

The Christian Home - A Virtuous Woman - Prov. 31:10-31

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The description of the virtuous woman is designed to show what wives the women should make and what wives the men should choose. *Who can find a virtuous woman?* What a question! **We have witnessed a revolution of moral values in our country over the past few decades, and America is not the nation she was a generation ago.** Women are being deceived and believing the devil's lie, just as Eve did over 6,000 years ago. Women are trading their honored place of God's divine design for a place of dishonor in the devil's plan. There is nothing quite as precious or treasured on earth as a virtuous woman. **Christian women should be determined to set a holy example for those who follow after them.** All through the book of Proverbs, we have the idea that a father is teaching his son, but when we come to this last chapter, we see a mother teaching her son (Prov. 31:1). We aren't certain who this king Lemuel is; many believe he is Solomon. In Prov. 31:2, we see the mother calling him *the son of my vows*. This reminds us of Hannah when she prayed for a son and vowed to give him back to the Lord (1 Sam. 1:11). She kept this promise and Samuel brought about a mighty revival in Israel. **If we had more Hannahs, we would have more Samuels.**

1. The Heart of a Virtuous Woman - Prov. 31:10

Her heart is priced *far above rubies*. The emphasis is on what a woman is, not what a woman has done. Her character is priced higher than her accomplishments. Virtue is one of the things we should consider. Phi. 4:8. **Virtue - the practice of moral duties from a sincere love to God and His laws; voluntary obedience to the truth.** 2 Pet. 1:5. *Add to your faith virtue.* We do not add faith, we add to our faith; faith is the foundation, and there are many graces which we are to add to our faith. Virtue is what we are by God's grace by trusting the indwelling Holy Spirit to produce Christlikeness in us. **Virtue becomes a garden from which other desirable qualities bloom and grow. It is a heart matter. Virtue is not trying to be like someone else, but it is allowing the indwelling Christ to take control and make us like Him from the inside out.** God says men need to find a virtuous woman. She is a woman who has a heart for God, whose heart is changed, who wants to live a holy life from the inside out. A virtuous woman is someone who does not argue about what is right; she is someone who loves Christ, and as soon as she finds out what Christ wants, she does it. *Who can find a virtuous woman?* Many things are said about the outward appearance of women, but we need to realize that it all starts in the heart. 1 Tim. 2:9. We live in an immodest age and it is hard to embarrass people anymore. **The sensitivity of womanhood to immodesty has been lost in our country.** Christians should not be so affected by the world. The truth is, if there is virtue in the heart of a Christian woman, she will not have a desire to dress immodestly. This might be hard for some to swallow, but it is the truth. A Christian woman will want to adorn herself in *modest apparel*; not to be seen of men or to turn the heads of men, but to honor God. Tit. 2:3-5. Older women have a charge from the Lord to provide the right example for the younger women. **Virtue in the heart will produce modesty in appearance.** What do you want for your daughters or for your granddaughters? God said the *aged women* should set the example. If you have clothing that is immodest, you should get rid of it. We dress a certain way because we are a certain way in our hearts. Times may have changed, but God's holy standards have not changed! Prov. 7:8-10. God says that this woman was dressed in *the attire of an harlot*. Her clothing revealed things on her body that should not have been emphasized.

We live in a world where everything from soap to jeans is sold by sex. **We are being sold a lie through subtlety!** **Subtil** - sly; artful; cunning; crafty; deceitful. The first mention of *subtil* is referring to the devil, when he changed the truth of God into a lie and deceived the first woman. Here in Proverbs we see that a woman who dresses like an harlot is *subtil of heart*. It is a heart matter. **Our apparel does not make us spiritual, but it is a reflection of our spirituality. The farther this world goes to the left, the more extreme our Bible position sounds. The Bible is a book of absolute, moral truth: right is still right, virtue is still virtue, modesty is still modesty.**

2. The Husband of a Virtuous Woman - Prov. 31:11

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. You cannot build a home without trust. If you are married to a woman who is constantly attempting to turn the heads of men, and coming on to men, you will be miserable. **Every virtuous woman deserves a God-fearing, God-honoring, Spirit-filled husband, and every Christian man deserves a virtuous wife that he can trust.** Prov. 12:4, A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband. The world today calls being a virtuous woman old-fashioned. They promote the idea for men to only seek after "sexy" women, but they do not show you the end of that lifestyle. They do not show you a life wrecked and ruined and all the heartache that goes along with that lifestyle. We need virtuous mothers who will teach their sons to look for the right thing in women they are going to marry; but sadly today, we have single mothers who dress inappropriately so they can quickly attract a man and give their children a father - just any father will do. Psa. 90:17, And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us. **People should know we are Christians by our appearance. The most beautiful people in the world are the men and women, who by spending time with God, have the beauty of the Lord upon them!** The most unpleasant thing is for a "Christian" woman to wear underpants as "overpants," short dresses and skirts, low-cut tops, and tight clothing to show every curve on their body, **ESPECIALLY TO CHURCH!** They are teaching the younger women that it is okay to dress like that, and they are teaching their boys that they should seek that kind of woman to date and to marry someday.

3. The Home of a Virtuous Woman - Prov. 31:12-31

I know we are living in a time where many women are working, but just because you work outside the home does not mean that you cannot make the home your priority. The home is to be your first place of importance and influence. Many women today have their priority as social concerns, but a Christian woman is to put her home first. The world, television, and movies are telling this generation the exact opposite of God's Word. We need holy men and women to teach Biblical principles to their children at home. Ladies, desire in your heart to be a virtuous woman.

4. The Holiness of a Virtuous Woman - 1 Pet. 3:5

In this perverse world, people should be able to look at a Christian woman and say, "She is a holy woman." **We are living in a world that is swaying back and forth, without direction, aimlessly drifting, and this matter of holiness is essential.** Think about how much time we all spend in front of the mirror for the outward appearance. Compare that to how much time we spend on our knees getting our hearts right with God. We must place the emphasis where God places the emphasis: on holiness.

Most Churches and Christians have drifted to the left. Just because the world drifts to the left doesn't mean we have to drift that way. **We need to stand our ground and remove not the ancient landmark of absolute truth!** The Church and Christians should be standing out more today than we ever have before based on how far left the world has drifted! The world (nature) tends to lean toward the left. Did you know that when a blacksmith is tempering a sword, when the sword is in the fire, he bends the sword to the right, because during the cooling process, it will lean to the left? The only way a sword will end up straight is to have it bent to the right while the heat is on! There is an engineering diagram to illustrate this known as the Time-temperature Transformation (TTT) diagram. Aren't you thankful that the Lord will put us in the fire (temperature) for just the right amount of time, in order to transform us into His image? **What I'm saying is, it gets hot during the preaching, so while the heat is on the sword (the Bible), it may seem like I'm an ultra-conservative, old-fashioned, fundamental, King James Bible-believing, right-wing to the extreme, but I have to preach that far right, so by the time the message has cooled down and you're in your car on the way home, you'll be straightened out by the preaching, and not lean toward the left to turn on that worldly music and drown out the sermon! AMEN!**

There should be a different standard of living between people who know the Lord Jesus and people who do not know the Lord. **How will the unsaved, biblically illiterate people who have heard nothing but the philosophy of the world, know how they are to conduct themselves?** How will they ever know how to rear their children? They will learn these things only through the lives of holy women. No matter what stage of life you are in, you can have a ministry to other women who are younger than you simply by living a holy life. Every woman in this church has an influence on the women (or the girls) who are younger than them. They are watching how you dress and how you act.

Home Work

- **Set a holy example for women younger than you.**
- **Allow the Holy Spirit to make you like Christ from the inside out.**
- **Dress in modest apparel, not like an harlot, no matter what the world says or does.**
- **Be the kind of wife your husband can trust.**
- **Have the beauty of the Lord on your life by spending time with Jesus Christ each day.**
- **Don't dress inappropriately to turn the heads of men.**
- **See the home as your great place of service and influence for God.**
- **Place your husband and home first in importance above all other earthly concerns.**
- **Live such a godly life that your children will call you *blessed*.**
- **Place the emphasis where God does: on holiness.**
- **Be an example for younger women to follow.**