**An Excellent Wife**

 *An excellent wife who can find?
    She is far more precious than jewels.****11****The heart of her husband trusts in her,
    and he will have no lack of gain.****12****She does him good, and not harm,
    all the days of her life.*

*…*

***30****Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
    but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.****31****Give her of the fruit of her hands,
    and let her works praise her in the gates. (Proverbs 31:10-12; 30-31, ESV)*

 The excellent wife is the one that fears God. Happy Mother’s Day, as we celebrate and rejoice in our mothers today!

 The last chapter of Proverbs is famous in its depiction of the hard-working woman of the house. The author writes that the excellent[[1]](#footnote-1) wife creates a certain atmosphere in her home. She causes her husband to trust her in his heart. She is always doing good: she helps the poor, she makes sure the kids have everything they need, and makes the house come alive with her activity. Whatever she speaks, believes, and even puts on for clothing brings life into the house. Her work is so good that even her husband has a good name because of her. The end of this picture is well expressed: that kind of woman surpasses all others, because she fears the Lord. Thus, the God-fearing woman’s works will be told and praised in society.

 This is like a field in which much seed is planted. If those seeds do not receive the right nutrients or the right amount of water, perhaps even the right kind of fertilizer, they die. The woman who expresses the fear of the Lord in her life is the one who will flourish. However, the one that is fooled by the solely temporary or external beauty will fade like a flower and her unripe inner beauty will remain and show instead.

 Today the world is attempting to corrupt and blur the image and identity of a mother or woman. That original image is that of a helper and friend to Adam. In God eyes, just as Adam and Eve brought generations of life to the world, the woman is still called to be part of the same calling today. She is called to form a family in her youth, and to create an atmosphere of life as the years pass, both within her home and in her circles. Eve became the mother of all the living. However, her motherhood came from God and is redeemed through Jesus Christ.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Today the world is lowering motherhood from its honorable position and its God-given calling and simultaneously glorifying relationships and so-called families that are not part of God’s designed structure of marriage. Through Jesus Christ’s salvation, however, the original image of the family unit has been restored. Thus, we rejoice in our believer, God-fearing, devoted mothers.

Dear mothers, your faith has given meaning to the body of your works and has made it life-giving. May God strengthen you, your faith, and your hearts, that you may continue to be life-givers both within and without your households.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

May the Lord bless our mothers and women of the house. May the Lord bless us all. Amen.

1. Or virtuous in the Armenian [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. After being marred by her and Adam’s sin in the Garden… [↑](#footnote-ref-2)