

Ten Characteristics of a Godly Woman — 05/14/23

TEXT- Pr. 31:13-18

INTRO –Proverbs is about a king (Solomon, the writer and editor of nearly all of the book of Proverbs) preparing his young son (Rehoboam) for political leadership over a nation.

In the same way that 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 need to set a higher standard for a male's leadership in the Church, Proverbs need to set a higher standard for a female's leadership!

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT WOMAN

The following "Ten Characteristics of a Godly Woman" are found in Proverbs and other passages in Scripture.

A. SHE IS INDUSTRIOUS

Proverbs 14:1 *Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*

Proverbs 31:13–18 *She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly . . .*

Proverbs 31:24–25 *She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

Proverbs 31:27 *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

All of these Proverbs share a common theme: they condemn laziness! Certain cultures, including America's, increasingly embrace a lack of mental and physical exertion. The woman of Proverbs is capable, physically able, business smart, and prosperous. Notice the following passages in contrast to the "Miss/Mrs. Industrious" of Proverbs:

1 Timothy 5:13 *And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*

Now note the above simple contrast with Titus 2:3–5:

Titus 2:3–5 *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

Titus 2 is the New Testament (NT) parallel passage to Proverbs 31

The Proverbs 31 passage serves to further support this understanding: **the excellent wife** is often in and engaged in the marketplace! The godly woman does **energetic deeds, labor, work for the home** (Gen. 2:18; 1 Tim. 2:11–15). **The highest priority of her industrious heart is to build up her family.**

B. SHE IS PRUDENT

Proverbs 19:14 *House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

In contrast to a lazy wife who is unprepared, sloppy, not thinking ahead, a busybody, characterized by excuses, and an overall lack in excellence." A godly woman pushes herself. She uses her mind to think ahead and prepare. Her proper prior planning is a preventative to poor performance. With these qualities from our Heavenly Father, the prudent wife is deemed a gift **from the Lord**.

C. SHE IS WISE AND UNDERSTANDING

Proverbs 24:3–4 *Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

The Bible says the primary role of the wife in marriage is to build and establish the family. A godly woman is wise, understanding of her role, and knowledgeable of God's blueprint and design. A wife's knowing all this and fully accepting it is how God created man and woman and how He made marriages and families to function in order to be most effective.

To attempt in any way to change this basic biblical construct of marriage—and how He designed it to best function—is to interfere with the inherent foundation of a nation.

When the Owner's manual is followed, the figurative results are rooms **...filled with all precious and pleasant riches..**

D. SHE IS COMPASSIONATE

Proverbs 31:19–20 *She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*

A godly woman is selfless. Not only does she prioritize care for her husband and children, not only is she **knowledgeable, wise, and understanding** of God's specific call on her life, but she invests far more time in those God-ordained purposes. For her, it's not about "me." In fact and in contrast, she is compassionate for those around her as illustrated by her care for **the poor and needy**. In giving her life for others, she finds it (Matthew 10:39), and her husband calls her blessed (Proverbs 31:30).

E. SHE IS WELL DRESSED

Proverbs 31:21–22 *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*

This passage reflects the outwardly manifestations of a godly woman's heart. A godly woman does not dress in public in ways ungodly, suggestive. Her outer adornment reflects her inner demeanor.

1 Peter 3:3-5 *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:*

Proverbs 31:25 *Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

F. SHE IS KIND

Proverbs 31:26 *She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

Kindness is a Hebrew word denoting deeds of devotion, favor, and loveliness. Her speech is not full of self-centered comments, harsh, or gossipy; rather, she's kind and gracious, easy, and genuine. She is a pleasure to be around.

G. SHE IS TRUSTWORTHY

Proverbs 31:11-12 *The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

This passage aptly summarizes what a man should look for in a wife, and what a woman who desires to be married should strive to become.

H. SHE IS VALUABLE

Proverbs 18:22 *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

Proverbs 31:23 *Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*

"Behind every successful man there is a strong woman," can be proven by examining many of the great men of history.

Proverbs 31:10 *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*

Proverbs 12:4 *A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.*

I. SHE IS FRUITFUL

Proverbs 31:31 *Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

Once a man has learned the characteristics of a great wife, found and married her, he had better not take her for granted! Lavish the excellent woman with love and give her more of everything desired; don't be stingy. In addition, this Proverb teaches that good husbands foster, not stymie, their wife's talents and abilities. Help your wife to be all that she can be!

J. SHE IS PRAISEWORTHY

Proverbs 31:28-29 *Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

Make sure this is the "talk" in your home as it pertains to you, the godly wife, and that your husband is reinforcing that this is the way the kids address their mother.

Proverbs 11:16 *A gracious woman retaineth honour:*

II. BEWARE OF WICKED WOMEN

Scripture also teaches what woman should not be like. These ungodly characteristics are equally applicable to men as well.

A. LICENTIOUS WOMEN: THE WIFE OF FIVE HUSBANDS

Like the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 who, prior to her conversion to Christ, had five husbands (John 4:18), licentious women are those who lack moral discipline or sexual restraint.

Notice how Solomon hammers away on sexual temptation as it relates to those in authority: (Proverbs 5:15-19) (Proverbs 6:29) (Proverbs 27:8)

B. DECEIVABLE WOMEN: ADAM'S WIFE

Second Corinthians 11:3 states *the serpent deceived Eve ...* Eve is an example of a woman who was persuadable to do wrong. She did not possess personal spiritual fortitude. Accordingly, when alone by herself she was vulnerable. Is your faith your own?

C. MATERIALISTIC WOMEN: LOT'S WIFE

Regarding Lot's wife, Genesis 17, as Lot and his family escaped the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, the angel specifically told them: **Do not look back.** Are you heavenly minded? Or are you attached to the material things of this world? Seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

D. CONTENTIOUS WOMEN: DAVID'S WIFE

King Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife. Laden with sarcasm, 2 Samuel 6:20b records her lack of respect for her husband. Michal is illustrative of a contentious woman. Solomon, is quite repetitious (four times!) about a wife's being contentious toward her husband.

Proverbs 21:9 *It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.* **Proverbs 27:15** *A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.*

Proverbs 21:19 *It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.*

Contentious means "an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrel and dispute."

This woman is obstinate and argumentative, unrelenting in irritation.

The antithesis of *contentious* found in 1 Timothy 2:11–13 teaches that godly women will be submissive to their husbands.

E. CORRUPTING WOMEN: AHAB'S WIFE

In **1 Kings 16:31** Israel's King Ahab marries Jezebel, the daughter of the king of the Sidonians, a nation of Baal worshippers. Needless to say, Ahab made a huge mistake! Jezebel illustrates a woman who corrupts others.

F. DISCOURAGING WOMEN: JOB'S WIFE

In the midst of life's downturns, some women fall apart. Lacking endurance in the midst of a trial and unable to handle the pressure, they incorrectly reason, *Curse God and die!*

G. MANIPULATIVE WOMEN: POTIPHAR'S WIFE

In **Matthew 14:3–8** Herodias seduced her husband's brother in order to get her way. In this case that seduction meant the head of John the Baptist.

Proverbs 31:30 states it well: "*Favour is deceitful*"

Be on the lookout for those women who are masters at using their unique powers to get their way.

H. DECEITFUL WOMEN: ANANIAS' WIFE

Whereas Eve was deceivable, Sapphira was deceitful (as was Eve).

CONCL - Apart from their nurturing of character in their children, the bestowal of a godly model and heritage, there will be no tomorrow for any nation. **Governments largely run on the character of men, but governments do not form the character of men—women do!**

A godly woman who invests in her family benefits not only her husband and her children, but society as well. What a high calling!