

A God-Fearing Woman

Proverbs 31:10-31

10 An excellent wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

14 She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.

15 She rises while it is yet night
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.

16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a
vineyard.

17 She dresses herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is
profitable. Her lamp does not go out at
night.

19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

20 She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of snow for her
household, for all her household are
clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchant.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her
household and does not eat the bread of
idleness.

28 Her children rise up and call her
blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

29 “Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be
praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

A woman who embodies wisdom

What she thinks of God:

“A woman who fears the Lord”

What God thinks of her:

A woman who fears the Lord is
to be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

What she thinks of God

“A woman who fears the Lord”

She reveres and adores God. She is amazed by God’s goodness and awestruck by God’s greatness. She fears nothing except dishonoring and displeasing the God she loves.

The fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Proverbs 9:10)

“Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28)

Family-friendly fear

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord... His offspring will be mighty in the land. (Psalm 112:1-2)

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. (Psalm 128:3-4)

What she thinks of God:
“A woman who fears the Lord”

What God thinks of her:

A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband (Proverbs 12:4).

A prudent wife is from the Lord.
(Proverbs 19:14)

Pagan

“A female is a kind of mutilated male... Females are imperfect males, accidentally produced by the father’s inadequacy or by the malign influence of a moist south wind.”

(Aristotle)

Rabbis

“Let the words of the Law be burned rather than committed to a woman.”

“He who talks with a woman in public brings evil upon himself.”

“One is not so much as to greet a woman.”

Hindu

“If her husband is happy, she should be happy; if he is sad, she should be sad; and if he is dead, she should also die.”

“Foundations of Hindu society would be shaken if widows were not burned alive.”

“A Hindu husband regards himself as lord and master of his wife, who must ever dance attendance upon him.” (Gandhi)

Muslim

“Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the other... As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them.” (Koran)

Evolutionist

“Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind.” (George Gaylord Simpson)

Women are equal to men: accidental byproducts of slime and time.

Feminism

A girl had to write an essay on why women outnumber men in the world. She wrote, “God made Adam first. Then God said to himself, ‘I think I can do better than that if I try again.’ So then he made Eve. And God liked Eve so much better than Adam that he has been making more women than men ever since.”

Trinity-based glory and equality

So **God** created man in his own image,
male and female he created them.

(Genesis 1:27)

There is no male and female, for you
are all one in **Christ Jesus**. (Gal 3:28)

On my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my **Spirit**. (Acts 2:18)

What makes a woman praiseworthy?

“A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

1. The beauty myth
2. The career myth
3. The family myth
4. The superwoman myth

Beauty?

In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. (Job 42:15)

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion...
Her clothing is fine linen and purple...
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 11:22; 31:22,30)

Career?

She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a
vineyard. She dresses herself with
strength and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is
profitable... She makes linen
garments and sells them; she delivers
sashes to the merchant. (Proverbs
31:16-18,24)

Family?

10 An excellent wife ... 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life... 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household. (Proverbs 31:10-12,26-27)

Superwoman?

- Proverbs 31 tells about a God-fearing woman who does it all from A to Z.
- Psalm 112 tells about a God-fearing man who does it all from A to Z.
- Wisdom has value in everything from A to Z, and wisdom starts with fear of the Lord. You don't have "to do it all" to be a worthy person, but everything you do will benefit from the wisdom of fearing the Lord.

What makes a woman praiseworthy?

“A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

1. Beauty benefits
2. Provisions prosper
3. Family flourishes
4. Abilities abound

The power of praise

Changed by what you praise.

The higher your view of God, the deeper your holy fear, the more you revere and adore him, the more you will be shaped by God-given wisdom.

Changed by being praised.

God's approval and praise of the God-fearing woman makes you into what He says you are.

Praised by God, husband, children, and community

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

**Excellence brings praise.
Praise builds excellence.**

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life... 28 Her husband praises her: 29 “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

Does he trust and praise her because she is excellent, or is she so excellent because he trusts and praises her. YES

Ten-cow woman



Call Her Blessed

A woman's not much
if she's nothing but charm
(though having a bit
doesn't do any harm).

A girl whose main thought
is of how she will look
Isn't worth all that much,
at least not in God's book.

Call Her Blessed

But a mom who loves God,
and not just her own beauty,
Is a blessing to all
as she goes beyond duty.
Her children are happy.
Her husband is, too.
They rise up and say,
“How blessed are you!”

Call Her Blessed

Yes, you are great-looking,
There's no doubt about it.
But there's much more to you,
And it's time that we shout it.
You're loving, you're gentle,
You're patient and kind.
You've got a sweet spirit.
You've got a sharp mind.

Call Her Blessed

And you're not just a mom.

You are also a teacher.

You show God's great glory

In making each creature.

You teach about grammar.

You teach about math.

You tell of young David

And Goliath of Gath

Call Her Blessed

You show us the things
That God wants us to do.
You even do field trips,
Museum, and zoo.
You cook tasty meals.
You put up with our noise.
You do thoughtful things
That create many joys.

Call Her Blessed

One day, years ago,
You became my new wife.
And in all the years since
You have brightened my life.
To five girls and three boys
You have been a great mother.
Can any surpass you?
No, there isn't another.

Notes

Jesus didn't just pay ten cows; he paid his blood, and he gave his Holy Spirit.

You become worth what your divine husband paid for you and declares you to be.

Husbands, do you want your wife to be excellent? Then praise her excellence and treat her like a royalty. You're not just pretending. If she's a God-fearing woman, she IS royalty: she's a daughter of the King of the universe.

Kids and community: don't take a God-fearing mother for granted.

Parents praising graduates helps the youth to BECOME what their parents declare them to be.