



## Calvary Revival Church Chesapeake

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*“Reaching, Teaching and Releasing hurting people through the power of Jesus Christ!”*

Sisters in the Spirit

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### *De-Mything the Proverbs 31 Woman*

Proverbs 31:10-31

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#### **As we continue in Family Integration what we are NOT saying:**

- Women are to be walked on and abused by men; *Our Men are willing to die for their Women as Christ died for the church!*
- Women should quit their jobs and become housewives/mothers to raise their children; (Bible worked assisting in the home, in business or in the community)
- Women cannot provide and protect their homes; and
- Women cannot lead their homes spiritually.

#### **What we are saying is:**

- Both Men and Women are first and foremost submitted to Jesus Christ;
- God has an order that allows for love and respect between Men and Women. There can only be one head in the home because two heads become a monster, (Okay, okay those are my words but I believe two-headed beings are monsters.);
- Married Men and Women are in mutual submission to one another, however Men are the head of the home and the women are to submit to the Men as God's order.
- God created Men as the prophet, provider and protector of the home; and
- Women are as important to God as Men. Our purpose on earth and relationship with Christ is not de-valued because we submit to Men. Like Christ, we submit our lives to the Father and then to our husbands out of love and obedience.

*An excellent (literally a wife of valor) wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rotteness in his bones. Proverbs 12:4*

**Myth** – an invented story, idea or concept; a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))

**Proverbs 31 Myth** – I must do and be all the Proverbs 31 woman does and is in order to be pleasing to God, family, friends, boss, etc. She represents the perfect WOMAN in life.

I question our ability to *consistently maintain* the Proverbs 31 status without burning out or short changing some area of our lives as a woman, wife, mother, employee, etc. I pursued a career, raised a son while married and served faithfully in the church. I humbly admit that I fell short of the Proverbs 31 status in many ways and on more than one occasion. I honestly felt like God didn't love me because I had failed in living up to the standard of His word. Like some of you, my ex-husband and my son wished I did a few things different. I've since learned the importance of balance and today I'd like to consider God's expectations and place the Proverbs 31 Woman within what I believe is His framework. My prayer is that this will remove some of the burden we carry as women allowing us to be free in Christ to our family, friends and communities!

The Proverbs 31 Woman has many great attributes that should be highlighted because she represents the "ideal" woman even though it's not realistic for any *one* Woman. I believe we can represent the Proverbs 31 Woman first **as a community of women** growing together in the Lord and second **as we transition through seasons in our lives as women**, certain attributes are more important than others. As we learn to surrender our lives to God during those seasons as single, wife, mother, career, servant at church, community advocate, etc., without guilt and condemnation, we can experience the power of God in our lives while freely serving and submitting our lives to others!

So let's look at the Proverbs 31 Woman. This outline is taken from *The Maxwell Leadership Bible*, page 781.

#### **Her Assets:**

1. She is trustworthy (v 11)
2. She is a positive influence (v 12)
3. She is a hard worker (vv 13, 14, 19, 24-27)
4. She is a planner (vv 21, 22)
5. She is protective (v 27)

#### **Her Achievements:**

1. She meets the needs of her home (v 15)
2. She invests for her household (v 16)
3. She keeps herself in shape (v 17)
4. She helps her husband become successful (v 23)

#### **Her Attitudes:**

1. Delightful (v 13)
2. Healthy (v 18)
3. Compassionate (v 20)
4. Unselfish (v 20)
5. Public (v 25)

#### **Her Applause:**

1. From her family (v 28)
2. From her husband (vv 28, 29)
3. From God's Word (v 30)
4. From her works (v 31)

If being the Proverbs 31 Woman is unrealistically who then is my role model and what does God require of me? **Jesus Christ is ALWAYS our role model** when it comes to how we live our lives and understanding God's expectations of us.

I'd like to consider Sarah, the wife of Abraham for our teaching today. I believe she is a great woman but one who shows us the cost of speaking, moving or being out of God's order and the blessings of lining up with God.

## **Sarah**

### **1 Peter 3:1-7**

- vv 4-6: *Instead, it should be that **your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.** For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master (lord).*

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### **1 Peter 1:21ff – Christ as my example**

- vv 21-23: *To this you were called, **because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should following His steps.** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, **He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.***

Let's go back and trace how Sarah reached this place of obedience. My prayer is to learn from hers and Abraham's mistakes so that we live in complete obedience like Christ!

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

- God calls Abram to leave his people to go to a place where God will make Abram into a great nation, bless him and make his name great. God promises to that **all the people of the earth will be blessed through Abram.** Abram is 75 years old (Gen 12:4).

### **Genesis 15:1-6**

- Abram is concerned because the promised child is not born and he believes his servant will be his heir. God assures Abram that "as the stars in heaven, so shall his offspring be."

### **Genesis 16:1-2**

- Sarai says to Abram that the Lord has kept her from having children and encourages him to sleep with her maidservant. Abram agrees in spite of the promise God gave him. Ishmael is born but he's not the promised child. Abram is now 86 (Gen 16:16) but like Eve, Sarai was not patient in waiting after God had clearly spoken to the man.

## Genesis 17

- At age 99 (Gen 17:1) God establishes his covenant with Abram through circumcision. God changes Abram's name to Abraham, yet again assuring him that his name would be great and he would be "the father of many nations."

## Genesis 18:1-15

- It has now been 24 years since God's promise to Abraham but our God who promises is faithful. God sends 3 men, angels to assure Abraham and Sarah that by next year she will conceive and gift birth to a son. Sarah laughs because she considers herself too old to have a child.

## Genesis 21:1-7

- The Bible says, "God is gracious to Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised." (v 1) Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac just as God promised. Abraham was 100 years old (v 5).
- Now watch what happens when Sarah aligns herself with God and Abraham...
  - As Isaac grows, Sarah notices that Ishmael taunts/mocks Isaac and she says to Abraham he should get rid of Hagar. Abraham is stressed over the situation because 13 years earlier it was Sarah who told him to sleep with her. God responds by saying, "*Do not be distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring.*" (vv 12-13) Amazing!!

*A wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.*

Proverbs 14:1

1. **TRUST God** completely with your life! **This means you can't always lead.** A great leader is also a great follower. **Psalm 32:10; Psalm 37:3; Proverbs 3:5-6**
2. **PRAY**, pray and pray some more! **Phil 4:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:17**
3. **KNOW** who you are in Christ. *You are His daughter and the apple of His eye. The King is enthralled with your beauty! You are the temple of the Holy Spirit! You God's chosen vessel of honor to represent Him on earth! Psalm 45:11*
4. **KNOW** your **SEASON**. (single, wife, motherhood, college, career, etc.)  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**
5. **DIE daily!** **1 Corinthians 15:31; Philippians 1:21**
6. Understand the **MOTIVATION** behind what you do. **Psalm 40:8; John 14:15**
7. Walk in a **QUIET** and **PEACEFUL** spirit. **Psalm 34:14; Isaiah 30:15**
8. **SIMPLY SUBMIT** your life to God and as you trust Him to touch the lives of others, like only He can, everything will work together for His good! **Eph 5:21; James 4:7, 10; 1 Peter 5:5-11**

Ephesians 2:1-11 is a powerful text to memorize when you're struggling with submission to God and others. The more time we spend with the Father, the easier it is to obey. Remember, Jesus is our example and we are strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit.