

A Virtuous Woman – A Lesson from Proverbs 31

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What is a Virtuous Woman? Who is a Virtuous Woman? The King James Bible tells us in *Proverbs 31:10* “*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*” To begin to understand who and what a virtuous woman is we first must understand the beginning of man and woman created by God in His image.

Genesis 1:26-27 “And 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 cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed life into him and made him a living soul. The Lord planted the Garden of Eden for man to live. In *Genesis 2:18* the Lord said that “*it is not good for man to be alone*” and that He would make for him an help meet. The Lord formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air and at that point, in the creation of man, there still remains no help meet for Adam. This is when God makes woman out of the rib of Adam.

I believe that Eve was the first virtuous woman in the Bible and made wife to the first honourable man in the Bible.

Genesis 2:23-25 “ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Adam is honourable and Eve is virtuous because they are perfect and sinless; created in God’s own image. Unfortunately for man’s sake, the sinless nature does not last because there will always be a serpent more subtle than any beast of the field to deceive us. This is how sin enters the world: by Adam, through his wife being deceived in the Garden, and eating of the fruit which the Lord commanded Adam not to be eaten of.

I believe that in today’s “perilous times” world God still wants virtuous women to marry honorable men because marriage is still honorable among all.

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

The definition of virtuous is: One having or showing high moral standards and someone who practices the moral duties. In the case of the wife, you want a woman who will be a great testimony to her husband, (high moral standards) and one who is a keeper of the home (practices the moral duties). The high moral standard of a wife above all is holiness, bringing glory to and testifying of God working in her. The definition of honorable is: Someone who believes in truth and tries to live up to those high principles. In the case of husband, the husband should be the one living up to the doctrine of Christ (what Jesus did and taught), and it is up to the husband to be the spiritual leader of the family which is honorable.

Proverbs 31:23 "Her Husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land."

All in all, it is imperative that you would follow God's will for your life whatever that may be, and allow Him to choose that virtuous and honorable spouse for you. If it is put together any other way, virtuous without honorable, honorable without virtuous, or saved and unsaved, then it is seen as unequally yoked with each other, this is unrighteous. A marriage brought together by God will work righteousness and include virtuous with honorable, but a marriage brought together by the world will be unequally yoked and unrighteous.

II Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

Now that we have just scratched the surface of the beginning of man and woman, also with respects to marriage, I want to look more closely at Proverbs 31:10-31. There are twenty two verses in Proverbs 31 that give the qualities of a woman who is virtuous, and I believe that these are qualities that every Christian woman should strive to have if they have any desire to marry an honorable man - but more importantly the man that is in God's will for them. I would also like to preface this study, by saying that I would not know the qualities and characteristics of a virtuous woman, through a husband's point of view, if it were not for my wife, who, in my opinion, exudes these qualities in every way possible.

1. Hard to find:

Proverbs 31:10 "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

This is that virtuous woman that I have been speaking of; she is a woman of high moral standards and upright in all her ways. Speaking about her price being far above rubies, God shows us that her worth cannot be measured with any earthly stone or precious jewel, but rather that she is very rare to find. Being hard to find is an interesting quality for a virtuous woman, because for man's sake, if he is not living for God and being honorable in all things, he will not be able to have a woman of this stature.

Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

2. Trustworthy or Faithful:

Proverbs 31:11 "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil."

A virtuous woman, who is trustworthy and faithful, is one who can be relied on as honest and dependable. She will never give off the appearance of evil, and will always demonstrate unbreakable loyalty towards her husband. In the Apostle Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, speaking on the qualities of a deacon's wife, he writes *I Timothy 3:11 "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."*

Faithfulness is the same whether it be in little or in much and for a wife, as the New Testaments writes that she is to be submissive to the husband, by her being trustworthy and faithful to her husband she is also being so towards God, and there is an eternal reward for that.

Matthew 25:21 "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

3. Good:

Proverbs 31:12 "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

When I speak of goodness I am speaking of the acts of doing good. Goodness is one of the fruits of the Spirit. We can find in the New Testament that goodness is something that is learned of by the aged women, *Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

Some of the definitions of good are: One who is morally right, a benefit or advantage to, or possesses moral virtue. A virtuous woman is a help meet (good) to her husband, which, in the eyes of the Lord, is a good thing. *Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."*

God's word also tells us that we must overcome evil with good; *Romans 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

A virtuous woman will not tear her husband down, for she knows that reacting to evil with good overcomes all.

4. Works Willingly:

Proverbs 31:13 "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands."

The definition of willingness is: Cheerfully consenting, done without reluctance. A virtuous woman is an industrious one, who is not lazy, and is always ready and willing to help her husband as it states in this verse that she seeketh...and works willingly with her hands.

I Thessalonians 4:11 "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;" We are commanded to work with our hands, and in our work we are to do everything heartily as unto the Lord. *Colossians 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"*

Now of course, the woman at home is working to provide for her family's needs in the home, and is doing so to please her husband which is well pleasing to God and she will be rewarded for her work.

Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."

There is always an opposition to what is righteous, and the opposition to working willingly is slothfulness. There is one verse that brings what it means to work willingly in the home into

perspective, *Ecclesiastes 10:18* “By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.”

5. Does Not Limit Herself:

Proverbs 31:14 “She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar.”

The way the Lord intended was for man to work and provide for his family, and a woman was to be the keeper at home. Part of being a virtuous woman, and taking care for the things at home, is being able to accomplish that task at an unlimited cost; and, in other words, there is no giving up on serving the Lord.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.”

My wife has said to me before that we shouldn’t put limitations on what we can accomplish for our family, and above all in the Lord’s work.

We can look at Ruth as an example. In chapter 2 Ruth goes in the field to glean ears of corn, in a strange country, and by herself. However, she is then blessed by the Lord with first being recognized by Boaz in chapter 3 that she is a virtuous woman, but then again by bringing her a husband - thus making her part of Jesus’ genealogy.

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

6. Not Lazy:

Proverbs 3:15 “She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.”

In Proverbs laziness is equated with not having understanding. *Proverbs 24:30* “I went by the field of the slothful and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding.”

A virtuous woman understands what it takes to provide for her family, she does not put off preparing her home.

Proverbs 24:30-31 “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.” As we see in Proverbs 24:30-31 the field of the slothful, the lazy and void of understanding, was all grown over with thorns and nettles, and the stone wall was broken down.

If a virtuous woman aspires to be lazy, her house can get filled with unwanted things such as thorns and nettles, while the walls become broken down - which takes away your security and can lead to poverty. A virtuous woman will rise early and look well to the ways of her household.

7. Wise:

Proverbs 3:16 “She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.”

Wisdom is the principle thing and with all thy wisdom get understanding, the Bible says. In verse 16, we see that a wise virtuous woman has experience and shows good judgment, “she considereth”.

Proverbs 14:1 “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” Contrary to a woman who is lazy, void of understanding or foolish, a wise, virtuous woman will make her home better (“*buildeth her house:*”), and this will be her focus; as the husband works, the wife is a keeper at home.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” I believe that God would want every home to be pure, peaceable, gentle, easily intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and not hypocritical; and the wisdom of a virtuous woman/wife can make this possible.

8. Strong:

Proverbs 31:17 “She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.”

The word girdeth is important in this verse because to gird means to prepare or equip oneself for something requiring strength or endurance. The virtuous woman here is preparing and strengthening her arms for the work that she will do in the field and home, and it will allow her the endurance she needs.

Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” The physical strength is a much needed benefit, and is certainly provided by God; however, to go along with the physical benefits of Gods strength, there are spiritual and emotional strengths of a virtuous woman.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Spiritually speaking, you can only do all things and get strength, through Christ, because he is the Spirit. The Holy Ghost (Comforter), who is sent by God, is guiding us, teaching all things, and bringing Christ into remembrance.

Spiritual strength is renewed on a daily basis by the Lord. *Isaiah 40:31* “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Lastly, aside from the husband’s spiritual leadership of a family, a virtuous woman’s emotional strength can keep a home together. *Psalms 51:10* “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” And *Psalms 31:24* “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” The emotional strength of any man or woman starts with the heart. As it says in Psalm 51, if a virtuous woman is seeking a right spirit, then in Psalm 31, is

being of good courage, the Lord will strengthen the heart and it will be clean/pure; this will keep the house together.

Proverbs 25:28 "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

9. Not a quitter:

Proverbs 31:18 "She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night."

I would like to give a word of testimony before we look at this verse. I have been married coming up on 5 years, and the only times I can remember my wife getting discouraged and wanting to quit is when she does something that she perceives to be good and profitable for our family, and I come home from work and I don't give her the praise she deserves for it. I gave that testimony because, in this verse, a virtuous woman sees that her merchandise is good and profitable for her family, and she doesn't quit on it, "*her candle goeth not out by night.*"

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." and *1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* A woman who is virtuous will recognize the well doing (profitability) in her work and will reap if she does not quit on it; but also she knows that if she remains always abounding in her work for God as a wife, mother, and keeper of the home, then this is profitable and her labor is not in vain.

The work of a virtuous woman does not stop when the sun goes down, when the kids go to bed, or the husband is out at work: "*her candle goeth not out by night.*" She is a woman of hospitality and availability, opening her home in times of great need - at all hours of the day and night - and just as she is not a quitter for her family, she will not quit on the Lord's work.

10. Creative:

Proverbs 31:19 "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff."

One of the best qualities of any Christian is when they know their talents and they put them to good use for the Lord. *1 Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

A virtuous woman is going to use her gifts and abilities to minister not only to her family, but to the brethren and to the lost. *Exodus 35:25 "And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen."* The women with skill in Exodus 35, used their ability to help with the tabernacle by bringing willing offerings. In verse 29 of Exodus 35, the Bible says every man and woman of the children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

The virtuous woman, in this case, of Proverbs 31:19, uses her ability to sew and weave to minister to her family, others, and to the Lord. Most importantly, when she uses her skills and abilities, she will do it heartily for the Lord.

11. Charitable:

Proverbs 31:20 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."

Looking at this verse, you can really see two qualities of a virtuous woman; charitable and compassion; but we can look at it as one.

When you look at the poor, you should first have compassion on them as the Lord did, *Matthew 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."*, but secondly, you should be willing to give what you have - even if it means you go without, *II Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

A virtuous woman is always willing to help the poor - whether they are poor in spirit, health, riches, food, etc. They will always be willing to give a helping hand through spiritual encouragement, a home cooked meal, or a place to lay their head. *Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."* *Proverbs 14:31 "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."*

12. Well Prepared:

Proverbs 31:21 "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet."

Well preparedness is a great ability of a virtuous woman, and the Lord recognizes this in making the women keepers of the home, and the men to work. While the husband is at work, his wife doesn't need an overseer; she has the ability to do what needs to be done, and is well prepared. *Proverbs 6:6-8 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."*(the ant being the example is this illustration).

A virtuous woman isn't going to be afraid of the season. She will have her family prepared and clothed with scarlet - which scarlet was a very valuable material.

Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."

Wisdom (being prepared) is putting your effort and energy into making your household better (more prepared). *Proverbs 24:3 "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding is it established."*

In Titus chapter 2 Paul teaches about the qualities of the aged man and the aged women, but as part of being the aged (wise and virtuous) woman you are to teach the younger women. *Titus 2:4-5* “*That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*”

13. Beautiful:

Proverbs 31:22 “*She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*”

The beauty in a virtuous woman doesn't require much effort, the way God sees it, because to Him we are created in his image. *Genesis 1:27* “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*”

I would say that the same effort a virtuous woman will put into everything else, husband, family, home, etc. she will put into beauty, because she is a crown (adornment to her husband). *Proverbs 12:4* “*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.*”

A virtuous woman will make her husband look good. (In my opinion a woman can make beauty vain by conforming to the world's view of beauty) *Proverbs 31:30* “*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.*” The outward appearance of beauty is a crown to her husband; a well-dressed and modest wife will have righteous discretion. *Proverbs 11:22* “*As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair women which is without discretion.*”

The inner beauty of a virtuous woman is what's most pleasing to God, as He looks upon the heart. *1 Peter 3:3-4* “*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*”

A virtuous woman understanding beauty, not as the world sees it, but as God sees it, shows that she fears Him, which is something that should be praised.

14. Marries a godly man:

Proverbs 31:23 “*Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*”

Marriage is blessed tremendously by God if you are able to wait on the Lord, and marry in his will for you. *Proverbs 18:22* “*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*”

A virtuous woman, if she is able to wait for God's will in a husband, will marry a man of good reputation, and one that is known as an elder. Earlier, I spoke about an honorable man marrying a virtuous woman; that will bring favor of the Lord and will be blessed as an equally yoked couple for God.

One of the most important choices a virtuous woman will make in her life is the man she marries; as it will affect the rest of her walk with God.

I was blessed that my wife not only waited on the Lord's will, but also made it a point with God that if it was not ok with her father/pastor than she would take that as God's will. This to me showed great virtue in my wife for not only waiting on God, but also the honor and obedience she had to her father who is also her pastor. *Proverbs 19:14 "House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord."*

15. Profitable:

Proverbs 31:24 "She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant."

A virtuous woman works willingly, and uses it for profit; as in all labor there is profit. *Proverbs 14:23 "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury."*

There is a difference between a woman of this world and a virtuous woman of God, that is; one of this world will use her energy and might to destroy her house (figurative sense), but one of virtue will use her energy and might to build her house, and that labor is profitable in the eyes of the Lord, and she will be rewarded greatly in heaven. *Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."*

In Acts, we find a woman named Lydia who labored in selling purple linen. She used what she had to support Paul in the ministry, using what she had made a profit in for something that is profitable towards the Lord's work. *Acts 16:14-15 "And a certain woman named Lyd'i-a, a seller of purple, of the city of Thy-a-ti'ra, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us."*

16. Has a good testimony:

Proverbs 31:25 "Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

The definition of a testimony is: Evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something. The virtuous woman's life will show forth strength, honor, joy, and she can rejoice in the future, because she is living a righteous life for God. Your good testimony can win people around you to the Lord - but I will say that it's the Gospel and the blood of Jesus that saves a soul, not one's testimony.

1 Peter 3:1-2 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;" 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." The unbelieving husband can be won by the "chaste conversation" of the wife (virtuous woman). Strength and honor are great characteristics of a virtuous woman, and they are her clothing. She wears her testimony outwardly so that people will notice the Lord through the way she carries herself, and that is something that brings joy, not only to the woman, but to God also.

17. She filters with her heart:

Proverbs 31:26 "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Any Christian should be able to filter their words and thoughts with their heart. Everything a virtuous woman says is wise and kind, ("law of kindness" she makes it law to be kind) and she is always considerate of how her words can affect those that are listening. *Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

In James, the Bible talks about controlling the tongue. If one can control the tongue they can control the whole body. *James 3:6 "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

Not many people will think about the consequences of their words before they speak them, but a virtuous woman will think with her heart, and will be righteous in her response. *Proverbs 8:8 "All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing forward or perverse in them."*

18. She is Diligent:

Proverbs 31:27 "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

Diligence can be defined as being careful and persistent in your work and you put abundant effort into it. In this verse, we see that a virtuous woman looks well to the ways of her home. She puts effort into making it look good, clean, pure, holy, etc.

The opposite of diligence is idleness, which is defined as laziness or a time of inactivity. A virtuous woman will always look well to the ways of her household and will not eat the bread of idleness, because, if she is idle, she doesn't bring glory to God, and she becomes unprofitable. *Proverbs 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."*

An idle woman provides herself with too much time and she can become a busybody or talebearer the Bible says, there are priorities of a virtuous woman that will demand her time (like childbearing and keeping a home). *I Timothy 5:13-14 "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."*

When you are diligent in your work for the Lord it will make you rich, and profitable; for the Lord and in the Lord. Virtuous women have a home to keep, and their diligence in that will bring honor and glory to God, and to their testimonies (A good name is rather to be chosen...). *Proverbs 22:29 "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."*

19. She is Praised:

Proverbs 31:28 "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Praise is an affirmation that a virtuous woman deserves, from her family the most, because they know her the best. One of the best things a Christian can do is not be a hypocrite, and as a husband of a virtuous woman, I can honestly say, my wife is not a hypocrite. She is one who loves the Lord and the brethren with all sincerity, and as a husband, as well as our children, I should praise her abundantly for the work she does for the Lord and our family. *Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."*

Let's face it men, we love ourselves. In verse 28 in Ephesians 5, the Bible tells us that if we love our wives, then we love ourselves, and in loving our wives (women of great virtue) we need to offer the praise they deserve to them every day. *Proverbs 11:16 "A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches."* That word retain means to keep. A virtuous woman is already honored, and by being worthy she should be honored and praised every day.

20. She Excels:

Proverbs 31:29 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Throughout time there have been many women who have done well for the Lord and their families, but there is such as a virtuous woman who separates herself from the rest and really puts persistent effort into being the absolute best for God and her family.

In verse 10 of Proverbs 31, we saw that a virtuous woman's price was far above rubies. That far above price is put on a virtuous woman who excels the best. *II Corinthians 8:7 "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."*

We as Christians, in general, should always be looking to be the best we can for God, and put all our might in abundance towards God's work. *Colossians 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"*

A virtuous woman should excel in all things because virtue (goodness) is never attained perfectly, so it requires a constant conscious effort to work at it every day. There was only one perfect man and that was, is, and forever will be Jesus Christ!

21. She Fears God:

Proverbs 31:30 "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

A virtuous woman, who fears God, shows that she doesn't trust in her vain beauty or favor, but that it's her trust in the Lord that makes her happy and secure. It may sound weird to say, but if you fear the Lord it shows you trust and have faith in him, because in this lifetime you have to bring glory to God and to not man.

Proverbs 16:20 "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

In the case of a virtuous woman, she is not putting her trust in herself to make herself look good or her family, but she uses the Lord working in her to bring glory to Him. The Lord says for a wife (virtuous woman) to submit to her own husband as unto the Lord (paraphrasing Eph. 5:22), but it has nothing to do with the husband - she submits because she fears God. The fear of God, for a virtuous woman, is not a bad fear. It is actually a good testimony and shows that she hates the evil of this world. *Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."* Our Saviour Jesus Christ said in *Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

22. She will be Rewarded:

Proverbs 31:31 "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

We just saw, in verse 30, how a virtuous woman "shall be praised" if she fears God, and here we see that she should receive the fruit (reward) of her hands (her work), and let her own works (what she sows, her testimony) praise her in the gates. What a blessing it is that we have a God that is not a respecter of persons, but rather justly rewards each of us for the work we do for Him and that glory we bring to His name.

A virtuous woman is going to reap from that which she sows. She will reap good fruit from the good works of her hands. *Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."* This is not a hard verse to understand. A good name (one who serves the Lord faithfully their whole life) is better than any money can buy. The favor and praise of a virtuous woman's family to her is worth far more than any silver or gold.

Conclusion

As a Christian, we should always look at the Word of God as our wisdom, instruction, guidance, help, protection, and you can go on and on with what the Word of God can be to us. This is why, when reading and learning of God's Word, we should look at the application in the times that we live in today.

In II Timothy chapter 3, Paul speaks of the perilous time that shall come. We are living in those perilous times now. Paul also states that men will become lovers of their own selves, then in verse 7 of chapter 3, Paul says "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." If, as Christians (virtuous women, honourable men, and obedient children) we can apply God's wisdom in our life, then we will recognize these perilous times and we will be different.

As Christians, we are not supposed to be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1,2) but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We need to stand out for Jesus and allow him to be light through us. I believe if the virtuous women of this world can apply what is taught and encouraged in *Proverbs 31*, they will be better prepared for these perilous times today, and it will protect their families and will show their value (great price) that they are to God.

Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

As a practical application of a virtuous woman, as is spoken about in this paper, I would like to share with you a testimony of my wife. I came home a few months ago and noticed a list on our refrigerator and I asked her what it pertained to, and she said it's her list of goals to keep herself organized at home. I found this a tremendous blessing and great testimony of God working through her to be an example of a virtuous woman, wife, and mother to our little 2 year old daughter. You may say, "How can a 2 year old learn from this?" and I would say that, as my daughter grows up into who God wants her to be, she will always remember the example of how her mother handled herself for her family and husband.

She will never have to see the hypocrisy of having a worldly example versus a Godly example, because all my wife does is allow God to work in her as this virtuous woman, wife, and mother. The list is as follows (based off of taking care of our 4 month old son and 2 year old daughter):

- Prayer and Bible time
- Bath and dress kids
- take vitamins
- keep house clean + 2 extra things around the house
- Husbands to do list
- cook healthy meals
- Kids eat fruit, veggies and protein
- nap time for kids (work on big girl bed naps with daughter)
- Kids learning time
- Kids art time
- Exercise/outside time
- Kids bed time routine

In this list I can find 19 qualities of a virtuous woman. First we know she is hard to find (Proverbs 31:10), looking for a wife who on a daily basis recognizes what she has to do for her husband, kids, and home, is not easy to pick out - and that is why marrying in Gods will is imperative.

She is trustworthy/faithful, good, works willingly, doesn't limit herself (Proverbs 31:11-14), as you can see in this list, I have trust in my wife, through her faithfulness to God, that she will do what is best for our family. She is good at what she does and she does it willingly, and not begrudgingly, all the while not limiting herself to just what is on this list (a virtuous woman is prepared for anything).

We can see in this list that she is not lazy (her day is filled looking well to her household), but strong, wise, and not a quitter (through Gods wisdom she knows what it takes), creative and well prepared (she is creative in the way she handles 2 kids at different levels of learning, but well prepared in her ability to balance and divide her attention to both) (Proverbs 31:16-21).

Finally we can see how she is charitable (putting a lot love into other things before taking care of herself), profitable (allowing God to work in her life and doing what he commands in these times today is extremely profitable), having a good testimony for God (does not have to be explained in this case, the list alone brings glory to God), diligent (everyday putting effort into her work), praised (loved by her husband and children for all she does), how she excels (virtuous women always separate themselves from average), fears God (she understands wisdom) and how she is rewarded (Husband and children give her affirmations and she lays her treasure up in heaven) (Proverbs 31:21-31).

What is a virtuous woman? Who is a virtuous woman? Through the eyes of God she is of great price and the women of this world need to look to become that virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31.

Likewise every man should look to God to bring them a virtuous woman in marriage, because as one flesh they will be able to do great things for God. What about a man? Does he deserve such a woman as described in Proverbs 31?

In order for a man to receive such a woman as “meet” to him, he must always be willing to work, provide for his family, be a spiritual leader, allow God to be God in his life and his families lives, serve the Lord in his home (Joshua 24:15), serve in the church/ministry, put his hand to the plough for God and not look back, be an example of holiness, be blameless and of good behavior (I Timothy 3), etc.

The list of qualifications for a man to deserve such a woman can be a mile long, but most importantly it is the man that leaves father and mother and cleaves to his wife. The man has to be ready and willing to be subject unto God at all times and have such an unblemished testimony to deserve such a woman as described in Proverbs 31.

Ephesians 5:31-33

³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh

³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.