

Principles from Proverbs: The Family, Part 5

Focus on the Wife's Role, Continued

Since the book of Proverbs was addressed to Solomon's son (1:8), it is only natural that the book will address issues of particular concern to young men. Choosing a life's mate tops the list concern for most young men, so Solomon went to great lengths to describe both the positive traits to seek in a woman and the negative traits to avoid.

I. Godly Attributes of a Good Wife—Continued

G. Hard working

→**She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard....She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. (Proverbs 31:16, 18-19)**

1. A good woman is wise in business dealing. She is adept at making shrewd bargains because she researches the matter.
2. She properly evaluates the fruit of her efforts. The cottage industry produces items of quality. She understands the value of her domestic efforts.
3. She works when others sleep.

*The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight.
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.*

4. She acquires the skills necessary to succeed in the domestic arts.

→**She seeketh woll, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands....She maketh fine linen, and selleth it. (Proverbs 31:13, 24)**

5. Her work stems from a willing heart and is valuable and profitable.

H. Kindness

→**She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy....in her tongue is the law of kindness. (Proverbs 31:20, 26b)**

1. A good woman is kind to the poor and seeks to meet their needs if possible. She takes the initiative in reaching out to them.
2. Her speech is regulated by the supreme law of kindness.

II. Unbecoming Attributes of Some Women

A. Contentious

→**A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. (Proverbs 27:15)**

1. On a very rainy day, the rain is unrelenting.
2. On a very rainy day, the rain becomes irritating.
3. On a very rainy day, the sound of the rain becomes mere background noise—always present, but ignored by all.

→**It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. (Proverbs 25:24; 21:9)**

1. Isolation is better for a man than the presence of a brawling woman.
2. Even a large home (prosperity) is not adequate to compensate for the miseries of a brawling wife. In addition to being contentious, Proverbs 21:19 describes this woman as “angry,” warning a man that he is better off in the “wilderness” than with her.

B. Aggressive

→**For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:...an odious woman when she is married... (Proverbs 30:21, 23)**

1. “Odious” means loud, pushy, rebellious, dramatic, outspoken, bold, hateful, and catty.
2. The earth is disquieted, “ill at ease,” when an “odious” woman marries. Why? Because marriage affords opportunity for the “odious” woman to perpetually inflict her miserable personality upon her husband. Woe to the man who marries so unwisely! A career in over-the-road trucking may be his only reprieve!

C. Adulterous

→**To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words....For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. (Proverbs 2:16, 18)**

1. Significant portions of the book of Proverbs warn of the dangers of loose women (5:1-23; 7:1-27, etc.)
2. Morally loose women always make degenerate, unfaithful wives.