

May 12, 2024

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Virtuous Woman

Sunday is Mother's Day. We often read Proverbs 31 on Mother's Day because it describes the virtuous woman, and contains the familiar statement, "*Her children arise up, and call her blessed.*"

In Proverbs 31 we find valuable lessons about the behavior and character traits of a virtuous person (woman or man). If we want to live wisely, we must strive to become people of virtue.

Look up the word **virtue**. Write the definition here: _____

Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and answer the following questions to learn about the **blessings** of being married to a virtuous person, the **work** of a virtuous person, the **wisdom** of a virtuous person, and the **rewards** for being a virtuous person.

The Blessing of a Virtuous Woman

Prov. 31:10 "Who can _____ a _____ woman?" The question indicates that it is not easy to find a virtuous woman; in other words, they are rare and valuable. The Hebrew word translated **virtuous** means valor, strength, ability, virtue, and worth; so **the virtuous woman has excellent, noble, and worthy character**. How valuable is she?

Prov. 31:11 How does her husband feel about her?

Prov. 31:12 How will she treat him?

How long will this treatment last?

The virtuous woman is very valuable and she is a blessing to her husband. Read Proverbs 12:4 and 19:14 for more on her value.

The Work of the Virtuous Woman

Prov. 31:13 How does she work?

Prov. 31:14 What does she bring to her family?

Prov. 31:15 When does she start her day's work?

Prov. 31:16 A worthy, excellent wife is good in business.

Prov. 31:17 "She girdeth her loins with _____, and _____ her arms." She keeps herself in good shape for the work she has to do, **NOT** so she can look like a movie star or a model.

- Prov. 31:18** How long does she work?
- Prov. 31:19** The spindle and distaff were used to make clothing.
- Prov. 31:20** Who does she extend her hands to?
- Prov. 31:21** Why isn't she afraid of cold weather?
- Prov. 31:22** Describe her clothing.
- Prov. 31:23** Why do you think her husband is well known?
- Prov. 31:24** She uses her skills to add to the family income.

The Wisdom of the Virtuous Woman

- Prov. 31:25** She is clothed with _____ and _____ (see also 1 Tim. 2:9-11; 1 Pet. 3:1-5). She doesn't fear or worry about the future.
- Prov. 31:26** Describe her speech:
- Prov. 31:27** How does she care for her family?
- Is she lazy or idle?

The virtuous woman is **valuable, hardworking, and wise**. What kinds of rewards will she earn?

The Reward of the Virtuous Woman

- Prov. 31:28** What do her children do?
- What does her husband do?
- Prov. 31:29** "Many daughters have done _____, but thou _____ them _____."
- Prov. 31:30** "Favor is _____, and beauty is _____: but a woman that _____ the _____, she shall be _____."
- Prov. 31:31** Her behavior speaks for itself, and she deserves the highest praise.

Concluding Thoughts: Our world glorifies physical beauty, but God values wisdom, hard work, and a virtuous lifestyle. Physical beauty will disappear over time, or it can be wiped away by a disfiguring accident, but godly character traits last forever.

What about **you**? Are you a woman (or man) of virtue, excellence, and godly character?

You may or may not be like the person described in Proverbs 31, but here is the most important question: **Do you want to be?** If so, tell God right now, study and memorize God's Word, and seek wise counsel from a person of virtue.

Project: Memorize **Proverbs 31:30**. Seek to be a virtuous, hardworking, and wise person this week.