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The Model Wife

A Portrait of Excellence

Proverbs 31:10-31

Until industrialization, work was not rigidly divided between home and workplace for either men or women. The concept of marriage partnership was taken for granted. Women were often both keepers at home and involved in business ventures to prosper their households. It may have been a patriarchal society, but women were not as confined in their roles as some believe. The previous studies have illustrated that life was far more shoulder-to-shoulder than what became the pattern in the Victorian era.

GROUP DISCUSSION. If you were to write a description of an ideal wife, what would you say?

How many of the traits you have given her reflect who she is as opposed to what she does?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What makes for a fulfilling life?

This is a discussion of an Old Testament description of an ideal wife. Her life is surprisingly large and satisfying. It will help us take a fresh look at our values. Read *Proverbs 31:10-31*.

1. What is your initial impression of this woman?

2. What qualities are most often mentioned?

3. What responsibilities does this woman have?

What is the sphere of her influence?

4. Think of someone you know today who is like this woman. In what ways are the two alike?

different?

5. What resources does this woman work with?

6. How does the woman's reputation compare with that of her husband?

7. How would you describe this woman's relationship with her husband and family?

8. What is the secret of the woman's praiseworthy life?

9. What about this woman's life should become a standard for all women?

Do you think these qualities are limited to women? Why or why not?

10. How important is work in making your life meaningful? Explain.

11. What is this woman's lasting investment?

What is yours?

Ask God to make your life meaningful in his sight and to give you a sense of purpose—something to aim for in the daily business of everyday life.

Now or Later

At the end of your life, what do you want people to say about you? Record an epitaph that you would like as your memorial.

How do your goals differ from the mainstream view of success?