

The Woman of Noble Character

Proverbs 31:10-31

Proverbs 31:10-12

A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

**Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.**

**She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.**

Proverbs 31:25-31

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Noble Character

- Hebrew *chayil*: “strength,” “wealth,” “efficiency,” or “valor.”
- “Complete commitment regardless the cost”
- Abraham Lincoln’s *Gettysburg Address*: “from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.”
- Christ “loved them to the end” (John 13:1).

1. She lives in the real world

- **Vs 13: “She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.”**
- **Vs 16: “She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.”**
- **Vs 17: “She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.”**
- **Vs 18: “She sees that her trading is profitable.”**
- **Vs 21: “When it snows,” which it rarely does in Israel, “she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.”**

Other worlds to live in

- **The world of the past:**
 - The idealistic past
 - The unhappy past
- **The world of the future:**
 - Unrealistic hopes and dreams
 - Fearful of what tomorrow may bring
- **Living in a fantasy world: running away from responsibility and opportunity**

In Christ we find the confidence to face the challenges of life

- **“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances ... I can do all things through him who gives me strength” (Phil. 4:11-13).**
- **“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10).**
- **“What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it” (Matt. 10:29).**
- **“I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinks about me” (Psalm 40:17).**

2. She is a compassionate person

- Vs 15: “She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.”**
- Vs 20: “She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”**

God's love changes how we see others

- **“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).**
- **“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16b).**
- **“There is no fear in love, But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).**

3. She spreads hope to others

- Vs. 25: “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”**
- Vs 23: “Her husband is respected at the city gate.”**
- Vs 26: “She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.”**
- Vs 28: “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”**

Susanna Wesley, 1669-1742

- Gave birth to 19 children, only 8 grew to adulthood.
- Her husband was deeply in debt most of their lives.
- Resolved to do what she could for God.
- Her sons John and Charles were the founders of Methodism.



Susanna Wesley on her family

“I felt I ought to do more than I had yet done. I resolved to begin with my own children; in which I observe the following method: I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night to discourse with each child apart. On Monday I talk with Molly, on Tuesday with Hetty, Wednesday with Nancy, Thursday with Jacky, Friday with Patty, Saturday with Charles.”

Sharing and Encouraging

- **“I can do all things through him who gives me strength” (Phil. 4:13).**
- **Do you live in the real world, facing your challenges responsibly and confidently?**
- **Are you helping others? Are you compassionate?**
- **Are you a hopeful person? Do you inspire others toward hope?**