

Biblical Femininity – Part 2
(God’s View of Womanhood)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to continue our study of Biblical femininity, or God’s view of womanhood.
 - A. This needs addressing because:
 - i. It is a biblical subject and is quite pertinent considering our society’s view of it.
 - ii. The world, blinded by sin, fails to see that God ascribes infinitely greater dignity, power, and worth to women than it does, despite all its rhetoric.
 - B. Last week we discussed how Creation teaches us:
 - i. That both the man and woman were created in God’s image.
 - ii. That God made man and woman to work **together** to fill and subdue the earth.
 - iii. That God made woman to be a **helper** for the man.
 - iv. That women will fulfill much of God’s purpose for them in a **submissive role**.
 - v. That **sin** is the source of women’s struggles with femininity and its proper expression.
2. Today I want to talk about:
 - A. The ideal woman of Proverbs 31 and its application
 - B. Biblical elements of womanhood revealed throughout the Bible.

BODY:

I. The ideal woman (Prov. 31):

- A. This passage is designed to express ideal womanhood according to God’s will.
 1. She blesses her husband and family as a helper and nurturer.
 - a. Thus, her value is beyond wealth because she brings confidence she brings her family and the tireless good she does (10-15, 27-29).
 - b. She expresses her femininity in strength, resourcefulness, and industry used selflessly and tirelessly for the good of her family (16-19, 21, 24).
 2. She expresses her womanhood in her personal care.
 - a. She cares about how she dresses (22).
 - b. Her physical appearance is not her main concern, however, seeing she clothes herself in strength and dignity, and others know her for wisdom and kindness (25-26).
 3. The blessings of her endeavors extend to the community by doing good for those in need, while establishing an honorable name for her family (20, 23).
 4. She is deserving of praise because she fears the Lord (30-31).
- B. Considerations:
 1. In a day where external beauty is glorified, God’s word shows us that *enduring feminine beauty* is **in the heart** that reverences and loves God and shows it to others.
 2. Though addressing a married woman, many of these points can apply equally to a single woman.
 - a. For, consider ladies like Tabitha (Acts 9:36 – “Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was **abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.**”).
 - b. Such valuable and godly deeds of kindness and love are not confined to the married.
 3. This description is of the **ideal** woman, and is designed to encourage, not overwhelm.
 - a. For, this is Proverbs, a book expressing wisdom for living.
 - b. I can only imagine what it would be like trying to do everything this passage says.
 - c. So, this description presents womanhood’s greatest strengths as a model to be emulated, as a goal, not as a discouragement!

II. Biblical expressions of womanhood

- A. Biblical femininity/womanhood is expressed in a woman’s disposition to **nurture life**.
 1. This aspect is most uniquely seen in childbearing, seeing only women can do that.

- a. The woman's honor in doing this was shown in the name given the first woman (Gen. 3:20 – "Now the man called his wife's name **Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.**").
 - i. **Eve** means **life, living, life-giver.**
 - ii. So, from the beginning it was known that women would be honored for bearing children, for bringing life into the world.
 - iii. In fact, from creation onward all human life, which includes every man since Adam, has come by woman!
 - b. What a shame it is, and no coincidence, that the world has convinced so many women to live without this honor, believing that having children detracts from the glory of womanhood.
2. A mother's desire to nurture her children is so strong and beautiful that it is used to illustrate God's own desire to nurture His children.
 - a. Isa. 49:15 – "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you."
 - b. Isa. 66:13 – "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem."
 - c. That the Holy Spirit would reference women's nurturing as illustrative of God's is truly significant. For, again, by your actions you show God's character to the world.
 - d. And, again, how sad it is that such a wonderful, innate, quality of womanhood is being sinfully rejected as dishonorable by the world.
 3. Biblical womanhood is also expressed in nurturing others.
 - a. We see this in Paul's instruction to older women (Titus 2:3-6 – "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ **so that they may encourage the young women** to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.").
 - i. She nurtures the lives of others by her example of godly living.
 - ii. She nurtures the lives of other women by instructing them concerning how to be godly women and wives.
 - 1) Of course, to teach these things implies that these qualities of love, sensibility, purity, industry, kindness, subjection, and encouragement are hers!
 - 2) What a beautiful picture of God paints of the godly woman.
 - b. We see this nurturing of others in the required qualities for a widow that is to be taken into the church's care. For, according to **1 Timothy 5:10** she must have a reputation for good works, having brought up children, shown hospitality to strangers, washed the saints' feet, assisted those in distress, and devoted herself to every good work.
 - c. Now, Titus 2:3-6 brings up the question of what is meant by women being "workers at home."
 - i. Well, as we have seen from Proverbs 31, it does not mean that she cannot make money for the family.
 - ii. But, I do believe it means that her primary focus is to be the home, managing it and its upkeep, as well as caring for her family.
 - iii. Husbands need to remember this.
 - 1) We must not demand that our wives work outside the home and then unjustly expect them to also do much, or all, of the work around the house.
 - 2) For, it is the God-given responsibility of the husband to work to provide for the family (1 Tim. 5:8 – "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.").

- d. And let me say again that much of these nurturing characteristics can apply to women whether they are young or old, married or single, with or without children!
- B. Biblical womanhood, or femininity, is expressed in **vulnerability**.
1. God has given women an incredible ability to be soft and sensitive, which also means being vulnerable, or openly exposed to experiencing hurt and pain.
 - a. This is why God exhorts husbands to treat their wives with understanding (1 Pet. 3:7 – “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone **weaker**, since she is a **woman**; and **show her honor** as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”).
 - b. That she is *weaker* being a *woman* does not mean she is pathetic, but *more delicate* and *vulnerable* and *worthy of protection*, as one would treat and protect expensive China.
 2. Her vulnerability is one of her greatest strengths.
 - a. For, as we have said, God uses that vulnerability for His good.
 - b. It is true of the woman as it was told to Paul (2 Cor. 12:9 – “My grace is sufficient for you, **for power is perfected in weakness**.”).
 - c. Most, if not all of us, have seen how true this is in godly women’s ability to show great tenderness and gentleness while facing great trials and tribulations!
- C. Biblical womanhood is expressed in **beauty**.
1. True feminine beauty **is not found** in a woman’s physical appearance, which can deceive and fade with age (Prov. 31:30 – “Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.”).
 2. The beauty of biblical womanhood is **timeless** because it **is found ultimately** within the **heart** (1 Pet. 3:3-5 – “Your adornment must not be **merely external**—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands”).
 - a. Women are not to put all, or even most, of your emphasis on your physical beauty...and men should not be solely focused on that either.
 - b. It will let you down and then what will you have? What will your life be?
 3. **Biblical femininity does not reject or exclude** physical beauty, seeing the Holy Spirit included both the outer and inner woman as part of a woman’s adornment (1 Pet. 3:3 – “not [to] be **merely** external”; Prov. 31:22 – “She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.”).
 - a. So, viewing physical beauty as the focus of being a woman would be wrong.
 - b. And yet, rejecting beauty and/or treating it with disdain or as somehow unholy is also misguided and ungodly.
 - c. For, biblical womanhood expresses her inner and outer beauty in godly fashion, in modesty, gentleness, purity, and holiness.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is my hope that I:
 - A. Have presented the biblical truth concerning what biblical womanhood.
 - B. Have encouraged the women here concerning the role God has given you, and its value/honor.
 - C. Have also enlightened the men concerning the great value and honor a godly woman possesses in this world and what that requires of you in how you view and treat a woman.
 - D. Shown that the world is so misguided in its rejection of God’s way, seeing only following God’s design will give the honor and respect to women that they truly deserve.
2. If you are not a Christian, it is my hope that you will see the wonder of God and His grace presented in his word and respond to Jesus today by coming to him as your Lord and Savior in F-R-C-Bp.