

The Ideal Woman

Rodolfo Rodriguez

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Proverbs 31:10-31

Good morning to all and especially to all mothers.

Since Mother's day in 2006, when I preached for the first time, I have avoided Proverbs 31: 10-31, which is one of the most typical Mother's day passages.

The first time I called it "How to love the mother of your kids" and we went through what Peter, a married man, had to say about this:

1 Peter 3:7

"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered".

I spoke mostly to husbands and about the commitment, the companionship, the understanding, the consideration and the team approach that was necessary to dwell with them, to honor them and to make them happy and how a solid marriage was the base of a solid family.

**FAMILY can only be EARNED, FAMILY stands for Father
And Mother I Love You**

Let me tell you what happened one Sunday after a Child Dedication service. As a young family was driving away from church after the dedication of their baby, little Rodi, I mean Johnny, the older brother, cried all the way home in the back seat of the car. His mother asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That pastor said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home...and I want to stay with you guys!"

If you want your kids brought up in a Christian home, make sure that Christ is at home in your heart. If He is, then spend the rest of your life giving your children back to the Lord they belong to Him anyway.

FAMILY can only be EARNED, FAMILY stands for Father And Mother I Love You

The second time, I addressed women in general as creatures who give and irradiate life, who are designed to make people and ideas and things to grow and improve and transcend, and then I addressed mothers in particular. We went through parts of 2 Chronicles where clear examples of how heirs with wise and godly mothers became great and long term kings and heirs with wicked mothers or no mother at all became evil and short term kings.

We also studied three mothers from the bible to explain 3 of many aspects of motherhood, which are also 3 of many likenesses with God and 3 key aspects for success:

To protect, to expect and to love

This time, I am going to address mothers of course, but it is directed to each and every one of you. Firstly, because we all come from a mother, some of us still have them. Secondly, because many of the concepts have to do with love, which applies to all, and thirdly because today specially, but every day as well, we are to honor them:

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

But I will definitely honor mothers very specially and for me, that includes all ladies because as we studied last time, you are all designed to give life and to give life abundantly, joyfully and selflessly, not only to kids, but to your ideas, to your dreams, to your creations, to everyone that is fortunate enough to be around you and last but not least, to yourselves, you are constantly giving birth to a better you, it's part of your nature.

It is very likely that the simple fact of you being here today is related to one of your mother's creations, if not completely her creation. Even if she's been gone for decades you still carry her instructions, her suggestions and her advice, maybe you even hear them with her voice inside your head as she probably repeated them hundreds of times.

We'll begin with the description of The Ideal Woman.

Proverbs 31:10-27

**Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.**

**She seeks wool and flax,
And willingly works with her hands.
She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.
She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.**

**She considers a field and buys it;
From her profits she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.
She perceives that her merchandise is good,
And her lamp does not go out by night.**

**She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hand holds the spindle.
She extends her hand to the poor,
Yes she reaches out her hand to the needy.
She is not afraid of snow for her household,
For all her household is clothed with scarlet.**

**She makes tapestry for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies sashes for the merchants.**

**Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.**

Some think that it is a description of an ideal woman, not necessarily one that existed.

For me, it is a description of a magnificent woman, a description made by her mother in law, who knew the importance that choosing the right woman had for the king, his heirs, the kingdom and for ensuring godly future generations. As we read in Chronicles last time, one bad choice led to the burning of heirs.

This description was not only made by a proud mother in law but was accepted by the woman's husband to the extent of making it public in writing himself, honoring her for centuries until our days.

I can only "believe" that this woman existed then, but I am absolutely sure that many like her exist today, and are here today, thank God.

This Proverb is God's description of the Ideal Woman - and God is our Creator. Ladies, He designed and created you, and He knows what will satisfy you and bring fulfillment to your life. You would be wise, if you acquaint yourself with this lady and make her your role model. And keep in mind - this proverb wasn't written to make you feel guilty or place unrealistic expectations on your life. It was written to build you up and show you your God-given potential. Let's notice 2 items about the Ideal Woman.

I. The Person She Is.

A. She is a Valuable WIFE.

Ladies, this isn't to say that you'll never fulfill your role in life if you are single. Heavens no! The Bible teaches that marriage is an honorable relationship between a man and a woman, but the Bible also places great honor on being single. In fact, 1 Corinthians 7 tells us there are some things a single person can do for God that a married person can't. So don't ever let any one make you feel like a second class person just because you're single. But if you are married, or you intend to be married, then please realize that God expects you to be a valuable wife - like the woman in Proverbs 31.

Do you know what made her such a valuable wife? She earned her husband's respect by working with him instead of against him. What an example to follow! Husbands and wives, moms and dads, work together as a team and don't compete as opponents! You're on the same team and you have the same goal: to build, provide for, and maintain a godly family! And ladies, you can be a valuable wife if you work with your husband to reach that goal!

B. She is a Vigorous WORKER.

A husband and wife should have a goal to build, provide for, and maintain a godly family and they should work hard to reach that goal. Parents shouldn't be lazy, especially when it comes to their family. The Ideal Woman of Proverbs 31 isn't lazy.

(1) She works hard at HOME . They say that a woman's work is never done and that's especially true of a woman's work at home. Do you know what the most demanding job in the world is? Being a mother and a wife. Think about it. A mother has to be a nurse, a teacher, a child psychologist, a dietician, a housekeeper, and a cook. It takes hard work to build and maintain a family! So ladies, don't get lazy when it comes to your home.

And husbands, don't be lazy either. Appreciate the hard work your wife does at home - and give her a helping hand!

(2) She works hard on the JOB. Proverbs 31 describes a career woman. She is busy, buying, selling, and trading. It may shock you to realize that the Bible does not condemn a woman who works outside the home. This Ideal Woman works outside the home and is commended - not condemned.

Ladies, if you don't have to work outside the home, then take advantage of it and focus on ministering to your husband and raising your children. But if you have to find employment outside the home then don't feel like a bad wife or a bad mother. You are being a good wife and a good mother because you're helping provide for your family!

(3) She even works hard when she SHOPS that's commendable! She knows the value of a dollar and she doesn't squander the family livelihood.

The ideal woman is a valuable wife, a vigorous worker, and . . .

C. She is a Virtuous WOMAN.

Our passage describes the compassion she shows, the character she has and the counsel she gives.

To sum it all up, the Ideal Woman is Christlike! Ladies, what an example for you to follow! Now there's nothing wrong with wanting to look your best, but remember it's far more important to be woman of substance and virtue - like the Woman in Proverbs 31.

You need to really get acquainted with this woman and make her your role model. Follow her example and she will help you find fulfillment and satisfaction.

I could close here, but there's one more item I want to mention:

II. The Praise She Deserves.

Proverbs 31:28-31

Her children rise up and call her blessed;

Her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many daughters have done well,

But you excel them all”

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,

But a woman who fears the Lord,

She shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands,

And let her own works praise her in the gates.

For the most part, I've preached to the ladies - and I don't want the rest of you to feel left out, so I am now talking to everyone who is around a mother today and every day, as daughters and sons, as husbands, as fathers, as friends, as companions, as partners or as colleagues.

Let's talk about the last 4 verses of this proverb, says that a godly woman deserves to be praised. Husbands, teenagers, and children, do you know why we ought to praise the godly women in our lives?

A. Because it feels GOOD.

It feels good to be positive and to say positive things about the people in our lives. But there are some people who just don't like to praise others. I'm talking about the cranks, misfits, and scrooges of the world who seldom praise. They have an inner sickness of the soul that yields criticism, complaining, sarcasm, and a general joylessness. I want to take such people (and sometimes myself) and shake them and say, "Hey wake up! Sure there is rottenness in the world. But Jesus Christ has made us more than conquerors and He gives us every reason to be positive and happy! So stop grumbling! Get yourself hooked on praise because it feels 10 times better!"

B. Because it honors GOD.

Since God made the world and is at work in it, it is possible to praise Him indirectly by praising something he made or praising something that exalts Him. (ILL: If you praise my sons, Ana and I feel honored - and that's the way it is with God).

C. Because it strengthens GODLY WOMEN.

There are always temptations that allure us away from God and we all need encouragement from time to time. We all need to hear a saintly person say, "You're doing a great job." When you praise the godly women in your life, you are strengthening their walk in the Lord.

Conclusion:

Teenagers and children, God forbid this to happen, but suppose your mom was killed in a car wreck this afternoon and you had to go to her funeral on Wednesday. What would you wish on Wednesday you had told her today? Tell her before today is up.

And what about you husbands? You know what I would say if I lost my wife this week? "Why did I get upset over such stupid little things? Why didn't I encourage her more? Why didn't I build her up and let her know how much I love and appreciate her?" O how we need to live in the light of our dying! Death puts everything in perspective!

Husbands, teenagers, and children, praise her while you have her. And you will strengthen her, honor God, and add great joy to your own life.

Proverbs 31:28

**Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her.**

I know you all want to honor your mother today and always but somehow, I have the feeling that you will forget half of this by noon, so I want to do a little exercise to show you how our focus in what is important is key to success.

I will show you how one dine out experience in one same restaurant (we'll call it Delicious Restaurant) at one same hour (say 7) and one same day (say Friday) can be so different depending in your priorities. Let's consider the main 5 elements of this:

Dine Out Elements

- **Company**
- **Conversation**
- **Place (decoration, music, comfort, etc)**
- **Service**
- **Food**

We'll limit the maximum value to 40% and minimum to 10% so we can cover all the elements in these situations...

Now let's try 4 different circumstances and thus mindsets and moods:

Different situations:

- **Dine Out with Sweetheart**
- **Starving to death**
- **Job Interview**
- **Honoring Mom**

Let's start with the easy one. Imagine for a second that you are going out with your sweetheart for the first time. You married ones can remember the first date with your spouse. You kids will have to take my word on this: your sweetheart is going to look like a Christmas morning. And you young singles imagine it is the one you have a crush for, the one that makes you live asleep and dream awake, the one you long for. And you who still haven't met that one, believe me, it's going to look like a million bucks:

Now how important is each element??

Elements of a successful Dine Out - SWEETHEART

- **Being with the person I like** **40%**
- **The conversation...talking point** **30%**
- **Place** **10%**
 - **Decoration, Candles, Music**
 - **Chairs, Privacy, View...**
- **Service** **10%**
- **Food** **10%**

-Graph-

So you see, the company is the most important followed by the conversation. Even if say service or food were not great, unless you let them poison the conversation and start talking about the least important subject this night and spoil your unrepeatable first date. Don't worry, chances are you will be staring at each other and paying no attention to the place, the service or the food.

Now please imagine you were lost in a boat for two days and the first thing you see when you reach the beach is the Delicious Restaurant, it's 7 and you have plenty of cash. Let's revisit the elements:

Elements of a successful Dine Out - STARVING!!

- **Being with the person I like** 10%
- **The conversation...talking point** 10%
- **Place** 10%
 - **Decoration, Candles, Music**
 - **Chairs, Privacy, View...**
- **Service** 40%
- **Food** 30%

Graph

Chances are the only thing you will care about is the service, in your desperation, the people around you will not exist, the conversations you won't even hear, the place you won't care and even the flavor of the food will mean nothing, the speed will be all that matters to you.

Now imagine that you have a job interview for the job you've dreamed about since you were in high school and until now. The HR person asked you to be at Delicious at 7 to discuss.

How important is each element now?

Elements of a successful Dine Out - JOB INTERVIEW

- **Being with the person I like** 20%
- **The conversation...talking point.** 40%
- **Place** 10%
 - **Decoration, Candles, Music**
 - **Chairs, Privacy, View...**
- **Service** 20%
- **Food** 10%

Graph

This time the key is the conversation, the Service is somewhat important because you don't want your interviewer to get upset. You only care about causing a good impression; you don't need to like the person as it's not your future boss anyway. About the place and food you probably can't care less right now.

Now please tell me, if you are planning to honor your mother, spouse, friend, etc today specially and every day too, what elements should you concentrate on?

Elements of a successful Dine Out – HONOR MOM

- **Being with the person SHE likes** **40%**
- **The conversation...talking point** **40%**
- **Place** **40%**
 - **Decoration, Candles, Music**
 - **Chairs, Privacy, View...**
- **Service** **40%**
- **Food** **40%**

We are to concentrate in each element in order to assure we are really honoring her and not just taking her out.

We shall be in the best mood, with a positive attitude and behaving to make her proud. Let us be the best company SHE can dream of.

Let us honor her with our conversation, attentive, respectful, with lots of PRAISE and talking about what's important to HER.

Make sure you take her out to a place SHE will love and feel comfortable in, a place where the environment, the music, etc, help HER be happy.

Make a reservation and preparations that help the service be the best possible in HER eyes.

Make sure you take her out to a place that has HER favorite food in the menu.

Graph

A nice pie with a perfect balance of the elements is what you will honor your mother with, let no one be bad and if one is shorter don't let it poison the others, make the others greater to compensate.

**Do not let little things spoil great moments!!
HONOR YOUR MOTHER!!**

**Proverbs 31: 31
Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her in the gates.**

**Exodus 20:12
Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be
long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.**

Lets pray:

God, we thank you for this day and for each and every woman here present and for each mother here present and also for all our mothers not present and we ask you to bless them and to help us honor them and praise them as you wish we do and as you command us to do.

Lord we also lay at your feet our worries, our health, our gifts, our blessings, our talents, our grieves and all we have and all you bring to us and ask that you use them for your glory and for the growth of your kingdom. We ask for wisdom and understanding to see and follow the path you have for each of us and to do so honoring you.

We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen

God bless you all!!