

Proverbs 31:10-31

I. Verse 10

- A. The woman here is presented to us as an ideal wife.
- B. Cultural distance, but a *direct* model
- C. She is “excellent” - elsewhere translated “mighty, noble, strong, armed”

II. Verses 11-12

- A. Men: trust your wives from your heart.

III. Verses 13-15

- A. Wool and flax: she is processing and spinning
- B. Food: even if she is not doing the cooking, she sees to it that money turns into food
- C. She is a servant: “rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household”

IV. Verse 16

- A. But she's not just doing housework: she's investing!

V. Verses 17-19

- A. This is a woman who works hard
 - B. There's kind of a no-nonsense view of the home and family here
 - C. She is home- and family-centered!
 - D. Women need to be busy with good work (Titus 2:3-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Timothy 5:14)
 - E. Husbands: *must* protect your wives from overwork
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VI. Verses 20-21

- A. She is *generous* to the poor (see Genesis 3:22; 8:9; 19:10; 48:14; also Romans 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:11; 5:3-13; Titus 2; Acts 9:36-39)
- B. She looks to the future and prepares for the season to come (see Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

VII. Verses 22-25

- A. A love of beauty.
- B. What's going on with the bed? (see Proverbs 7:16-17)
- C. So where's the husband all this time?
- D. Where does confidence about the future come from? (see 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11; 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 13-15)

VIII. Verses 26-31

- A. We just learned something else about the Proverbs 31 Woman – she *fears the Lord*. (see Proverbs 1:7)
- B. The Proverbs 31 Church
- C. Serving in the reality and power of the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Hebrews 12:2)