

**Subject: *The Right Kind of Woman***

**Scripture: *Proverbs 31:10-31***

I heard about a man who wanted a wife and put an ad in the paper. Here's what it said: "Wanted: One wife, nice and neat, medium height and weight, 25-45 years old, hard-working, dependable, must own fishing boat and motor. Please send picture of boat and motor." You have to know what you want in a woman, don't you?

This chapter paints the portrait of a model woman. It has nothing to do with good looks or fancy clothes. It has everything to do with good character and dedication to God and family. There is nothing wrong in the world that could not be improved with the right kind of women. It is an incredible tribute to women and mothers that the last chapter in God's great book of wisdom, the Book of Proverbs, is dedicated to this portrait of a model woman. She is described in terms of her honor, her husband, her hands, her household, her habits, and her heart. She is the opposite of the immoral woman and the hateful, contentious woman mentioned earlier in this book.

Proverbs 31:10-31 is written an acrostic poem with each verse in the original language beginning with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet, so we could say this godly woman is described from A to Z. We are living in a time when there are many ideas about the role of women in the home, the church, and society. Some hold to a traditional role for women and others want a more progressive role. We should look to the Scripture to define what a woman should be. Let's look together at the amazing picture of a godly woman.

### **1. She is the right kind of wife**

A godly woman is so rare and hard to find. She is more valuable than precious jewels. Rubies and other precious stones are valuable because they are scarce. Her husband trusts her completely and throughout his lifetime. The two key words are heart and trust. When husbands and wives trust the Lord and each other, the foundation is laid for a blessed marriage and a happy home. The husband of a godly wife trusts her with all his heart and knows that she will be faithful to him in every area of life. He even trusts her with the money. One newlywed was bragging to her friends: "When I married my husband he became a millionaire." A friend asked, "What was he before he married you?" "He was a multi-millionaire." When God saw the loneliness of Adam in the Garden of Eden, He said: "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18). A good wife helps her husband and never hurts him. The godly wife is an asset, not a liability. The right kind of woman makes her husband a better man than he could ever be on his own. She is the wind beneath his wings and not the anchor on his boat. A woman is to her husband what the wind is to a fire. She can either fan the flame or blow it out.

### **2. She is the right kind of mother**

All through this passage we read about two things, her hands and her household. She does all things with a pleasant attitude ("willingly"). She is a homemaker. She understands that being a wife and mother is a calling, not just a job. Her family is her number one priority. Her family is her number one ministry. And her husband and children know it. When Paul wrote to Titus about the home, he said that the older women should teach the younger women.

- *Titus 2:4-5* <sup>4</sup> *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,* <sup>5</sup> *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

### **3. She is the right kind of neighbor**

Even though she is busy at home, she still has a heart to help others in need (vs. 20). I enjoyed reading a biography about Charles Spurgeon and much was said about his wife,

Susannah. She set up a special room in their home for shipping books to poor preachers. Over a twenty-year period she had mailed out over 200,000 books from their home. And she supported all the other ministries like the orphanage and the pastor's college. Some of our wives and mothers work in the monthly food pantry, at the Haven of Rest, at the nursing home, or on a mission trip. They seem to always make time for others in need.

#### **4. She has the right kind of character**

She has inner strength and inner beauty (vs. 25, 30). See 1 Peter 3:1-4. The cornerstone of her character is that she fears God. The fear of the Lord has been described as "a state of mind in which our own attitudes, will, feelings, deeds, and goals are exchanged for God's." A person who fears God understands that life is all about God, not about them. To fear God is to respect and reverence Him. To fear God is to love and trust Him. To fear God is to hate sin and turn from it. It is to live a holy life. See Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 16:6.

#### **5. She uses the right kind of words**

The right kind of woman speaks words of wisdom and kindness. We have an example of wise words in the first part of Proverbs 31 (vs. 1-9). Lemuel's mother raised her son to be a king. Remember that kings are born to office; they're not elected by popular vote. So Lemuel's mother taught him from childhood and groomed him to be a good king. She warned him about the dangers of alcohol and taught him the wise use of power. Mothers, you ought to raise your sons and daughters as children of the King.

#### **6. She deserves the right kind of praise**

Her children praise her. Her husband praises her. Her own works praise her (vs. 31). To be honored in the gates (by the leaders) was unusual for a woman, but she is an unusual woman. Best of all, God honors her. She deserves praise in this life and the life to come. And we ought to remember to praise the godly women in our lives while they are still alive. Dead noses smell no roses. We ought to thank God for the right kind of women in our lives (godly mothers, godly wives, godly daughters). We ought to pray for them and ask God to bless them and help them to be strong in this ungodly world.