

## Proverbs 31 (Woman)

1. I am a capable, intelligent and virtuous woman
2. My value is far more precious than jewels and far above rubies or pearls
3. I work with willing hands
4. I bring in household food for family from afar
5. I rise early to get spiritual food (prayer and reading the Word) for my household
6. I consider (pray about) before I buy or sell (expanding prudently) and do not neglect present duties by assuming other duties (family comes first)
7. I gird myself with strength (spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for my God-given task) and make my arms strong and firm.
8. I taste and see that my gain from work (with and for God) is good; my lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually (wards off trouble, privation, sorrow, warning off fear, doubt and distrust)
9. The heart of my husband trusts in me confidently and relies on and believes in me securely, so that he has no lack of (honest) gain or need of (dishonest) spoil.
10. I comfort, encourage, and do him good as long as there is life within me
11. I open my hand to the poor and needy (whether in body, mind or spirit)
12. I decorate my home and clothe my family (buying and selling)
13. Strength and dignity are my clothing and my position is strong and secure. I rejoice over the future (knowing that our family is in readiness)
14. I open my mouth with skillful and godly wisdom and on my tongue is the law of kindness (giving counsel and instructions)
15. I look well to how things go in my household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontentment, and self-pity) I will not eat.
16. My children rise up and call me blessed (happy, fortunate and to be envied); and my husband boasts of and praises me (saying): "Many daughters have done virtuously, nobly and well (with the strength of character that is (steadfast in goodness), but you excel them all.
17. Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain (because it is not lasting) but I am a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, and I shall be praised.
18. Give me of the fruit of my hands, and let my own works praise me in the gate
19. I teach what is fitting and becoming to sound doctrine (the character and right living that identify true Christians):
20. As an older woman, I am reverent and devout in my deportment as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not a slanderer or a slave to drink (or anything else). I give good counsel and am a teacher of what is right and noble. I wisely train younger women to be sane and sober of mind (temperate, disciplined, and to love their husbands and children).
21. I do this myself and teach younger women to be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good natured, (kind hearted), adapting and subordinating themselves to their husband, that the word of God may not be exposed to reproach. I show my own self in all respects to be a pattern and a model of good deeds and works (teaching and regarding the truth and purity of motives) with dignity.
22. My instruction is sound and fit and wise and wholesome, vigorous and irrefutable and above censure, so that the opponent may be put to shame, finding nothing discrediting or evil to say about me.
23. I am a virtuous and worthy wife (earnest and strong in character) a crowning joy to my husband

24. My husband, who has found a (true) wife has found a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord. Prov. 18:22
25. I am a gift to my husband from the Lord—wise, understanding and prudent. Prov. 19:14
26. I have esteemed and treasured the words of His mouth (God's) for my family more than my necessary food. Job 23:12
27. For He performs (that which He has planned) for me (my family) and of many such matters He is mindful. Job 23:14
28. My husband is known in the gates, when he sets among the elders of the land.
29. I adorn myself modestly and appropriately and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with elaborate hair arrangement or pearls or expensive clothing.

In what way did the Proverbs 31 woman excel?

In her spiritual and practical devotion to God, which permeated every area and every relationship of her life:

II Peter 1:5

All seven of the Christian virtues were developed in the Proverbs 31 woman:

Thru Diligence: (Seeking God and prayer)

30. Exercising faith (develop virtue) excellence, resolution, Christian energy
31. Exercising virtue (develop knowledge) intelligence
32. Exercising knowledge (develop self-control)
33. Exercising self-control (develop steadfastness) endurance and patience
34. Exercising steadfastness (develop godliness) piety
35. Exercising godliness (develop brotherly affection)
36. Exercising brotherly affection (develop Christian love)

Her secret is the work of the Holy Spirit in her life and the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of WISDOM. This is the true foundation for a woman which is valued by God and her husband and is considered as "far above rubies or pearls".