

Small Group Guide

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN WOMANHOOD

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

May 12, 2013

Proverbs 31:10-31

MAIN TRUTH

Message Outline

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN WOMANHOOD

Proverbs 31:10-31

Amidst a **Confused Culture (and Church)**...

READ Proverbs 31:10 – 31; Picture of a perfect woman – instead of being encouraged may become discouraged; Our culture’s perspective of a woman who stays home

Reason for this – to point us to Christ

- Women: Be and become Christlike women.
 - The mercy of God covers your past. **No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus**
 - The presence of God through the Holy Spirit empowers your present.
 - The hope of God guarantees your future.
- Married men: Love and nurture a Christlike wife. **Lay down our lives (literal and figurative) – our wife above ourself (v. 11, 28)**
- Single men: Pray for and seek out a Christlike wife. **REFER v. 1 - 2, 10**
- Church: Praise Christlike women as we promote Christlikeness in women. **Praising Christlike women (anyone) we’re ultimately praising God**

Characteristics of the Christlike Woman...

v. 10 – 31: Acrostic using Hebrew alphabet; tonight – use WOMAN as acrostic

- She is WISE. **“Wisdom” in Proverbs personified as a woman (v. 26)**
 - Because she fears God, her value cannot be fathomed. (v. 10)
 - Because she fears God, she boldly faces the future. (v. 21, 25, 27)
 - Because she fears God, her beauty will never fade. (v. 30)
- She is the OVERSEER of her home. **Not the head, more the manager – glue holds home/family together**
 - As a wife, she is a helper to her husband.
 - He trusts her...
 - With his heart. (v. 11a)
 - With his household. (v. 11b)
 - With his good. (v. 12)
 - She is devoted to his success.
 - She delights in his satisfaction.
 - With his reputation. (v. 23)
 - He honors her. (v. 28)
 - As a mother, she prioritizes care for her children. (v. 15, 27 - 28)
 - She loves them. **(Sacrificially)**
 - She lays down her life for them. **(Literal and figurative)**
 - She lives to make them her legacy.
- She is MIGHTY in her work.
 - She has willing and skillful hands. (v. 13, 19)
 - She has an innovative and industrious spirit. (v. 16, 24)
 - She has an intelligent mind. (v. 26)

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- She has a strong body. (v. 17)

- She is ATTRACTIVE in all the right ways.
 - Her words are kind. (v. 26)
 - Her works are admirable. (v. 27)
 - Her dress is tasteful. (v. 22)
 - Her demeanor is delightful. (v. 29, 30)
 - Her husband is both pleased and proud. (v. 28)

- She is a NEIGHBOR to the needy. (v. 20)
 - She gives generously.
 - She doesn't ignore the poor; she initiates compassion.
 - She serves sacrificially.
 - In losing her life, she finds it. **Embodies Matthew 10:39**

Message Summary

In the series “The Cross and Christian Community,” we pause our study of 1 Corinthians to discuss “The Cross and Christian Womanhood.” While the world has many twisted views regarding womanhood, manhood, marriage, and sexuality, **Scripture urges women to pursue Christ and Christlikeness**, and Proverbs 31:10-31 present a picture of a woman who clearly reflects godly wisdom. This passage characterizes **a Christlike woman as one who is wise, an overseer in her home, mighty in her work, attractive in all the right ways, and a neighbor to the needy**. Throughout Proverbs 31, the woman of godly character is sacrificially loving and serving those around her, embodying the essence of the Christian call – **“whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matt. 10:39).**