

The Ministry of Womanhood

Encouraging women to find their purpose & significance through serving God in their biblical roles

Volume One, Issue Eight

Every woman
has been
born into the
ministry
of God.
It is spelled
out for her
in Scripture,
lived out be-
fore others in
her home,
church,
and commu-
nity, and re-
corded
by God
in the pages
of eternity.



A Good Wife Is A Crown To Her Husband

Today we are going to look at what God's Word has to say about being a good wife to our husband. I'm going to be honest with you from the beginning ~ **this is going to be a tough study to take.** Some of the things that we are going to learn today will be familiar to you, but some of them will be foreign, and maybe even offensive to you because of the culture that you have been indoctrinated in. But if you will give an open mind and a willing heart to this study, I think you will learn some things that will help you to become the kind of wife that your husband is happy with, the kind the Lord is pleased with, and one that you will find yourself at peace with.

Please turn with me to Proverbs 12:4, and let's begin our journey of discovering what the Bible says about what a good wife is.

A Good Wife is a Virtuous Woman. Proverbs 12:4 says, "*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness to his bones.*" What do you think a virtuous woman does that makes her this 'crown' to her husband? Proverbs 31:11-31 gives us the answer:

1. **She is husband-centered** (verses 11-12; 23). The Bible says in these verses that the heart of our husband is supposed to be able to trust in us, that we are to do them good and not evil, and that they are supposed to be known in the city gates. Can the heart of your husband safely trust in you and the things that you do? Can he trust you to spend his money wisely, and not be wasteful with the things that you buy? Do you have your husband's happiness in view **constantly**, and do you **consistently** contribute good to him? Are you a loving wife that is concerned for the respectability and honor of your husband? Are you willing to manage your household affairs in a way that gives him full leisure to devote himself to church, work, and civic activities? God's Word implies that these are the things that we will need to do if we are concerned with being a husband-centered women.
2. **She is hard-working** (verses 13-22; 24; 27). The virtuous woman described for us in Proverbs 31 was a very hard working woman. She kept herself consistently busy taking care of her home and working with her hands by doing things like weaving, cooking, shopping, gardening, and sewing. *She was the kind of woman that didn't mind working hard with her hands.* She was the kind of woman that was

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willing to get up early, or stay up late, if that is what she needed to do in order to get things done. She was a woman of strength, and her hard work helped her to keep herself in good physical shape. The virtuous woman described for us in these verses worked hard at keeping her home looking clean and well-decorated. She wanted her husband to be pleased and comfortable when he came home, and when he brought his friends and associates to his home. She also worked hard at caring for the needs of her children and servants that lived within her home. None of them were left to “fend for themselves” as long as she was the manager of the home. Let me ask you this, is this your testimony? Would your husband consider you to be a hard-worker in your home? Can you make anything with your own hands? Would your husband feel comfortable bringing his friends and workmates to your home and around your children? Are your children confident that you will take care of their daily needs? Is your home consistently clean and well-decorated? Many Christian women look at the description of this virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 and think this is an impossible way to live. But the truth of the matter is, that many of us need to get off of our ‘blessed assurance’ and get busy working hard with our hands so that God can mold us and transform us into the kind of women that will become good wives so that we can become a crown, rather than a shame, to our husbands.

3. **She is home-centered** (verses 15; 21; 27). The virtuous woman’s heart is at home. It is not at the mall, at the office, at her mother’s, or at the neighbors. And her heart’s desire is to use her energy to run her home in a decent and orderly manner. She is satisfied with being a homemaker ~ she is not looking for “more to do” because she is bored. If she has extra time, she finds other constructive things to do, or she uses her time to learn how to do more things. She is also satisfied with the timely task of raising children. She is wise enough to know that good citizens are not born, they are made ~ made through YEARS of loving and raising and training. Dear friend, let me ask you this question: Is your heart at home? Are you content to work hard with your hands and make your house an orderly and beautiful place? Are you satisfied with the timely task of raising your children, or are you always looking for something ‘more significant’ to do with your time? Is your husband able to rest in the fact that you are content with being his help meet in this area, or is he always “worried” about you because your bored, unhappy, or lonely? Few things bring a man more peace than a home-centered heart in his wife.
4. **She is honorable in character** (verses 20-22;26;30). The virtuous woman is a woman that cares about others. She cares about the poor and needy. She cares about her husband’s reputation. She cares about her children being properly loved and trained. She cares about her home being in order. She cares about keeping herself looking pretty and well-groomed. And most of all, she cares about obeying the Lord and living a life that pleases Him.
5. **She is highly esteemed by others** (verses 28; 30-31). Because this woman has dedicated her life to working hard and living for others, the Bible tells us that she is the kind of woman that is highly esteemed by others. Who are the ‘others’ that will esteem her for the **good wife** that she has become? Her husband. Her children. The Lord. And the community around her. Would you like to become a woman that is highly esteemed by others? Then do what the Bible says ~ commit yourself to becoming husband-oriented, hard-working, home-centered, and honorable in character.

But you know what is interesting? This verse that tells us that a wife can become like a crown to her husband, also says that she can be like ‘rottenness to his bones’ and bring him shame. What do you think God meant by this statement? He meant that her actions would make him feel envious of what other men had (Proverbs 14:30). What are some of the things that a wife can do to make her husband ashamed and bring ‘rottenness’ to his bones? **She can become self-centered, lazy, career-oriented (or outside of the home oriented), foolish in character, or the kind of woman that is despised by others.**

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8



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Turn with me to Proverbs 19:14 and let's see what else God's Word has to say about the good wife that is a crown to her husband.

A Good Wife is a Prudent Woman. Proverbs 19:14 says, "*Houses and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.*" Notice what God is saying here: parents and relatives can give a man the nice things in life, but only the Lord can give him a good wife. Why is that? Because only the Lord can work in the heart and mind and soul of a woman to **transform** her from being a wife that is selfish and foolish, into the kind of woman that will be prudent, which means wise and discreet. How is He able to do it? Only through prayer and the reading and preaching of His Word. Do you know, that if a woman will commit herself **wholly** to spending time with God daily (through personal devotions, prayers, church attendance, Bible studies, etc.), God will make her into the kind of wife that is a blessing to her husband. He will change her heart and make her a prudent woman, rather than a contentious one.

I want to share with you something that Matthew Henry said in his commentary of the Bible about this particular verse:

"A discreet and virtuous wife is a choice gift of God's providence to a man — a wife that is prudent, in opposition to one that is contentious (Proverbs 19:13). For, though a wife that is continually finding fault may think it is her wit and wisdom to be so, it is really her folly; a prudent wife is meek and quiet, and makes the best of everything. If a man has such a wife, let him not ascribe it to the wisdom of his own choice or his own management (for the wisest have been deceived both in and by a woman), but let him ascribe it to the goodness of God, who made him a help meet for him, and perhaps by some hits and turns of providence that seemed casual brought her to him. Every creature is what He makes it. Happy marriages, we are sure, are made in Heaven."

To be sure, all of this that we have studied so far provides a wonderful introduction and emphasis to the last point that I would like to share with you today, and that is the point that is found in Proverbs 18:22.

A Good Wife is A Good Thing and a blessing received from the Lord. Proverbs 18: 22 says, "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*" God has ordained the marriage relationship for the purity, comfort, and usefulness of the man, and when a man finds himself a wise and virtuous wife, he knows he has found himself a jewel of great value and the richest of God's blessing! He knows that a good wife will not only bring great comfort to his life, but also a little bit of Heaven to his home as well.

As we close this study, I want to ask you a few questions . . . *Are you a good thing to YOUR husband? Are you the kind of woman that does him GOOD, and not evil, all the days of his life? Or, are you the kind that **hinders** him with your whining and complaining and contentious spirit? Are you willing to put him and his needs FIRST by being a good help meet to him? Or do you make him **rearrange** all of his plans and activities so that he can help you with everything that you need to do? Would your husband say that you are a blessing from the Lord, or something that the devil brought along to curse him with? It's something to think about, isn't it?*

Next week we will talk about how a wife helps her husband to raise godly children for the Lord.

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8

The Story of Mr. Eager & Miss Expectation



Once upon a time there lived a young man named Mr. Eager. Mr. Eager was a fine Christian man, and his heart's desire was to marry a good Christian young lady. One day he met (what he thought was) a good Christian young lady, and her name was Miss Expectation.

Oh, how excited Mr. Eager was when he met Miss Expectation! She was so beautiful to look at, she dressed so nice and modestly, she spoke so properly, and she even came from a good Christian home. He just knew that she was the girl for him and the one that God would want him to marry.

So, one day, within a year of meeting Miss Expectation, he asked her to marry him and then they got married. It was on their honeymoon that their troubles began.

"Why do we have to stay at THIS hotel for our honeymoon?" Miss Expectation asked Mr. Eager, who had now become her husband. "I thought we would stay at some place nicer."

"Oh, I'm so sorry, Miss Expectation, I didn't know you wouldn't like this. I didn't think it would really matter where we stayed, just as long as we could be alone together. After all, this is our wedding night, and I can't wait for us to be alone together!"

"Well, I guess it will be all right, I'll do what I can to make do." And make do is exactly what Miss Expectation did. She made do with the ordinary restaurant that her new husband took her to, the clumsy way that he handled the intimacies of the night, and the ugly reality of the fact that he woke up with morning breath and a face that looked like it needed a shave. She really did expect more out of him and their honeymoon, it didn't seem at all like what she had read about in books.

Anyway, eventually they recovered from their honeymoon and began to establish themselves in their new little home. Mr. Eager had picked them out a nice little trailer for them to live in, and he was so excited about it.

"So, what do you think Miss Expectation?" he asked his new bride after he carried her over the threshold.

"Well, it isn't what I expected. I always dreamed of my first home being a cute little house with a cute white fence around it. I never thought I would ever live in a trailer. But I guess it will do," Miss Expectation replied, not at all noticing the hurt and discouraged look on Mr. Eager's face.

A few months later, Miss Expectation found herself pregnant, and Mr. Eager was so thrilled about it. "Oh, Miss Expectation, isn't this the most wonderful thing! The Lord is blessing us with children, and we are going to have a baby!!! I'm going to go out right now and look for a baby crib at the thrift store."

"The thrift store?!?! Are you kidding? You want our baby to sleep in someone else's baby bed? I could never have that. I always expected that my baby would sleep in a brand new, beautiful canopy crib."

"Oh, well that would be nice Miss Expectation, but that would also be too expensive for our budget. But if that is what you want, I guess we could go into debt for it."

"I knew you would see it my way. And another thing, we need to reschedule all of our commitments now that I am pregnant, I'm just too tired to do anything."

"Well, I don't mind if you rest Miss Expectation, but I have things that I need to do. I need to finish the project that I started at work, I need to fulfill my commitments at church, and I promised my folks that I would help them put their new roof on."

"Oh Mr. Eager, how can you even think like that! I always expected that a husband would put his wife first, above everything else. That's what all of the men in the Christian romance books do!"

"Ok, Miss Expectation, I will do what you expect. The Lord knows that I want to be a good husband to you, and if you need me to drop everything for you at this time, I will happily do it."

A few years later, when Miss Expectation found herself the mother of more than a few small children, she found herself becoming very overwhelmed and especially depressed.

"Mr. Eager," she said to her husband one sullen day, "I don't think I can stay at home with these kids any longer. This is hard work and I am lonely, and it is not at all what I expected. You have to go to work every day, leaving me home alone in this house with these kids, I'm going to go crazy if I have to do this another day! I think I am going to go to work outside of the home, you know I am qualified to do that, don't you? After all, I have a degree from an accredited college."

"Oh Miss Expectation! You couldn't possibly do that! You can't leave the kids and go out and get a job. They need you here at home! I need you here at home!"

"It doesn't matter, Mr. Eager, I'm not happy here, and that is all that matters."

And so Miss Expectation left her home for a job that gave her more of a life that she expected, and she became another one of those controlling, contentious, and foolish wives that tears her house down and brings shame to the name of her husband.

What happened to Mr. Eager? Well, he just resorted to becoming one of those listless fellows that sits in front of the TV, plays games on the computer, does whatever his wife tells him to do, and goes to work with a lunch sack filled with food that is 'good for him', rather than something that he would enjoy eating.

What became of their kids? Well, they grew up and became an off-shoot of their parents. The first one was ambitious, and spent all of her time comparing herself to everyone else. She later grew up and went from husband to husband, because she was always sure that the next one must be better. The second one became annoying, and irritated everyone he came in contact with so that he could get attention. He had to be put on attention deficit drugs as a child, and depression medication as he grew older. And the third one refused to do anything. He grew up to become a welfare recipient and nothing but a burden to society.

And this is the unhappy ending of the story of Mr. Eager and Miss Expectation.