

IT TAKES A WIFE AND MOTHER

Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction:

1. There was a time in the history of our nation when homes were stable.
 - a. Divorce and remarriage were uncommon and frowned upon.
 - b. Abortion was illegal and virtually unknown.
 - c. Same sex marriages were unheard of and illegal.
 - d. Co-habitation was regarded by all as a shame and disgrace.
 - e. Husbands and fathers earned the living and women were proud to be wives and mothers.
 - f. Children were regarded as a blessing of the Lord.
2. All this has radically changed and it has happened in my lifetime!
3. We have gone from God ordained homes being the norm to a time when such homes are an endangered species.
4. The consequences in broken hearts and lives, rampant immorality, and escalating crime threaten the very existence of our nation.
5. Wives and mothers are the center of the family as God ordained it.

Discussion:

- I. **MOTHERS ARE INDISPENSABLE IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN.**
 - A. Children used to come home from school asking “Where’s Mom?”
 1. The strongest bond is between mothers and children.
 2. Children are most often awarded to mothers in custody cases.
 - B. When an aged man dies, his family continues to “come home.”
 1. When his wife dies, families lose a vital link.
 2. Widowers are much more likely to remarry than widows.
- II. **CURRENT FORCES ARE UNDERMINING WOMAN’S PLACE IN THE HOME.**
 - A. The Feminist Movement undermines woman’s God-given role.
 1. Marriage and motherhood are disdained.
 2. A woman in submission to her husband is considered slavery (Eph. 5:23, 24; 1 Cor. 11:3).
 - B. Materialism undermines woman’s God-given role.
 1. Working mothers leave small children vulnerable.
 2. Children raised by baby-sitters and day care personnel imbibe their values.

3. The desire for material things takes precedence over the needs of children (Matt. 6:33; 1 John 2:15).
4. “Today we have a generation of children growing up ‘unbonded’... children grow up with no sense of relationship or responsibility to other people. They have no allegiance to parents, no loyalty to friends, no concept of right or wrong, and they become social misfits and ultimately a menace to society....They grow up in ‘warehouses for kids’ while their parents are somewhere else, trying to keep up a ‘lifestyle’” (Jim Nelson Black; When Nations Die; pp. 220, 221).

C. Living together without marriage undermines woman’s God-given role.

1. Couples living together outside marriage has increased astronomically in the past forty years.
 - a. In 1960, 439,000 individuals were living in sin.
 - b. By 1998, the number had increased to 4.2 million!
2. This relationship constitutes fornication (Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19).

III. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THE IDEAL WOMAN IN PROVERBS 31:10-31.

A. This is a description of the ideal woman in ancient Israel.

1. Proverbs warns of being involved with evil women:
 - a. Immoral women who entice men to sin (2:16-19; 5:15-20; 6:24-29; 7:5--23).
 - b. Women who lack discretion (11:22).
 - c. A contentious and angry woman (21:9,19; 25:24).
2. It is fitting that Proverbs ends in an ascription of praise to the highest kind of womanhood.

B. The worthy woman described in Proverbs 31 is a multi-talented multi-tasker.

1. She is a faithful and diligent wife: “The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life” (11, 12).
2. She is a prudent businesswoman: “She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar” (13,14).
3. She is a hard-worker: “She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants” (15).
4. She is benevolent: “She extends her hand to the poor; Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy” (20).

5. She contributes to her husband's success: "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land" (23).
6. She is wise and kind: "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness (25,26).
7. She is held in high esteem by her husband and children: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; He husband also, and he praises her" (28).
8. She possesses the true and lasting beauty: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised" (30).

IV. GODLY WIVES AND MOTHERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE CHURCH.

- A. They are not public leaders but serve in a vital way (1 Tim. 2:8-15).
- B. Women teach other women and children, counsel younger women, set proper examples, minister to the sick and needy, encourage their husbands and sons in the work of the Lord, and often work behind the scenes (Tit. 2:3-5; Acts 9:36-42; 18:1-3, 24-28; Rom. 16:1,2; 1 Tim. 5:9, 10).

Conclusion:

1. An author said of his mother: "She was always there for us. She prepared breakfast in the morning and saw we were ready for school. She assigned us tasks when we came home and made us do our homework. She had a hot, nourishing meal on the table that we ate together as a family in the evening. She washed, ironed and mended our clothes. She baked our birthday cakes and made cookies for us when we came home from school. She taught us to read the Bible and pray and took us to Sunday school and worship every week. She loved and respected our Dad and taught us to do the same. She hugged us when we were sad, mended our cuts and bruises when we fell, and kept a vigil at our bedside when we were sick. She was our confidant and counselor as we grew older. She welcomed our mates when we married and delighted in our children. Mom was always there, in good times and bad. She was a stable factor in our lives. We could always count on her" (R. C. Marshall, Memories of Home and Happiness).
2. One needs to obey the Gospel, not only for his own salvation, but for the sake of the souls of his children (Mark 16:15,16).

