

The Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10-15

Prov 31--anthem of virtuous woman.

Hebrew--poem that is acrostic.

Reason--easier to memorize.

1. Rare Prov 31:10

Virtuous: Pure, strong in all moral qualities; worthy; having or showing moral excellence.

The only woman in the Bible who was called virtuous: Ruth Ruth 3:11

for her price is far above rubies: very expensive and valuable commodity.

Far above rubies: Rubies considered most valuable and costly of all precious stones.

2. Trustworthy. Prov 31:11

She lives her life in such a way as to be above all suspicion of anything that is inconsistent with virtue.

Safely trust in her. at rest.

Trustfully trusts

No need of spoil: No cause for disadvantage or failure of profit.

Luther: The greatest gift of God is a pious amiable spouse, who fears God, loves his house, and with whom one can live in perfect confidence.

3. Supportive Prov 31:12

Do him good: Is profitable to him, does him benefit, helps him.

Evil Mischief

Has husband's best interest at heart.

Phillips: *I have a wife who rules in my affections and whose dominant characteristics are honesty and loyalty....Solomon married a thousand wives, but he never married one like mine.*

Prov 14:1

Thomas: *There are women who bring their houses to ruin. By their miserable tempers and degrading habits, they ruin their husbands, their children, they make the home the haunt of fiends.*

4. Good shopper. Prov 31:14

Scott: She collects coupons all week and goes to one store for bargains and other for bargains ...

5. Not lazy. Prov 31:15

Thomas: *Slothful women will not rise when day is come, but suffer the sun to run a great part of his daily race before they can think of waking from their slumbers....she loves her duty more than sleep.*

6. Wise investor. Prov 31:16

Considereth: To plan, plot, scheme, devise

Alden: *This capable woman will multiply and compound her assets through the wise manipulations of her holdings.*

...with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. ...now going to invest her time and energy in seeing her investment become productive and successful.

7. Physically fit. Prov 31:17

Girdeth: To put on as a belt or armor, to encircle or surround.

Loins: Mid-section above the hip bone and below the ribs.

Picture of woman gathering up robe and tying it down so can do serious work.

Strength: Force, security, majesty, boldness, might, power.

Gird up....put whole soul into work.

...strengtheneth her arms. Fortify, harden, add force to.

Strong arms come as result of diligence.

Sharon Rhoades: ... *It takes both the outward and the inward looks to complete a woman's picture. If she is a warm, giving, alert, loving, fun to be with and has femininity that is uncommonly beautiful, plus being spiritual, there is nothing a man can say but, "What a woman!...Charm and beauty are demonstrated by not getting too wrapped up in the outward, yet not ignoring it either. It is making the best of the original "equipment" that God designed and created.*

8. Good evaluator. Prov 31:18

perceiveth: to taste, discern, realize.

merchandise: Profit.

Good: Pleasing, prosperous, beautiful, prosperous, pleasant, gracious.

Candle...night: open clay dish containing oil and wick.

Required constant supply of oil to keep burning.

When candle burning all night--sign of life.

9. Willing to give time to do important things. Prov 31:19

Spindle: 8-12 inch shaft with hook at one end...a means to fastening thread.

Time-consuming, tiring jobs that must be done around house in order for needs of household met.

10. Gives to poor Prov 31:20

Stetcheth: To disperse, scatter or spread

Prov 3:9-10 Mat 10:8 1 John 3:17-18 2 Cor 9:6-7 Luke 6:38 Heb 6:10
Isa 58:10,11 Prov 14:21 Prov 19:17 Psa 41:1 Psa 112:9 Psa 2:11 Psa
100:2 Acts 20:19 Col 3:23-24 John 12:26

11. Prepared Prov 31:21

...household are clothed with scarlet.

Scarlet obtained from Tola, an insect or grub worm...crushed...produce fine red, crimson dye.

Repel cold.

12. Classy..Prov 31:22

Coverings of tapestry: concerned about how house looks.

...clothing is silk and purple. Silk imported from Assyria.

Soft and valuable material.

Sharon Rhoades, *The Proverbs woman is always in style because she sews her wardrobe. She is fashionable and looks nice because she always wants to remain attractive to her husband. When he comes home from work, she has on a fresh out-fit, has on just the right amount of makeup and she looks like she has just started her day rather than being on the verge of collapsing....*

13. Spiritual challenge. Prov 31:23

Gate of city --central thoroughfare of activity.

Elders of city meet every day to discuss issues of importance.

One of greatest things happen to man--married to joyful, happy, positive and virtuous woman.

Lawson: *One who sees him in the gate may easily judge that his wife is a virtuous woman. His clothes are decent, though not gaudy; his looks are cheerful; and the happiness which he enjoys at home appears in his face abroad.*

14. Industrious Prov 31:24

Able to sell products to caravan merchants--willing to buy and take to distant lands.

Dr. Ironsides: spiritual lesson: *...she who is faithful in ministering at home and clothes herself in a garment of practical godliness and righteousness, will have enough to spare for the blessing of others in the regions beyond.*

Girdles: Girdles were necessity for long flowing garments.

Used to gird up robes during times of physical activity.

15. Strong inner man Prov 31:25

Strength: Power, force, security, majesty, praise

Honour: magnificence--beauty, comeliness, excellency, glory, majesty.

While most women like to be clothed with gold and jewels this woman likes to be clothed with good and godly character—strength and honor.

Strength: Moral strength, ability to say No! to sin.

Consistent in mind and attitude.

Protected by character and convictions.

Sharon Rhoades: *Character in no way attacks femininity—it enhances it ...Femininity is a woman’s crowning glory—the attitude of honor, self-control, virtue, chastity, purity, a clean heart, sweetness, a gentle and quiet spirit and modesty.*

and she shall rejoice in time to come: reap benefits of life and character in years to come.

No regrets.

16. Discrete tongue Prov 31:26

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; Doesn’t keep mouth shut all time
When speaks says good and pleasant things.

S. Rhoades: *There is no bitter envying or jealousy or strife in the heart of the Proverbs woman because that is man’s wisdom (Ja 3:14,15). What she knows of divine wisdom, she uses wisely so that she becomes a blessing and benefit to others. She is discreet and firm, yet very kind. J Therefore, others seek her prudent advice and confide in her because she never gossips.*

Law: Regulation...under which live.

Imposed restrictions on speech. Psa 19:14 Psa 141:3

17. Diligent observer! Prov 31:27

Knows what going on in household.

... **ways of her household...** Concerned about every aspect of growth and development in children.

and eateth not the bread of idleness. Not sluggard.

Learned principles of time management and self-control.

S. Rhoades: *When women have nothing to do, the Devil will soon find something for them to do—idle hands are the Devil’s workshop. This idleness may be in gossip, discontent or self-pity.*

18. Praiseworthy Prov 31:28

Held in high esteem by family.

Consistent life before them.

her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Husband notices good character in her and tells her.

19. Superior Prov 31:29

Makes all other women pale in comparison

Excelled because of walk with Lord.

20. Surface as being best. Prov 31:30

Favour is deceitful. Charm, pleasantness

Beauty is vain. Outward beauty,

2 characteristics most women want: Charm and Beauty.

Woman of charm--many friends.

Woman of beauty--fun to watch.

Can have combination of both and not woman of value.

Favour (charm and pleasantness) *is deceitful* (lie, sham),

and beauty (pretty on outside) *is vain* (lacks substance, fruitless and worthless),

but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Has reverence and deep respect for God

That feareth the Lord.. real sense of awe toward God.

Not casual or flippant in relationship with God.

Takes it serious.

she shall be praised : Eventually will surface as being outstanding.

21. Character is obvious Prov 31:31

...**give her of the fruit of her hands.** What she deserves.

S. Rhoades: *A tree is known by its fruit; therefore, if the fruit is good, it will be praised. The same is true of the fruit of the hands of a woman. If her children respect her and conduct themselves as they should, they demonstrate the fruit of her hands and she reaps the benefits because of the care she has given them.*

In the gates: Among leaders in city.

Lawson: *She is entitled to honor; and if no tongue should give it to her, the works of charity and wisdom, which she is constantly practicing, will be a monument to her name. She is praised by all the wise who know her, and she shall have praise of God on the day when the seal shall be set to every character.*

So What?

1. Rare
2. Trustworthy
3. Supportive
4. Good shopper.
5. Not lazy.
6. Good investor.
7. Physically fit.
8. Good evaluator.
9. Willing to give time to do important things.
10. Gives to the poor
11. Prepared
12. Classy..
13. Industrious

15. Strong inner man
16. Discrete tongue
17. Diligent observer!
18. Praiseworthy.
19. Superior
20. The best
21. Her character is obvious