

A Woman of Noble Character II

In an issue of Readers Digest, it's what you read when you get older, Renee Zellweger was asked a question, "Would you like to be married?" Here is her response:

"Sure. I'd like to have a home, a place that feels permanently familiar. I'd like some semblance of family. But I don't have any prerequisites for happiness. I don't have a list of things – I never have. That might change. But I never said, Okay, by the time I'm this age I will have so many kids. I didn't think in my head about the perfect man, the perfect wedding and the perfect life we'd have. Like anything to do, I'm sure it will present itself. And if it doesn't, well then, I don't expect to be less happy."

On the surface, her response sounds pretty good, but as you look closely you can see a young lady who will one day be standing before a judge in a divorce hearing. Why do I say that, because it is the same response today that thousands of young people are giving and within 5 years will be asking themselves, "What went wrong?"

Preparation for marriage does not begin when you say, "I do," or when you find the "love of your life." Preparation begins NOW! The woman in Proverbs 31 just didn't become that person because "it presented itself." No doubt she prepared herself prior to marriage. The same for the husband, you don't stumble into a woman of noble character; you seek her. You will find her – men. You will find him – ladies, when you yourself are seeking the same qualities.

Proverbs 31:23-31

What would you say are the top three priorities the world places on a woman?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What would you say are the top three priorities of a Christian woman? (Realizing God as first priority)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

As interesting as your answers may be, probably very few if any choose the top priority of a noble woman. We will begin our study with the verse we finished last week – vs. 23. Vs. 23 is the central theme of Proverbs 31 and the top priority of a noble woman.

What is that top priority? _____

Read Proverbs 12:4. What does that verse say about a noble wife? _____

What does a crown signify? _____

The first part of this study (Prov 31:10-23) dealt with the woman's pursuit, but now let's look at her heart. A woman of noble character does not only have noble pursuits but a noble heart.

II. Her Heart

1. Inner Beauty (vs. 25-27)

A. Her Clothing vs. 25

What two things are her clothing?

1. _____

Think about an object that is extremely strong. (I can't help but think about the Hoover Dam.) Write down some characteristics of the object you thought of. (Ex. The Hoover Dam stands tall, firmly grounded, unwavering, rise above the rest)

Now apply these characteristics to a young lady? (Ex. does not follow the crowd, studies God's Word)

2. _____

Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10. What do you see are characteristics of honor?

What are some ways a young lady can apply these characteristics? _____

How does she feel about the future? _____

What would be the opposite reaction? _____

B. Her Words

What two things come from her mouth?

1. _____

Wisdom does not speak of what she says, but when to say it. Compare with 1 Peter 3:4. What does God see as precious?

This is also the opposite of the woman in Prov 7:11. What were her characteristics?

2. _____

How would you define kindness (see Prov 12:18, 16:24)?

C. Her Actions vs. 27

What two things does this verse say about her actions?

1. _____
2. _____

What is idleness (cp 6:6-11,19:15)? _____

It is amazing that in this day in time when we are “busier” than ever; we are full on the “bread of idleness”. Don’t confuse yourself that the busyness of the world is accomplishing God’s will. I can image that Donald Trump is probably one of the busiest people around, yet he feeds on the diet of the bread of idleness. It’s not just about being busy, but busy in the Lord’s will. Is it God’s will to be a good student – absolutely, but not at the cost of studying His Word. Is it God’s will to be a hard worker – absolutely, but not at the cost of His work.

A missionary, after leaving a people on a small island to return to the USA, said, “I have left a people who have nothing, but live in abundance. To return to a people who have abundance but live with nothing.”

2. The Praise (vs. 28 – 31)

A. Her Family (vs. 27-28)

How did God Praise this woman?

1. _____
2. _____

Diamonds and precious stones may be a “girls best friend” by the world’s standard, but the fine jewelry of a godly woman are the praises of her children who have grown up to fear the Lord and a husband who openly praises her.

What did she have to do to receive this kind of praise from her husband (see 2 Cor 5:9, Col 1:10)?

B. Her Godliness (vs. 30-31)

What does vs. 30 say about outward qualities?

What is the secret to her life? (vs. 30b)

What does that mean? _____

I can't think of a more miserable marriage than to think that a man or woman married for looks or a great body. Both will pass away, and probably the marriage will go as the looks go. But a man or woman who looks for the inner beauty of one who fears the Lord will only grow stronger, and to them the looks will never go.

Read vs. 31. Do you think she was looking for praise or a pat on the back?

What was her reward? _____

Personnel Reflection

You might be thinking, "I could never be that woman", or "I could never find that woman." It's not about becoming "that" woman or finding "that" woman, but fearing the Lord. That is nothing short of wanting the Lord so badly to be the most important thing in your life that nothing else matters, except Him. To want no other praise in your life to be than "he/she loves the Lord." Proverbs 31 is just a picture of what a life would be where the fear of the Lord exists.

Lets review.

What were three characteristics of a godly man?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How does a godly woman use her time? _____

What is important to a godly woman? _____

What are some things that come from her heart?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Something to think about

You might be thinking, "I need a boyfriend" or "I need a girlfriend". If that is what is most important, then you do not need one. Dating is not a recreational activity, nor do we need to enter into such a relationship quickly. As you delight yourself in the Lord, that is to make Him the only priority, He will give you the right desires (Ps 37:4). In the mean time watch; look for a young man or young woman who is already striving to fear the Lord. Who already possess many of these qualities we have seen in Proverbs. Don't settle for a pretty smile or a nice body; don't give in to flatter of the lips. Be patient! For most, this single time in your life will only last a few more years, but marriage is for a lifetime. Seek nothing less then the very best from the Lord.