

Title: What Makes the Ideal Mother

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31

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Proverbs 31:10-31 *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 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. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. 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. 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. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 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. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 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. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”*

Looking at the Ideal Mother

1. **The Marriage of the Ideal Mother:** Proverbs 31:10 – *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”* A virtuous woman is hard to find, and Solomon makes that known. The next verse says *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.”* A virtuous woman is desirable for a wife because she will be a help mate. A marriage isn't made up with percentages or divisions. Marriages are made by each person giving 100%. They need to put their all into it. They need to be there for one another. They need to be equally yoked.
2. **The Behavior of the Ideal Mother:** Proverbs 31:13 *“She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.”* This means that she works for her family and does it with a good attitude. She's happy to do it. She doesn't complain about tasks for her family. 31:14 *“She is like the merchant's ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”* She goes the distance and to great lengths for her family. 31:16 *“She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.”* This woman was focused on her family. She worked for all that they had. She wasn't worried about things to come because her family had been provided for. We see proof of this in verse 21 - *“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed in scarlet.”* A woman has a great impact on the reputation of her husband. Her actions are reflected on him. I Corinthians 11:7 *“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.”* Women are part of who we are.
3. **The Character of the Ideal Mother:** Proverbs 31:25-26 *“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. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”* The quality of a mother is dependent on the conduct and character that she displays. Strength and honor are the first words used to describe this woman and they can only come from walking with the Lord. The world wants your children. In order for your child to remain out of reach of the world, they have to be rooted in Christ. The strength that comes from God will be the only thing keeping them from the hands of the world. Isaiah 40:29 *“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no*

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might he increaseth strength.” Wisdom and kindness are the other two words used. Her speech is guarded and she is cautious with her words.

4. **The Family of the Ideal Mother:** 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.”* Families of the ideal mother call her blessed. They show her praise and respect. There’s a comparison here of the ideal mother to other mothers. The ideal mother beats out the competition. They have the attitude that “my mother is better than yours.” They highly exalt her.
5. **The Secret of the Ideal Mother:** Proverbs 31:30-31 *“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”* All of this work is done by a woman who is submitted to God. Her popularity among peers will fade, her beauty will fade, but her spirit will go on forever. Christ will dwell in her forever. The ideal mother has spiritual values. This woman is not a luke-warm Christian – she’s on fire for the Lord.