



# Proverbs 31:10-31

A God-enabled woman of  
faithfulness and fruitfulness

# Introduction

On this Mother's Day, from Proverbs 31:10-31, we will be looking at a description of a wife and mother who lives out her God-given role by the enabling grace of God

- Why are such descriptions important?
  - 1 Timothy 3:14–15
- How important is it for Christians to understand and live out the role God designed for them as a man or a woman?
  - 1 Timothy 2:11–15
- Sadly, Biblical households and Biblical households of faith are a rarity in our nation
- This is why we are looking at Proverbs 31:10-31 so that we can see a description of a God-enabled woman who displays faithfulness and fruitfulness

# She embraces her role in marital oneness (31:10-12)

## 22 Descriptions of excellence displayed by a wife (mom)

1. <sup>10</sup> *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.*
  - An excellent wife is one whose feet are solidly on the foundation of truth and goodness
    - Matthew 7:24–27
  - A husband who prays for and finds such a wife has found a treasure
2. <sup>11</sup> *The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.*
  - Her husband is assured of her loyalty, dependability, and productivity
  - She is not captivated by worldly idols
3. <sup>12</sup> *She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.*
  - A passionate mutual pursuit of God's glory blesses their marriage and life
  - God desires a wife to join her husband in a united walk through life in truth
    - Genesis 2:18

## She is disciplined and productive (31:13-19)

4. <sup>13</sup> *She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.*

- Industriousness characterizes the way she cares for the needs of her family
- Working with willing hands means her labor is a joy and delight
- Colossians 3:23 “*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...*”

5. <sup>14</sup> *She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.*

- She's not okay with mere subsistence for her family
- She creatively works to provide a healthful and desirable variety

6. <sup>15</sup> *She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.*

- She is neither slothful nor lazy because her life isn't all about her
- She puts the care of others before her own comfort



# She is disciplined and productive (31:13-19)

7. <sup>16</sup> *She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.*

- She displays the grace of strategic assessment
- Effort and sweat do not scare her away

8. <sup>17</sup> *She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.*

- She prepares her body and mind for hard work
- It may be hard and demanding, but she gets the job done

9. <sup>18</sup> *She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.*

- Success in the marketplace provides additional motivation, not complacency
- A lamp burning through the night means she doesn't need to ration lamp oil
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31

10. <sup>19</sup> *She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.*

- Spinning yarn and weaving are a part of her lifestyle
- Her skills are diversified and ever-increasing

## Others-oriented without being self-neglecting (31:20-27)

11. <sup>20</sup> *She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

- In her busyness and productivity, God keeps her heart open to those less fortunate
- Generosity characterizes her

12. <sup>21</sup> *She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.*

- The family of such a godly woman is prepared for the future and the unexpected
- “clothed in scarlet” – she cares about the details

13. <sup>22</sup> *She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.*

- She is not a martyr
- False humility is not evident because she cares for herself as well as others

14. <sup>23</sup> *Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.*

- Her marriage displays biblical oneness, not competitive battling
- The family name has credibility in the community and she is united with her husband in promoting it

➤ Proverbs 12:4

15. <sup>24</sup> *She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.*

- The industriousness of her life opens profit opportunities in the marketplace
- Her kindness greases the wheels of commercial activity

## Others-oriented without being self-neglecting (31:20-27)

16. <sup>25</sup> *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.*

- She is focused on the Lord and well-founded on truth
- Consistency and preparation allow her to trust God and laugh off anxiety
- Philippians 4:4–7

17. <sup>26</sup> *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

- The knowledge of God's character and ways overflow from her heart
- Biblical principles adorn her dealings at home, in the church, and in the marketplace
  - 2 Timothy 1:5
  - 2 Timothy 3:15

18. <sup>27</sup> *She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

- A godly wife is a diligent manager of the house
- She does not just administrate the affairs, she is productively involved
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12

## People affirm the grace evident in and through her life (31:28-31)

19. <sup>28</sup> *Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:*

- Her children are aware that the favor of the Lord is on her
- Her husband affirms God's grace in her life

20. <sup>29</sup> *"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."*

- These are the words of praise coming from her husband
- He doesn't exalt her by finding fault with other women, but by appreciating the grace of God that he sees in her

21. <sup>30</sup> *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

- Some women have developed great skills at being charming and drawing attention to themselves
- True beauty flows from the indwelling power of Jesus Christ

- 1 Peter 3:3–5

22. <sup>31</sup> *Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.*

- When you see the evidence of God's grace, you should acknowledge it
- When you see the evidence of God's grace in your wife and mother, affirm it
  - People are praised publicly for many things
  - But two things should be honored
    - The evidence of God-centeredness
    - Promotion and contentment in marital oneness



## Questions to Consider

- Mothers and fathers, what kind of wife are you training your daughters to be?
- Mothers and fathers, who are you training your sons to be and to look for in a wife?
- Is your household displaying the Christ-exalting grace of marital oneness?
- Which of these 22 descriptions do you need to pray for and promote?
- Will you affirm the evidence of God's grace in your mother and/or wife today?



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