

An Excellent Wife

“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.” wrote Solomon in Proverbs 12:4. In Proverbs 31:10-31, he concludes his book with a long statement defining this excellent wife. He begins in Prov 31:10-12:

Who can find a virtuous wife?

For her worth is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her;

So he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good and not evil

The following is a condensed version of her wonderful traits:

- **Trustworthy:** Her husband has full confidence in her.
- **Good:** She brings him good, not harm all of her life.
- **Industrious:** She selects wool and flax and she works with eager hands.
- **Providing:** Getting up while it is dark, she provides food for her family.
- **Economical:** Out of her money, she buys a field and plants a vineyard.
- **Vigorous:** She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong.
- **Kind:** She opens her arms to the poor and extends hands to the needy.
- **Prepared:** When it snows, she has no fear for her household.
- **Strong and Dignified:** She is clothed with strength and dignity.
- **Unafraid:** She can laugh at the days to come.
- **Wise:** She speaks wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- **Watchful:** She watches over the affairs of her household.
- **Busy:** She does not eat the bread of idleness.
- **Fearful of the Lord:** A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Solomon describes the outcome for this woman in verses 28-31. Her children will call her blessed. Her husband will recognize and praise her for her fine qualities. Her works will bring her praise from the entire city. She will be rewarded.

In addition, the Bible instructs us on those things a Christian wife must do:

- **Submit to Their Husbands:** “Wives should submit to their husbands in everything.” Eph 5:24. In verse 21, Paul tells us that all Christians should be “submitting to one another in the fear of God.”
- **Be an Example:** “[T]hat even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” 1 Peter 3:1-2

Conclusion.

There are also attributes that disgrace a husband. Solomon tells us in Prov 12:4: “[S]he who causes

shame is like rotteness in his bones." Some attributes that the world values are quite empty. For example, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing." Prov 31:30. In contrast, Peter spoke of the beauty of the inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit in 1 Peter 3:4. May all Christian wives seek to add the noble and great qualities taught in the God's word.

Study questions.

1. Was Solomon's ideal wife a working woman who interacted with the outside world?

2. Describe how valuable a virtuous wife is to her husband.

3. Identify the working nature of the ideal woman in Proverbs 31.

4. In Ephesians 5:21-22, who is to submit to whom?

What is the power of a good example in 1 Peter 3:1-2

5. How can a woman disgrace her husband?
