

I. Introduction: Which women are worthy of honor?

A. The symbolic significance: The virtuous woman represents wisdom personified.

1. Lady Wisdom pleads with you to embrace her. 1:20-33 8:1-36 9:1-6
2. Lady Wisdom shares the attributes of the virtuous woman.
 - a. She is more precious than jewels. 3:15 8:11 31:10
 - b. She makes you wealthy. 3:14 8:21 31:11
 - c. She feeds you. 9:1-5 31:13-15
 - d. She teaches what is good. 4:5-6 31:26
 - e. She fears God. 1:7 31:30

B. The practical significance.

1. This is the kind of wife a man must choose if he is going to succeed in life. 12:4
2. This is the ideal to which women are to aspire.

C. The redemptive significance.

II. Search for (become) a woman of excellence. v. 1-5, 10-12

A. The wrong kind of woman will ruin you. v. 1-5

1. Listen to your mother! v. 1-2 1:8 6:20
2. The *Femme Fatale*, like strong drink, will drain away your strength. v. 3
3. She cannot be trusted. v. 11a 7:21-22 2:17 30:20 6:31
4. The evil woman will harm you. v. 11b-12
 - a. She will tear down your home. 14:1 7:11
 - b. She will ruin your reputation. 6:33
 - c. She will distract you from your calling.
 - d. She will wear you out. 19:13 25:24 21:19 27:15-16
5. There are many examples of such women in the Bible. I Kings 11:1ff
6. Such were some of you! I Cor. 6:9-11

B. The excellent wife will contribute to your success. v. 10-12, 23

1. She is a strong (valiant) woman who will strengthen you. v. 10a, 3
2. Such a wife is rare and valuable -- a gift from God. v. 10b 18:22 19:14
3. She is trustworthy. v. 11a
 - a. You can trust her faithfulness to your marriage vows.
 - b. You can trust her with your name (reputation).
 - c. You can trust her with your money.
 - d. You can trust her with your children and your household.
4. She does you good; she is an asset. v. 11b-12 Gen. 2:18
5. She will enhance your standing in the community. v. 23

C. The secret of her success: she is able to do this because she fears God. v. 30b 1:7

1. As a result of the fall, virtue does not come naturally. Genesis 3:16b
2. By turning to God in repentance and faith, sin is forgiven and a new nature is received. Her virtue is not her own, it is Christ's. II Co. 5:17 Rom. 6:11ff
3. Her service to her husband is based not upon his merit but Christ's. Je. 17:5-8

III. An excellent wife (you) will help you (your husband) in many ways. v.13-27

A. She is "home centered". 31:27

1. Her priority in life is to be a helper to her husband. v. 12 Titus 2:4-5 Ge. 2:18
2. She has a servant's heart. Mt. 20:25-28 Mark 10:45

- B. She is diligent in her domestic duties.
 - 1. She uses her time effectively. v. 15a, 18b, 27b, 13b 6:9-11 21:5 Col. 3:17,23
 - 2. She possesses physical strength for her tasks. v. 17
 - 3. She obtains and prepares good food for her family. v. 14,15b
 - 4. She makes sure that her family is well clothed. v. 13, 19, 21-22

- C. She brings beauty and quality into her home. v. 14, 21-22
 - 1. She goes beyond the minimum and the functional in dress, food preparation, and home decoration.
 - 2. She takes care of her own outward appearance. v. 22

- D. She is a responsible administrator.
 - 1. She earns money in cottage industries. v. 16,24
 - 2. She plans ahead. v. 21,25b 6:6-8 30:25 21:5
 - 3. She manages the household well. v. 15,27a
 - 4. She is willing and able to help those in need. v. 20, 9 Acts 9:36-39 I Tim. 5:10
 - 5. Her husband delegates many responsibilities to her. v. 11

- E. She is wise in her speech. v. 26
 - 1. She is discreet. 18:7 20:19
 - 2. She does not nag. 21:9 27:15 I Pet. 3:1ff
 - 3. She edifies her husband (and others) with her kind words. 15:4 Eph. 4:29
 - 4. She is a teacher. 31:1 1:8 II Tim. 1:5 Titus 2:3-5

- F. A woman will emphasize different activities during different phases of her life. Titus 2:3-5

IV. Your excellent wife (you) will be richly rewarded. v. 28-31

- A. Her glory is in the home. v. 28-29
 - 1. Her children respect and bless her. v. 28a. I Tim. 2:15 5:4,8 Mt. 15:1-6
 - 2. Her husband appreciates her worth. v. 28b-29
- B. She has lasting and unfading beauty. v. 30
 - 1. The world still measures worth by outward charm and beauty. v. 30a
 - 2. A godly woman will become more beautiful as the years go by.
- C. God will reward her. v. 31 Heb. 6:10

V. Concluding applications. Hebrews 11:31 10:14

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What is the symbolic meaning of the virtuous woman in Proverbs?
2. How does the wrong kind of woman harm a man? v. 3
3. How does a virtuous woman help her husband? v. 11-12,23
4. How can a husband show that he trusts his wife? v. 11a
5. What is the secret of the excellent wife's success? v. 30
6. What is the focus of the excellent wife's activity? v. 12-27 Gen. 2:18
7. What things does she do to make the home a pleasant place? v. 13-27
8. How should children treat their mothers? v. 28a
9. How should husbands treat their wives? v. 28b
10. What kind of woman should a man seek for a wife? v. 10,30
What ideal should our ladies strive to attain? v. 10,30
11. From where do we get our virtue? I Cor. 1:30 Phil. 3:9