

Becoming a Woman of Proverbs

HER RELATIONSHIPS
In Marriage





Proverbs

HER RELATIONSHIPS: *In Marriage*

“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10

Ladies—Whether or not you are married, I believe the Lord has something for you in this. So, hang tight and ask Him to reveal Himself to you as you dive into this week’s study.

I went into marriage blindly. When I found myself engaged and then married at 20 years old, the only thought on my mind about my new marriage was, “I just don’t want to be like my parents.” If I could make my relationship with my new husband look as differently as possible from the marriage I had grown up knowing, I’d feel successful. But, I should have put more thought and intention into the type of wife I had wanted to be.

I knew marriage could be challenging, I just didn’t realize how challenging it would actually be. I knew about the 1 Corinthians “Love Chapter” of the Bible, and I’d heard about this idea of the “Proverbs 31 Woman,” but what did it mean for me? My husband and I were baby Christians at the time. My parents weren’t believers and I had never been shown an example of a healthy, Christian marriage in my family. Honestly, these Bible verses were empty words to me. They went in one ear and out the other for a long time.

We wanted to honor God with our marriage but we had no idea how to practically do that. I wanted to honor my husband and be an awesome wife, but I had no idea how to practically do that. For years we struggled with this idea of honor.

My husband and I have had our fair share of arguments and disagreements. We’ve argued over finances, parenting, housing, jobs, even ministry. And in all these little (or big) tiffs, we were always so slow to invite the Lord into our arguments. It was kind of like this unspoken, “maybe if we don’t pray about it, God won’t see that we’re fighting and we can just smooth it over and move on like it never happened” type of thing. Which we all know is far from true. God sees it all. And moving on from a disagreement without the counsel of the Lord is easier said than done. We’re human after all. We hold grudges, we re-hash hurts and offenses we thought were already in the past, and we fail each other often. All the things I didn’t want for my marriage were happening. It felt similar in some ways to the poor examples of marriage I had as a child. The common truth in my marriage and the other marriages I had grown up knowing was that none of us were inviting God into our marriages.

But, my husband and I knew better. Why had we allowed ourselves to think we could handle it all in our own strength when we clearly couldn’t?!

As time has gone on, I have revisited this section of scripture and asked the Lord to help me be more of a Proverbs 31 woman. I admire the way her husband and children are blessed by her. She’s just doing the everyday wife and mom duties. She handles it all with such grace. Most days, I feel like a chicken running around with my head cut off trying to do it all. How does she do it all?



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You may be thinking this comparison is unfair because a woman like this in biblical times surely had a collection of servants to assist her with carrying the load. While that is true, it still says she chooses to get up early before daybreak and get to work. She prepares breakfast for her family and her maidservants. She serves those who are serving her, and she does it with joy in her heart.

(Now, if I had to take a guess, I'd say you probably don't have maidservants, but maybe you have employees, babysitters, gardeners, and others serving you throughout your week. I like to replace the maidservants in this chapter with people just like this who help make the flow of my week much smoother.)

I have learned that I can ask God to just help me be genuinely me. I don't have to put on a front and act like I have it together all of the time. I don't have to strive to be someone I think I should be. I can just BE. I can be who He has created me to be, and I truly believe He has imbedded these Proverbs 31 virtues into each and every one of us as women, wives, and mothers. He has given us the exact tools we need to be who He has called us to be.

Take a few minutes to read through Proverbs 31:10-31.

1. Who is the writer of Proverbs 31? (Hint: this can be found in Proverbs 31:1)
2. What are some words which describe the Proverbs 31 woman's qualities?
3. The Proverbs 31 woman is referred to as "The Virtuous Wife," as well as, "The Wife of Noble Character." What does the word **noble** mean? Look for the definition in a Bible dictionary.

Here's a fun fact for you: in Exodus 18:21, the word **noble**, also used here, is translated to *capable*. She was capable. Her husband was confident in her.

4. Think of a woman in your life who is a good example of a Proverbs 31 woman. Tell us about her.
5. Think of a married couple in your life that you admire and strive to be more like. Tell us about them.



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Let's look at some practical things we can take and implement as wives from the book of Proverbs:

Fill in the blank.

6. Proverbs 12:4 “An excellent wife is the _____ of her _____, but she who causes _____ is like _____ in his bones.”

Our strength of character makes our husband proud and honored. We have the ability to add dignity to him.

7. Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a _____ finds a _____ thing, and obtains _____ from the Lord.”

As a wife, we are our husband's helpmate.

8. Proverbs 19:14 “Houses and riches are an _____ from _____, but a _____ wife is from the _____.”

We should be **prudent** (*practically wise, cautious, acting with or showing care for the future*).

9. Proverbs 31:11 “The _____ of her husband _____ her; so he will have no _____ of _____.”

Our husband is confident in us. He trusts us. Our careful household management enhances our family's wealth.

10. Proverbs 31:12 “She does him _____ and not _____ all the days of her life.”

We are an asset, not a liability, to our husband. We support and encourage him.

11. Proverbs 31:23 “Her husband is _____ at the gates, when he sits among the _____ of the land.”

We enhance our husband's standing. We function in a way that honors our husband's leadership. We respect and build him up.

12. Proverbs 31:28 “Her _____ rise up and call her _____; her _____ also, and he _____ her.”



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While we may be physically beautiful, it is our devotion to the Lord and to our family that blesses our husband and our household.

BEING THE WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER

13. How can you be more of an asset/helpmate to your spouse this week?

14. Do you carefully manage your household? What ways do you practically do this?

15. What is your love language? (Words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, acts of service, or receiving gifts.) What is your favorite way in which your spouse speaks your love language?

16. What is your husband's love language? How can you honor and connect with him by speaking his love language this week?

As we wrap up this week's study, I wanted to share something not-so-marriage-related that I found valuable, which has to do with this famous verse we all know so well.

Proverbs 31:25 NLT says, "*She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.*"

When I read this verse, the anxiety in me could not fathom how I could ever laugh without fear of the future. No fear at all?! How?! I didn't understand this until it was explained to me like this: She can face the future with confidence because she is prepared for tomorrow. She is not idle. She has put in the work to be prepared for the future, and she fully trusts in the Lord. This is why she has no fear of the future.

I don't know about you, but looking at it from that perspective gives me the kickstart I need to become better prepared for my family's future and to trust that God has all the days to come in His hands.

Be blessed as you spend time with the Lord this week, sisters!