

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

Group Questions (choose the ones which you prefer)

1. Share an example of a female you know who displays great Godly strength. How has she influenced you?
2. Why do we consider Proverbs 31 as being written to men?
3. How does the truth of God speak to your worth as a person? What does it mean that we need to accept the worth God attributes to us?
4. Talk about the difference between reading Proverbs 31 as a list of standards for Godly women to live up to *versus* understanding it as a picture to describe how women build worth for and in those around them.
5. Does God want us to live out of a mindset of weakness or strength? What would you offer as evidence for each?
6. Consider how you engage in speech in your home. Are you doing well communicating worth to those around you?
7. Are there people who you need to honor for the worth they have imparted to you? How will you express your thanks and praise to them this week?



May 13-14, 2017 | More Than Rubies | Proverbs 31:10-31 | Steve Fish

What is the WORTH of a PERSON?

● ACCEPT WORTH

1. She was an example of strength.

אִשֶּׁת־חַיִּל מִי יִמָּצָא וְרַחֵק מִפְּנִינִים מְכָרָהּ:

V. 10 *A wife of noble character who can find?*

She is worth far more than rubies.

New International Version. (2011).

V. 10 *A woman of **worth** who doth find? Yea, far above rubies is her price.* Young, R. (1997). *Young's Literal Translation.*

It is difficult for WEAK individuals to communicate strength to others. God gives strength to the weak and increases the power of the weary (Is. 40:29.) God does not mean for us to live in weakness. He offers a way so that we might be STRONG.

*Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

2. Her VALUE was not measured in comparison to others.

The main audience of Lemuel's wisdom poem was MEN.

The main purpose was to teach MEN what to look for in a wife. We find this in the structures of the poem:

1. Introduction: The man was in focus from the start.

*Proverbs 31:11 Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.*

*¹² She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.*

2. ACROSTIC structure

3. Chiastic structure

The name is derived from the greek letter chi ("X"). Each point is repeated in SEQUENCE building up to and away from the MAIN point which is at the center of the "X".

Proverbs 31:20

*She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.*

*²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*

*²² She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.*

*²³ **Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.***

*²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.*

*²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.*

*²⁶ She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

This poem teaches the qualities or traits associated with an IDEALIZED woman. These qualities are sometimes MISUNDERSTOOD to be a standard to which women in general must measure up to be worthwhile.

On the contrary, every person's worth is ascribed by God.

● BUILD WORTH TO BENEFIT OTHERS

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

1. She PROVIDED in order for others to thrive.

The poem (v. 13-19) offers a detailed list of the ways in which she provided for others:

- FOOD: a variety of food, food prepared in the morning;
- CLOTHING: clothing for each season; she even prepares the thread;
- LEADERSHIP: gives tasks to household help, considers a financial investment and ...
- BUSINESS: engages in purchasing and selling

2. Her efforts were a labor of LOVE.

Proverbs 31:27 is a summary statement about these provisions:

*Proverbs 31:27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

● COMMUNICATE WORTH TO OTHERS

*Proverbs 31:26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
New International Version. (2011).*

פִּיהָ פִּתְחָה בְּחָכְמָה וְתוֹרַת־חֵסֶד עַל־לְשׁוֹנָהּ

*v. 26 Her mouth she hath opened in **wisdom**, And the law of **kindness** is on her tongue.* Young, R. (1997). *Young's Literal Translation.*

Proverbs 31:28

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

*³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

*³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*