

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
December 15, 2024 | “The Heroic Wife” | **Proverbs 31:10–31**

Eight Characteristics of the Proverbs 31 Wife:

- 1) She is _____ (31:10)
- 2) She is _____ (31:11–12)
- 3) She is _____ (31:13–19)
- 4) She is _____ (31:20)
- 5) She is _____ (31:21–25)
- 6) She is _____ (31:26–27)
- 7) She is _____ (31:28–29)
- 8) She is _____ (31:30–31)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 31:1–31. How do the two sections of this chapter connect (verses 1–9 and 10–31)? Why would Lemuel’s mother launch into a discussion about an “excellent wife?” Should an unmarried man use Proverbs 31:10–31 as a checklist for his future wife? Why or why not?

Read the eight characteristics above. What characteristics of the “Proverbs 31 wife” surprised you in this chapter? How is the best characteristic saved for last (see 31:30)?

How does this wife demonstrate her commitment to her family? Her husband? Her kids? Her work? Her God? How would a woman prioritize these commitments? Should there be room in a woman’s life for leisure and relaxation? What about romance with her husband?

GET PERSONAL

Name some women in your life who exemplify the characteristics of Proverbs 31:10–31. Are women naturally born with these characteristics? Do they automatically assume these traits once they get married? How might a woman grow in these characteristics over time? How might a husband encourage his wife to grow in these areas?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How does our modern-day world encourage and discourage Biblical, feminine virtues? How might you encourage the women in your life to exemplify these virtues? How should feminine virtues differ from masculine virtues?

ADVANCED QUESTION #1

The excellent wife in Proverbs 31 works both inside and outside of the home (31:13–19; 21–24). How do we balance this presentation with the statement in the NT that Christian women should “work at home” (Titus 2:5)? See the article on this topic by Bill Mounce to help you with this question:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/should-women-work-at-home>

ADVANCED QUESTION #2

Some commentators consider the Proverbs 31 woman to be an allegorical description of lady wisdom (see Prov 9:1–12). They assume that because these attributes are unattainable for women, that the author is putting forth a spiritual presentation of wisdom from above. What are the strengths and weaknesses of that theory? How might we interpret this passage as an example of a heroic woman that Christian women should emulate?