims the old-fashioned truth of God unapologetically. A church where the women enjoy hearing it and practicing it in their homes.

The wisdom of this Proverb works both ways. Fathers must help daughters marry men who greatly fear the Lord. Such a man has the highest motivation, pleasing his God: and he has the perfect manual for husbands, the Word of God.

Women, do not even consider a man who does not have a passionate and consistent fear of God, love for Jesus Christ, and holy zeal for every Word of God.

A God-fearing man will take care of you and your children like no other. But measure wisely, for church goers are not enough.

Christian brother, **If** you have such a wife as described here, praise her and reward her, privately and publicly (*Proverbs 31:28-31*). See the comments on *Proverbs 31:31*.

Thank the Lord for her. You have been greatly blessed by God! (*Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 31:10*)

Your Lord, has provided you a woman far better than Eve, who killed her husband for a lie!

The Lord saved you from hell in this life by keeping you from marrying a woman with mere favor or beauty. To keep her fearing the Lord, take her to a Church where His truth is plainly taught.

Our groom, the Lord Jesus Christ, seeks a spouse who fears the Lord. Quit your deceitful favor (*Revelation 2:2-4; 3:15-16*).

Give up your vain ideas of beauty (*Revelation 3:17-18*).

Humble yourself in contrite repentance, and He will come in to you (*Revelation 3:19-22*).

***Proverbs 31:31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.***

A great wife should be rewarded and honored. God cares for even hard working oxen (*Deuteronomy 25:4*).

So God surely cares for great and godly women (*1Corinthians 9:7-14; 1Timothy 5:18; 1Peter 3:7*).

**If** masters honor great servants, husbands should honor great wives (*Proverbs 17:2; 27:18*).

But the rule does not apply to all women, for most do not deserve it. Lazy servants are not honored.

The virtuous wife is rare (*Proverbs 31:10*), exceptional (*Proverbs 31:29*), and godly (*Proverbs 31:30*).

Most women, by definition, are common, average, and not godly; and many are worse.

**If** all women were honored from this Proverb, many evils would be encouraged and reward and honor abused (*Proverbs 19:10; 26:1; 30:21-23; 20:4; Ecclesiastes 10:5-7*).

Every woman should measure herself by the virtuous woman before she thinks herself worthy of praise.

The man blessed by God with the woman of our context should reward and honor her, in her own name before others. He should praise and exalt this greatest of earthly gifts.

He should *"give her of the fruit of her hands."* She was created for the man, and her productive labor is at his disposal (***Genesis 2:18; 1Corinthians 11:9***).

Heaven orders him to give her a portion of it for her own use. He should not give her all of the fruit of her hands, or the wise design of marriage is overthrown. But he must give her some of it. Such a just and fitting reward will encourage her spirit and provide for further productivity (***Proverbs 31:16***).

The virtuous woman, a very exceptional woman, was involved in significant projects outside the home.

The virtuous woman, analyzed and bought commercial real estate and invested in it for productive returns (***Proverbs 31:16***).

The virtuous woman, manufactured upscale material, ran a sales operation for it, and supplied girdles to wholesalers. There was much for the family! (***Proverbs 31:24***)

A wise husband will *"let her own works praise her in the gates."* Her accomplishments should be known in her own name, rather than her husband taking personal credit for his growing estate.

A wise man will praise an exceptional wife for her great deeds. He will not stifle or restrict the honor that she receives, even if it might match or exceed his own.

The virtuous woman does not seek the praise of men. Self-promotion or pursuit of public attention, embarrasses her nature.

But it is the duty of husbands and children to promote their wives and mothers for proper recognition and the holy example they give to others.

Our Lord praises His Churches and saints, when they do well and their works follow them to that glorious place. By His gracious design (***Revelation 14:13; 1Timothy 5:25; Matthew 25:40***).