

SUMMER 2025

PROVERBS

FINDING WISDOM IN CHRIST



CENTER CITY CHURCH

Proverbs 31

1 The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: **2** What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? **3** Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

Proverbs 31

4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, **5** lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. **6** Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

Proverbs 31

7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31

10 An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. **11** The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. **12** She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

Proverbs 31

13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. **14** She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. **15** She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. **16** She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit

Proverbs 31

of her hands she plants a vineyard.

17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. **18** She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. **19** She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

Proverbs 31

20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. **22** She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. **23** Her husband is

Proverbs 31

known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. **24** She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,

Proverbs 31

and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. **27** She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. **28** Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

Proverbs 31

29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." **30** Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. **31** Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Biblical Christianity



The diagram consists of four overlapping circles arranged horizontally. The circles are labeled from left to right: 'Feminism', 'Egalitarianism', 'Complementarianism', and 'Patriarchy'. The 'Complementarianism' circle is white, while the others are light gray. A white bracket above the circles spans from the left edge of the 'Feminism' circle to the right edge of the 'Patriarchy' circle. A similar white bracket is located below the circles.

Feminism

Egalitarianism

Complementarianism

Patriarchy

The Role of Men & Women

General Thoughts on Gender:

- 1. Gender comes from God and points us back to God.**

Genesis 1

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created

Genesis 1

him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **29** And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding

Genesis 1

seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 1

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

General Thoughts on Gender:

- 1. Gender comes from God and points us back to God.**
- 2. There is radical togetherness and radical difference when the Bible talks about men and women.**
- 3. The context of the Creator's creation is a complementing creation!**

Proverbs 31

1. A Snapshot into Mature **Manhood**
2. A Snapshot into Mature **Womanhood**
3. A Snapshot into **The Source** of
Mature Manhood & Womanhood

- 1. A (new) divine identity**
- 2. A mother's words of wisdom**
- 3. A warning against weakening vices**
- 4. A vision of mature manhood**

Mature Manhood

1. A (new) divine identity

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2. A mother's words of wisdom

Proverbs 31:2 What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?

2. A mother's words of wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. **8** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, **9** for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

3. A warning against weakening vices

Proverbs 31:3 Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

3. A warning against weakening vices

Proverbs 5:7 And now, O sons, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.
8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go
near the door of her house, 9 lest you give your
honor to others and your years to the
merciless, 10 lest strangers take their fill of your
strength, and your labors go to the house of a
foreigner,

Mature Manhood

4. A vision of mature manhood: **A HEALTHY FOCUS ON OTHERS**

Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; **7** let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

Mature Womanhood

1. A different kind of strength

Proverbs 31:10 “An excellent wife who can find?” She is far more precious than jewels.

Mature Womanhood

1. A different kind of strength

Isaiah 56:5 I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Mature Womanhood

2. A different kind of wholeness & beauty

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Mature Womanhood

2. A different kind of wholeness & beauty

Proverbs 31:30 **Charm** is deceitful, and **beauty** is vain, but a woman who **fears the LORD** is to be praised.

Mature Womanhood

3. A different kind of togetherness in: **RELATIONSHIP**

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. **12** She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

Mature Womanhood

3. A different kind of togetherness in: **WORK**

Proverbs 31:13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands. **14** She is
like the ships of the merchant; she brings
her food from afar. **15** She rises while it is
yet night and provides food for her
household and portions for her maidens.

Mature Womanhood

3. A different kind of togetherness in: **WORK**

Proverbs 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. **17** She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. **18** She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Mature Womanhood

3. A different kind of togetherness in: **WORK**

Proverbs 31:18 Her lamp does not go out at night. **19** She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

Mature Womanhood

3. A different kind of togetherness in: **WORK**

Proverbs 31:20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. **21** She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. **22** She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Mature Womanhood

4. A different kind of power

Proverbs 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

1. When the ideal is lacking, grace is in abundance!

Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; **7** let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

The Source of Mature Manhood & Womanhood

1. When the ideal is lacking, grace is in abundance!

Mark 15:23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

The Source of Mature Manhood & Womanhood