

Proverbs 31 Wife

Adapted from Different by Design by John MacArthur, Jr.

Trustworthy Wife

31:11; "The heart of her husband trusts in her"

- Husband sees wife as trustworthy
- Allows him to work away from home, knowing home managed
- Confident of her faithfulness, integrity, discretion, and care for home
- Context implies a substantial home with abundant resources

31:12; "She does him good and not evil all the days of her life"

- Has husband's best interests at heart
- Does everything she can to strengthen and encourage him
- Love and devotion do not fluctuate with circumstances

Diligent Homemaker

31:13; "She looks for wool and flax, and works with her hands in delight."

- Worked to clothe her family as a priority and in joy

31:14; "She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar."

- Sought out the food, even at distances from home, requires planning and effort, due to distance

31:15; "She rises also while it is still night, and gives food to her household...portions to her maidens."

- Rose early to prepare food and get ready for the day, made sure staff knew what they were to do

31:16; "She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard"

- Earned money for the family, benefited the home, earned money by selling things she made; 31:24

31:17; "She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong"

- Physically strong, disciplined, healthy attitude toward work

31:18; "She perceives her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night."

- Pleased with her contribution, shows diligence, untiring effort

31:21; "She is not afraid of snow for her household"

- Prepared ahead of time for changes in seasons, lived based on values not impulses, looking ahead

31:21; "For all her household is clothed with scarlet"

- Not only planned ahead, but made the family look good

31:22; "She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple."

- She takes care of herself as well as the household, she makes herself look good as well as the family

Generous Neighbor

31:20; “She extends her hand to the poor; yes, she stretches out her hands to the needy”

- She loves her family, and she loves others
- She is not limited to family so that it excludes opportunities to serve others
- She becomes personally involved

Wise Teacher

31:25; “Strength and honor are her clothing, and she will rejoice in time to come.”

- Strength & honor illustrate her character
- Teaching others begins with spiritual character

31:26; “She opens her mouth with wisdom”

- Applies the truth of life to her children
- Applies the truth and teaching of the husband
- Proverbs 6:20, “My son, keep your father’s command, and do not forsake the law of your mother.”

31:26; “And on her tongue is the law of kindness”

- Edifies and ministers, relating without controlling

Devoted Mother

31:27; “She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

- Does not succumb to the temptation of making life about ME
- Takes on her role with diligence and Want, not obligation

31:28-29; “Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her...”

- “What goes around comes around”
- Investing your life in your children and husband has rewards beyond praise, rewards in heaven
- Investing your life in children and husband, creates the probability they will desire to invest in you

Praiseworthy Person

31:30; “Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”

- Charm & beauty are the physical
- Charm & beauty are delightful for you and others
- Charm & beauty are temporary, it will pass
- Be careful of your priorities, as charm & beauty fade generally time increases to try to maintain it
- Contrast is clear, priority is clear – Lasting charm, lasting beauty comes from inside which increases as you depend upon the Lord.

31:31; “Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

- Excellent women / wives are not seeking applause & praise
- The praise is not flattery or empty, it is backed by evidence
- Even if others do not praise, the works speak for themselves