

Today's Homemaker: Honor or Humiliation?

1. The Modern Concept of a Housewife

A. Which interests you?

1. Change dirty diapers, wipe runny noses, make up beds, do endless loads of laundry, vacuum, dust, mop the floor, clean toilets, drive in the car-pool, shop for groceries, cook, spend the day with no adult conversation, hear "Mommy" 40,000 times per day, clean up spilled Kool-aid, be a slave to your husband and servant to your children. **Any takers?**
2. Career as nurse, chef, tailor, fashion designer, realtor, interior designer, landscaper, counsellor, personnel manager, purchasing agent, teacher, financial manager/accountant, volunteer in humanitarian cause, day-care worker, chauffeur. **Any takers?**
3. These are actually different descriptions of the **same job**. Read Pr 31:10-31.

B. Clash between "conventional wisdom" and God's word:

1. Conventional wisdom: Being a homemaker is demeaning, unchallenging, unfulfilling - wasted existence. True self-worth is found by competing with men, emotional and financial independence, seeing first to your own needs. *"This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic"* (Jas 3:15).
2. Divine wisdom: Being a wife/mother brings honor, challenge, and the clearest and richest fulfillment to be found by a female in earthly life.
3. The home is the most important institution of society, and the woman is to "manage" the home - 1 Tim 5:14. This is *oikodespotes*, ruler or master of the house.

C. A challenge of faith, obedience: Do we **truly** believe and respect what God says about the role of the woman in society, family and the church?

2. What a Family Needs from a Woman

A. A diligent, industrious woman who is wholly devoted to the welfare and progress of her family - Pr 18:22; 19:14, but see 12:4. She can **make** or **break** family.

1. Running a household is a **big** job; it takes a woman of strength: Pr 31:13-15, 17, 21-22, 27.
2. She is financially responsible: Pr 31:11, 16, 19, 24.

- B. She is a woman of godly character: Pr 31:12, 20, 25-26 (compassion, honor, wisdom, kindness). She has spiritual strength - Pr 31:30.
- C. A woman who is supportive of and submissive to her husband - Pr 31:11, 23, 31 (implied).
 - 1. Nowhere in Scripture is “submission” equated with inferiority, incapability or abject servitude. There **is**, however, a hierarchy of authority; the man is the ultimate head of the wife and family which is to be exercised for their good.
 - 2. Sarah, the example of humble submission - 1 Pet 3:5-6; Gn 21:10-12. Women are not brainless idiots deserving of no consultation or consideration.
 - 3. For women, this is a **blessing**, not a curse. It is a tremendous strain to carry the full weight of responsibility for the material, spiritual and emotional well-being of the family.

3. What a Woman Needs from Her Family

- A. **Praise** - Pr 31:28-29. Anyone who invests their whole life in the care, development and happiness of others deserves the highest praise and adoration.
- B. Husbands/children - Do you take your wife for granted? *“Her worth is far above rubies”* (Pr 31:10). A **good** wife is rare.
- C. Wives/mothers - Are you content to fulfill your God-given role in life? Do you chafe and murmur at your lot? Do you look wistfully at a “career” and lament the better life that is slipping away?