

**Mom's Battlefield!**  
*Mother's Day – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017*  
Grace Bible Chapel  
Proverbs 31:10-31

At the very center of the activity counteracting the philosophy of Satan is the home, and mom is the key most often seen and active essential. Not only are there many single mom's, but even in a fully staffed home (mom & dad), mom is most often the naturally most visible to the children and functions as the CEO of the home. The home is being attacked every minute. In society many have and are being destroyed. How can mom be used of God to combat the wiles of the Devil seeking to destroy lives and homes? Solomon provides the wisdom of God to give us the essential qualities of a mom moving according to God's wisdom by testimony & in the running of the home.

● **Introduction:**

- We are living in a battlefield whether we like it or not – such it is!
- We are under a curse, & the prince of the world is seeking whom he may destroy – everything from: rejecting God's Word, God as creator, denial of evil, morals, even sexual identity while emphasizing humanism, false religion, & the destruction of Biblical institutions – the battle lines are drawn & clear!
- Perhaps even more practically – personal distractions pressed on our own battlefield – are things like:
  - Selfism – making self the center of the universe – all this continual talk of rights, self esteem, I deserve something, focus on pleasures, “my's”
  - Superficial thinking – more concerned for gratification than character.
  - Being part of the herd mentality of the religion of political correctness rather than focusing on righteousness & truth.
  - Spending our life only for the immediate, rather than for God.
  - Desiring things more than desiring God, and desiring to please God.
  - Listening to the world & its trappings, rather than listening to God.

**Point:** These timeless trappings of Satan are combated by the Godly woman described for us in our study today.

- I remind you God graciously formed three institutions: family, government, church to control the effects of sin.
- All are so important – hard to live in a nation of poverty, chaos, injustice, crime, violence – hard to continue in a church not teaching truth, not edifying, not honoring the Lord – hard to live in a family that is dysfunctional, or not fulfilling the obligations God ordained.

**Point:** If there is one institution more important than the others – it is the home – the last shield from the sinful chaos of the nation, or an apostate church.

- These words of Lemuel under inspiration are an accrostic – that is the 22 verses each begin with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Most importantly, it shows us God's view of an excellent wife, & practically then, the kind of person each wife should seek to be, & the kind of wife a man should seek.
- The qualities given in God's Word are timeless – our context has particulars related to the culture (for example the spindle Vs. 19), but the concepts for Godliness are the same.

**Vs. 10** - The word "excellent" is the Hebrew word which means "strength with efficiency." Unusual word - to illustrate the significance of this word, it is translated in the NASB as "strength" as "an army" as "valiant", & as "capable."

- It is also translated “able” – significantly the same word Moses used for selecting “judges” (Ex 18:21) were “able” is unique “capability & wisdom.”
- Phrase “who can find?” has as its meaning – such a woman is scarce & rare.

- But, the “who can find” is more than its rarity – it has as its emphasis something to be sought – it is therefore a target for mom’s, for women, & for men looking for the ideal wife.
- The Bible is not do’s & don’ts – even with commands, this passage paints a picture of Christ-likeness. There is no perfect mom, or woman – but, that does not mean those in Christ should not seek God’s revealed will.
- To be the ideal woman is not something anyone can come close to in their own strength – Phil 2:12 “workout ..knowing...will & work” – all under grace.

**Point:** This is therefore a portrait to study & learn & not necessarily the details for those change with the culture, but the attitude behind the details.

- “far above jewels” – to have this kind of wife, to be this kind of wife, to search for this kind of wife is so valuable / important that it is measured by God as far more valuable than the greatest of riches.
- For girls, young women, all women – it should be your goal to form yourself around the instruction of wisdom found here & in the Word of God.

**Point:** The world has another agenda, and too often even those in the church professing Christ neglect these biblical resources to aid the thinking.

- This is most valuable! Most worthy of our time to consider, & ladies to imitate. You want to be valuable – follow Christ & the wisdom He provides!
- We will summarize these qualities into seven (7) telling areas – these qualities will never be perfected in this life, but serve as a goal or target.

### ***The character qualities of the ideal wife / mother***

**1. Special** - (Rare & Valuable) anyone can be a conformist to humanism & all the ism’s that engulf the world & its thinking. The person (here a woman) of different, godly character is not the norm – she is rare, she is special!

- The word "excellent" has already been discussed – it sets the person apart. It is a word which can only be used for someone who knows God.
  - First and foremost of all qualities is the need for true life in Christ – the necessity of knowing & walking with God, & having a desire to please Him – that is the only thing that can make anyone truly special.
  - This is why in counseling for marriage we always go to 2 Cor. 6:14-18. No Christian should seek or consider a marriage to a non-Christian. There will always be many difficulties.

**Point:** Special speaks of her character as godly in thinking & actions.

- And this is why this woman is praised, not just for her charm or just her beauty, but for her real self as one who has a fear of God (v. 30)- this is a reverence that places God first in all things.
  - Her value is greater than jewels because of her relation to Christ.
  - Fear of God – is the indication of this true relation with God!

**Point:** This is the key to any person’s character –the foundation is this – the true value of anyone is measured by that person’s relationship to God.

- **Vs. 31** “her works praise her”– she is a new creation. As a new creation all these wonderful qualities (her fruit) are on display causing her praise – first from God, & then others.

**Point:** The remainder of these qualities display why she is so special.

**2. Steady** – (Trustworthy). Her husband has complete confidence in his wife.

- Vs. 11 - Rather than requiring continual oversight, & often corrective, or overcoming action – she is consistently a blessing.

- She can be relied upon to always make wise decisions – at the grocery store or the dress shop.
- Husbands & wives often fuss or feud over decisions both small & large.
- Many families have split apart based on not being able to trust one another in daily essential activities.

- **Vs. 12** - She is his steady / reliable companion bringing continual good.

**Point:** There is no friction resulting from a lack of trust – this is a woman who always makes the best of decisions on behalf of her God, husband & family!

- **Vs. 23** - This benefits her husband's welfare - "is known" (gates was the place of public discourse, judgment, leadership) – she adds credence to the family name – she promotes & blesses his reputation.
- **Vs. 25** - How does she promote her husband? – "strength and dignity" – she is consistent in her conduct – she carries herself in dignity (honor).
  - She "smiles at" – that is she is comfortable by resting in God. She is at peace and not restless.
  - **Vs. 17** - In conjunction with her dignity she takes care of herself physically so that as much as possible - she can function in her role.
  - Implied is she is groomed, disciplined in body, & an example to all of ideal womanhood - a testimony to her husband, children, & everyone.

**Point:** You have heard behind every good man is a good woman – men our wives can enhance or complement our reputation & make or destroy us – she, as the ideal, blesses her husband's reputation – he married over his head.

**3. Serving** – (Diligent & Hard working). She is not the least lazy, not shy of activity – a doer. Repeatedly she is described in terms of diligence & strength.

- **Vs. 13** - She works with her hands – this is an attitude - not only is she ready & willing (not somehow above work) but it is her "delight."
- **Vs. 15; 18** – Shown in actuality - she rises early & retires late.

**Point:** My mother was the first riser in my growing up years – the first thing I smelled every morning was bacon & eggs (Jan –coffee); & both are often still working after dark – cleaning, mending, preparing for the next day – so wonderful to be around those who get with it & are happy getting with it!

- **Vs. 27b** – Notice – again it is a mindset - she has no idle time.
- This is consistent - the mindset of the apostle Paul (2 Thess. 3:10) "don't work don't eat" – the perverted mindset of the day is one of leisure / idleness, laziness – let someone else do it, or take care of me.
- **Vs. 21; 25b** - She prepares for the future – her mind is busy in accord with her hands – she is thinking ahead always preparing in advance.

**4. Sacrificial** – (Devoted)

- We have already seen her dignity & serving activity – there is another element to this.
- **Vs 27a** her focus is not primarily on herself, but her household.
  - The lines of communication are open, she knows what is going on with each child – their concerns, needs, corrections, instruction!
- What is she? She is actively engaged, and sacrificial on behalf of her household, her husband, & children.
  - Put another way - her achievement on behalf of her household is not hindered by her personal comfort – she puts that aside.
  - She is serving sacrificially – this was the attitude of Christ (Mat. 20:26; 23:11).

**Point:** If you work outside the home – never do it for selfish reasons or to the detriment of your household. Only do so if it is essential & sacrificial.

**5. Sagacious** - (Acts in Wisdom).

- **Vs. 26a** – We have stated her dignity – her speech is her key testimony.
  - Wisdom is her hallmark – wisdom honors God for He is the source.
- **Vs. 18a; 24** – in her wisdom, she also uses her skills to benefit her family.
  - She is crafty, industrious – she brings a return to the family – she has the ability to engineer quality goods for the benefit of others, & to enhance the bank account of the family – she is a giver not a taker!
  - **Vs. 16** – “considers” – she invests family money wisely - “from her earnings” – she is a person saving & managing the assets of the home in wisdom.
  - **Vs. 14** – she goes to great lengths for the best bargains – shops well!
    - Related back to number 1 (steady) or reliable – she doesn’t spend the household money foolishly, but wisely.
    - Many a spouse (either) has bankrupted the family by spending foolishly, or demanding impractical things to the detriment of the family – this woman acts wisely in every decision.

**Point:** Describes a woman living wisely, practically – she has God’s continuous wisdom because of the obvious grace of God in her life.

**6. Selfless** - (Generous) – not consumed only with self or even only her own as most in the world, but in all her responsibilities activities she remembers those in true need - seeking to be a blessing to them as well – **Vs. 20**.

- “Extends” & “stretches out” shows personal involvement - willingness.
- Concern, giving of herself personally, ministering to others shows the work of God – a Christ like heart .
- Point: Just as the parable of the good Samaritan - God places people with real needs (not scams) in our path to see how we will interact with them.

**7. Superb** - (Gracious). Abilities of grace cannot be measured – it is seen first in control, content, and discretion of the tongue.

- **Vs. 26b**, the teaching of this woman is called the "teaching of kindness" – this can be none other than God’s Word.
  - Her conversation is a blessing – **Prov. 25:11** – that is gracious talk.
  - Her mouth is edifying – why? She spends time with her Lord (Vs. 18b & back to Vs. 30b she “fears the Lord.”
- **Prov. 21:9** – think of the opposite (humor – but not funny) “better...contentious woman” – the corner of the roof was outside with the elements & the farthest away from all else in the house.
- **1 Thess 2:7** “we proved to be gentle among you as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.”
  - An ability unique to mothers & why moms are so important to children.

**Point:** The same special gracious / superb manner of speech needs to permeate the household – no whining, fussing, harping, etc.. that unfortunately characterizes so many homes – instead her tongue graces peace in the home.

**Closing:** This woman is prepared for the battlefield of life!

- This woman is God’s portrait, our target, – a complete women!
- **Vs. 28-29** It is no wonder –her children rise up and praise her!
- Behind many who love God is a godly mother. Quote in bulletin of Wesley. It was so with Moses, with Samuel, with Timothy, with Augustine, Spurgeon, with G. Campbell Morgan, & on and on the list could go. I copied the following from a book addressing the great preacher DeWitt Talmage:

*“When David Talmage, the father of the famous preacher, T. DeWitt Talmage, was an eighteen-year-old boy still living at home with his brother Jacob and his sister, one night the three of them were determined to go to a questionable party. Their mother, who was an invalid, called them to her bedside just before they*

left and said, "I know you are going out to a party; but I want you to know that I shall be on my knees praying for you until you return." They went, and on their return passed their mother's door at 2 AM, catching a glimpse of her still kneeling by her bed.

Early the next morning, the mother wakened her husband and asked him to get up and see what was the matter, for she heard someone weeping. Going hastily down to the living room the father found his daughter on her knees weeping, but when he undertook to speak to her, she said, "Go to the barn, father, for David is in worse need of you than I am. I shall be all right."

Going to the barn the old gentleman found David weeping his heart-out for mighty conviction had seized him. However, when Mr. Talmage had prayed a short time with him, David said, "Go to Jacob, he needs you more than I do, I believe He's in the wagon shed."

So it turned out that the Lord saved all three of the Talmage children that morning, in answer to the determined and definite praying, and example of their mother."

- We are in a battle field and God has shown us how to be in His army. One of those ways so very important is a godly mom.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. I thank you mothers – I exhort you mothers – contend for the faith – trust God – submit unto Him – by God's grace be the excellent one! you will hear the words of praise from others . . .

and some day! "Well done - - -"