

Loving my HOME



Proverbs 31:10-31

The Proverbs 31 woman is hailed as the ultimate example of a godly woman. I have to agree. A woman who can accomplish *all that* has taken “life in the fast lane” to a whole new level. Most of us have several things on our own plates, though, and we can relate to this woman’s busy-ness. The Proverbs 31 woman is described with such words as noble, more valuable than rubies, strong, wise, faithful. These are words that would be jewels in all of our crowns.

Over the past few weeks of this study, I have been outlining things that should be priorities in our lives. Once we get our priorities in proper order, the clutter of our lives begins to fall away. As I mature, I realize with greater importance that if my house is free of clutter, so is my brain! We are unable to separate in full our physical surroundings from our mental activity.

Personally, if my house is straight, I can breeze through my day and have time left over for a creative dinner, a trip to the park or just for that long-awaited bubble bath. When things pile up, though, my energy is sapped, and my patience seems to be near its end.

This Proverbs 31 woman had a good thing going. She maintained her house, and she was able to do things outside the home to generate more income. Not only did this benefit her, but it affected her husband’s reputation, as well. Verse 23 tells us that he was respected at the gate. This verse wouldn’t be in there if it weren’t directly related to the wife’s doings.

Have you ever had company over and had to spend the last 20 minutes hurling odds and ends into the hall closet only to have a first-time guest accidentally open that door when looking for the hall bath? I have been just that embarrassed on occasion, and I wonder if those people have left my home thinking that my closets are always in such disarray. If an incident like this occurred when my husband was up for a promotion, I wonder if his boss might have thought...hmmmm.

If our clutter affects our brains, we have to know that our husbands and children, too, will be affected. In the training of our little ones, it is important that they understand that cleanliness is a priority. I have an eight year old boy who has actually commented to me how messy a friend’s house was. I didn’t think he noticed those things. But verse 28 tells us that the woman’s children “arise and call her blessed,” as well as her husband. Our families notice the care we give to them and to their surroundings. They appreciate every little thing that we do for them; although we do not always hear about it.

I always suppress a giggle when reading Leviticus 13 and 14. The Old Testament laws regarding mold were quite stringent. But if God places great importance on cleanliness and organization, then so should I!



Check points:

Have I been faithful with the home that God has given to me?

Am I and my husband proud of our home? Or is our family clutter causing unnecessary stress?

What practical solutions can I make to create a more pleasant home environment?

I encourage you to make a household chore list and schedule so that every one in your home can take part in keeping the home clutter-free.

Life in the Fast Lane I 2005 is written by Linda Graham.

Life in the Fast Lane is a part of Online Bible Studies, provided by IPHC Women's Ministries.

For more information call 405-787-7110, ext. 3227 or email WMSinfo@iphc.org