

Virtuous Woman!

An Exposition of
Biblical Womanhood
as God gives us in
Proverbs 31

By

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Introduction

This book is dedicated to all the women of God in the Body of Christ—may you be virtuous women of God! While the Bible does not have volumes in length written about womanhood, it has volumes contained in its doctrines on the subject whose depths are both simple and understandable and yet profound and demanding a life time of study and contemplation. In this book I hope to encourage the reader to probe more deeply into Scripture and to cast vision for what God calls a virtuous woman in the Bible.

Dear reader, may you raise your daughters to be such women. Women, may you be encouraged to be the feminine person that God has called you to be and be set free from the bonds of modern day Feminism and false doctrines that have

been drilled into you by legalistic teaching—may you be wise women! Virtuous women! Holy Women! Gentle Women! Who love their husbands, children, and Christ Jesus our Lord!

Grace and Peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ryan Marks

Let's begin with a Word of caution
from the Scriptures themselves:

A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing. **14** For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, **15** To call passengers who go right on their ways: **16** Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, **17** Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant. **18** But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

Proverbs 9:13-18

The foolish woman, God says, is clamorous and simple. She doesn't really know anything. She sits at the door of her

house or on a seat in the high places calling out to those who pass by, especially those who are on the straight and narrow path to drag them down. The things she offers within her walls are secret things that may appear sweet at first, but those who go to her are as good as dead. This is an accurate depiction of the Hollywood woman of today—the worldly woman who has no bonds to God, Faith, household, or conscience.

God's plan is so much more for women! God created woman as a helper to the man (Gen 2), and the weaker vessel at that, so that she would be cherished, protected, and valued. Christian culture has uplifted women to a place of virtue and respect if you study history, whereas socialist regimes and cruel dictatorships just treat women as another worker or an

instrument of sensual pleasure which they dispose of at will.

God loves you, woman of God! He even goes so far in His Word as to use a pure woman as symbol of His beloved Church—the pure and spotless Bride that Jesus is coming back for to eternally wed and never be separated from, but to eternally abide together in relationship in His Kingdom!

Let's look at how God describes a virtuous woman (hint: as a jewel of great price—you're worth so much more than you know to God):

10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. **11** The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. **12** She

will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. **13** She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. **14** She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. **15** She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. **16** She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. **17** She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. **18** She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night. **19** She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. **20** She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. **21** She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet. **22** She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple. **23** Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. **24** She maketh fine

linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles
unto the merchant. **25** Strength and
honour *are* her clothing; and she shall
rejoice in time to come. **26** She openeth
her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue
is the law of kindness. **27** She looketh well
to the ways of her household, and eateth
not the bread of idleness. **28** Her children
arise up, and call her blessed; her husband
also, and he praiseth her. **29** Many
daughters have done virtuously, but thou
excellest them all. **30** Favour *is* deceitful,
and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that*
feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and
let her own works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Outline of Proverbs 31

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

A virtuous woman is rare. When God brings her into your life men, she is someone to seek the Lord about! Is she the one whom God would have you wed? (Gen. 24, Matt. 1:20, Hosea 1:2).

The woman who is virtuous has virtue, that is, *a particular moral excellence; as the virtue of temperance, of chastity, of charity...or that which constitutes value or merit...the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice...a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law...the practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and his laws* (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

The woman with the quality of virtue is for more valuable than a castle full of rubies!

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

She can be trusted, you will not have a doubt that this woman will cause you harm and discredit your reputation or ministry—your calling that she labors alongside you in, men. No, she is woman of virtue who can be trusted. The heart of her husband *safely* trusts in her and I dare say that He is exceedingly grateful to God for her!

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

She won't bring her husband harm but good! Not just one day or two days, but her whole life! No one else, not mother, not

Christian sister, not father, not Christian brother can do the same!

13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is diligent. She seeks the components of things which she wants to make and *willingly* (not under compulsion or disdain note) works with her hands. She loves to work!

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

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

Her home, that is, her household [her family] not the house is her priority. She is like the merchant ships that go far away to get produce—she does the same for her household. She even gets up while it is still

night and prepares food not only for her own household, but for her servant girls (those who work for her).

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

She is wise and frugal. She has both skill and discernment to determine whether or not to buy a field and make it profitable. With the fruit of her own labor (her hands) she plants a vineyard—a hard and laborious task, seeing the benefit that will come later on down the road.

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

She isn't afraid of hard work. Her torso is strong and so are her arms for her work. She is able to perceive (see ahead) that her work—the merchandise she's producing—is good and she even works into the night with a vision for what the future return will be.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She manages her time well. Even multi-tasking—see the spindle and distaff—she knows her craft and works with her tools. She was working on a field before, now she is working wool or some other kind of material to produce merchandise that will likewise be profitable—either to sell or to clothe her own household.

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

But that is not all, no she is not so consumed in her work that she has grown greedy and cold for she is kind to the poor and generous. She seeks to bless those in need and care for the outcast. Studying history, Christian women have begun many charities and touched many lives as they reach out to the poor. O what a gift the virtuous woman is to her family and society as she does things that her husband does not have the time for as he provides for his household!

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

Her heart is for her home and she lovingly prepares for them (whether it be meals, education, prayer, clothing, a hug, encouragement—the motherly nurture that only a woman can give).

We see here that she is prepared and not afraid; if snow comes, so what? Her household is ready.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

Purple is a symbol of royalty and we see that she is well dressed (modest and womanly); not scantily clad—even in clothing that she has made with her own hands. The skill of being able to make clothing is one that is far more valuable than many realize. When women largely made the clothing for their own households, including themselves, generally there was much more modest clothing on the average Joe than today's shopping selections that many Christian women bring home. O that we would heed the pattern of the Scripture! God has a way which He has ordained for the virtuous woman to walk and her way is a glorious

way. For she is a woman who fears God, loves her family, is kind to the poor and is skilled in many things and able to be the manager of her entire family economy. She is not a mere “cook and clean.” No, she is such an asset—of invaluable worth to her family! What a blessing she is!

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

Her husband is respected, probably because of her for his heart safely trusts in his wife—he has no fear that she will not be faithful to him or foolish in her dealings in this world. Further we see that he could not be an elder if he had a quarrelsome and gossiping wife in the Pastoral Epistles. But a wife of virtue! She will exalt him before others and give him credibility to serve others as a leader. Woman, you are so important. God has given you a particular role and function in His body and the

family unit for glorious purposes. Your honorable role and design that feminists call “demeaning” is an essential component in God’s design. Don’t think you’re worthless—God place immeasurable worth upon you yea “greater than rubies.”

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

She has practical wisdom—she is involved in manufacturing for the merchants. She supplies the merchants! How’s that for decentralization and entrepreneurship! She is such a blessing to not only her family, but the natural economy. Are you beginning to see how God’s design for women as pictured in Proverbs 31 is a national blessing? O how exciting it is to see just a glimpse of what the implications of God’s design are!

25 Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She is strong and worthy of honor! She has spiritual clothing of strength and honor that can be seen by those around her. Have you ever been in the presence of someone who was a resolute hero of the faith? They have consistently fought the good fight for the Faith and when you stand in your presence, you just sense the honor and strength God has given them in His service? The virtuous woman is like that! She *shall* rejoice in time to come!

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

She is prudent (wise) and kind—a woman of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God’s sight (1 Peter 3).

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

There is no doubt, she is not a sloth, but a woman who serves her family out of love for them—she isn't idle, but diligent. O what character!

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

Her children and husband recognize her virtue and praise her. The sad reality of the feminist, and many of them have related it, that in their old age they have no husband to praise them nor any children, whom they grieve that they did not have because they were so consumed in a quest for the feminist agenda, or status, or a career that marriage and a family never became part of the package. Or perhaps she did have a husband and children, but because she did

not submit herself to God's design, her children and husband never really saw any virtue worthy of praise—just a woman who was their mother, but whose priority was not her household, but a career or some other self-centered pursuit. May you seek the Lord first (Matt 6:33) and make your chief priority your household, dear women reading!

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

In the eyes of her husband, she excels all other women in virtue and character. In the eyes of God, she is a precious jewel, a gem of womanly virtue as He designed it. In the eyes of her children, she is the best mother in all the world—such a blessing!

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

Note: Favor, other translations say charm.

Favor in this sense or charm is deceptive. Flirtation is deceptive. But **a woman who fears the Lord—SHE IS A GIFT OF GREAT WORTH—SHE CANNOT BE BOUGHT!** O that more young women would apply themselves to fearing the Lord continually! Far too many are studying to flirt and be charming when they do not even realize that natural beauty or skill at getting men's attention really don't matter at all—having character that God calls her to, and that is honorable, is the important thing.

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

Let the Fruit of the virtuous woman's labors be given to her. Let the deeds that she has done praise her in the gates!

A Couple of Other Passages to Dwell and Listen to the Holy Spirit On:

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: **2** That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. **3** The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour 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. **6** Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. **7** In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, **8** Sound speech, that

cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 *Exhort* servants to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again;

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. **11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly

lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great

God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **15** These things

Speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Titus 2:1-15

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. **3** Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of 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. **5** For after this manner in the

old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: **6** Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:1-7

