

# The Value of a Virtuous Woman Pr. 31:10-31

## Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Mother's Day 2019

There's no doubt to even a casual observer that our culture is changing rapidly! In the last 4 years we've not only redefined Marriage and Gender; but now we're debating about what to do with babies born alive after a failed abortion! HR 962 (*protecting babies born alive after an abortion attempt*) has been blocked 34 times in the House of Representatives!

Jeremiah 6:15-17 reminds us that sin and selfishness isn't new. God has always called us back to His ways, and humanity usually rejects these for the Devil's counterfeits and lies. *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein!"*

3000 years ago, God gave us His perspective on what makes for an effective wife and mother.

Pr. 31:10-31 is a Hebrew Acrostic; To make it easier to learn & remember!

*"Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies."*

## 1. Virtue (ḥayil) Defined.

A. ḥayil is translated "Power, Strength or Might" 32 times in the Bible.

- 1) Motherhood can be exhausting! Isaiah 40:31 *"they that wait upon the LORD {qāwâ: to bind together with God} shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings..."*
- 2) It takes strength beyond ourselves to be truly effective. Ph 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."*

B. Translated "valor or valiant" 50 times. (Courage and determination)

- 1) Parents are partnering with God! Ps 127:3 *"children are an heritage of the LORD"*
- 2) We need His grace (Help) Phil. 2:13 *"It is God which worketh in to will, and to do of His good pleasure."*

Is 41:10 *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen (establish) thee; I will help (surround) thee; I will uphold (sustain) thee..."*

C. Translated "army or force" 100 times!

- 1) God is called the "Lord of hosts" 273 X!  
Ps 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*  
Vs 11 *"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."*  
Ro. 8:31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*

## 2. Virtue Described. Timeless qualities of all truly "virtuous" women:

A. Trustworthy. Vs 11 *"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her..."*

- 1) Children are a sacred trust! Ps. 127:3 *"Children are an heritage of the LORD"*  
1 Cor 4:3 *"Moreover It is required in stewards {oikonom'os: house manager}" that a man (or woman) be found faithful." {Pistis: Trustworthy!}*

B. Devoted to her...

- 1) Husband vs 12 *"She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."*
  - a) She's devoted to his success! Gen 2:18 *"I will make a help meet for him."*  
**Azar': to aid, surround, protect.**

b) Mutual devotion is God's design! Eph. 5:21 *"submitting yourselves one to another..."*  
(Mutual destruction is Satan's! Jn. 10:10)

Contrast 1 Cor. 7:33,34 *"seeketh how he can please his wife... how she can please her husband"*  
with 2 Tim. 3:2,3 *"lovers of their own selves... without natural affection, trucebreakers"*

2) Devoted to her **Family!** Pr 31:27 *"She looketh well to the ways of her household  
{Šāpâ: anticipates their needs} and eateth not the bread of idleness."*

3) To her **God!** Proverbs 31:30 *"a woman that feareth the LORD she shall be praised."*  
Col 3:23-24 *"whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord; Knowing the Lord ye shall receive the reward  
...for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

C. **Diligent.** 13 *"She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands."*  
{hēpeṣ: pleasure, desire}

15 *"riseth while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household"*

16 *"plants a vineyard..."* 19,24 **Makes clothes** 20 *"reaches ... to the poor"*

21 *"She's not afraid of the snow ...: for all her household are clothed with scarlet."*

22 *"She makes herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple."*

25 *"Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."*

26 *"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; {Hokmâ: practical life skills}  
and in her tongue is the law of kindness."*

**Conclusion: A virtuous woman is: Trustworthy, Devoted, Diligent...**

And should be **treasured!** Vs 10 *"for her price (value) is far above rubies"*

1 Pt 3:7 *"dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife..."* {Timē: value}

How can this honor be demonstrated? Pr. 31:28-31

*"Her children ... call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."*

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."*

➤ Pr. 31:31a *"Give her of the fruit of her hands..."*

Gal. 6:7-10 *"Whatever we sow, we shall also reap... let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all..."*

➤ Pr. 31:31b *"and let her own works praise her"* {Hālāl: to be clear, shine!}

Someday, everything will become clear. 1 Cor. 13:12 *"now we see through a glass darkly,*

{Ai'nigma: obscure, unclear; from ai'nos: a **story!**} *but then, face to face."*

When we're truly devoted to Christ, His "strength, valor, and might" can be demonstrated through us! (John 15:1-16p Phil. 2:13; Mt. 5:16)

*"Let your light so shine... that men shall see your good works and glorify your father in heaven"*

## Application:

➤ Will you let God write your story? Gal. 2:20

➤ Will you let God shine through you? Mt 5:16