



“A Genuine Beauty”

(Message for Mother’s Day)

Proverbs 31:30 NKJV

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.*

How many 80-year-old models do you see on magazine covers? Even the most beautiful women eventually get old and are forgotten. No matter how beautiful they once were, their beauty just doesn’t last. It’s fleeting - going, going, gone.

You probably spend a lot of time trying to look your best. That’s fine, but you also need to spend time with God so that you develop lasting beauty - the kind of character that sets you apart and doesn’t fade with time. It gets better and better, making you no matter how old you are.

Introduction

The book of **Proverbs begins with the command to fear the Lord (1:7)** and ends with the picture of a woman who fulfills this command. Her qualities are mentioned throughout the book: **hard work, fear of God, respect for spouse, foresight, encouragement, care for others, concern for the poor, wisdom in handling money.** *These qualities, when coupled with fear of God, lead to enjoyment, success, honour, and worth.*

Three women have been prominent in this book: **the personification of Wisdom**, seen as a woman inviting learners to her banquet, **the immoral woman or seductress**, and finally, the **“woman [or wife] of valour,”** as the literal translation reads in 31:10 (NKJV marg.).

Physical appearance is not necessarily dismissed - it simply does not endure as do those qualities that the fear of the Lord produces.

Beauty can be deceitful, and one who pursues beauty may very well be disappointed by the character of the "beautiful" person. The reference to the fear of the Lord brings the book full circle: it began with a reference to it (1:7) and ends with a similar reference.

The woman described in this chapter has outstanding abilities. Her family's social position is high. We can't be just like her, but we can learn from her industry, integrity, and resourcefulness.

A Woman of Influence

The majority of the proverb describes a virtuous woman who leads her home with integrity, discipline, and giftedness. This wife and mother is a leader not because she tries to be one, but because of who she is.

As a resume describes the one looking for a work, so a woman of valour is also described in what is written below:

Her Assets

1. She is trustworthy (v. 11).
2. She is a positive influence (v. 12).
3. She is a hard worker (vv. 13, 14, 19, 24–27).
4. She is a planner (vv. 21, 22).
5. She is protective (v. 27).

Her Achievements

1. She meets the needs of her home (v. 15).
2. She invests for her household (v. 16).
3. She keeps herself in shape (v. 17).
4. She helps her husband become successful (v. 23).

Her Attitudes

1. Delightful (v. 13)
2. Healthy (v. 18)
3. Compassionate (v. 20)
4. Unselfish (v. 20)
5. Public (v. 25)

Her Applause

1. From her family (v. 28)
2. From her husband (vv. 28, 29)
3. From God's Word (v. 30)
4. From her works (v. 31)

Conclusion:

1. **Attitudes:** Around a fearful mother, people rejoice;
2. **Stability:** A godly fearful mother establishes justice
3. **Compassion:** A fearful mother express concern for the poor
4. **Honesty:** A godly fearful mother pay attention to lies
5. **Vision:** A godly fearful mother keeps everyone on track