

Message Title: **'The Influence of a Good Woman'**

Scripture Source: **Proverbs 31:10-31**

Teacher: John Garner

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Indisputable

Through a life marked by maturity of character and behaviour, a woman's influence can be used profoundly by God in the lives of others, beginning with those closest to her.

Behaviours of a Good Woman

Proverbs 31:10-31 paints a picture of a mature, engaged, and productive woman, on the home front and beyond. The attitudes and behaviours written about apply to mothers and those who have never been moms yet have the desire and capacity to enrich the lives of others.

#1: Bias to Thoughtful Action: Proverbs 31:13-19

Here is an intelligent, thoughtful and action oriented woman at work. There is not a lazy bone in her body. She uses her God given abilities to be productive and provide for those closest to her. Enthusiasm marks her demeanour. "...works with eager hands." She 'wears' a 'yes' face; grumpiness and cynicism have no settled place in her life. Women, how would you assess your current 'bias to thoughtful action' capacity and behaviour?

#2: Compassionate Hospitality: Proverbs 31:20

Here is a woman mindful of the suffering, the needs of others. She exhibits an awareness of the hardships of others and is resolved to alleviate some of the 'lacks' she witnesses. She warmly embraces the needy and hurting person and generously shares from her personal resources to meet real needs.

#3: Emotional and Spiritual Maturity: Proverbs 31:25,26,30

Here is a woman who has chosen to cultivate a resilient spirit, an optimistic outlook rooted in a chosen faith in God. The imagery the writer uses is highly instructive. "She is clothed with strength and dignity." vs.25. There is an obvious and recognizable poise, strength, resilience, and wisdom to this woman. She engages life with bravery and faith, ready to be and do what is required in that moment, in that season. Her words are permeated with kindness for others, rooted in godly wisdom.

This woman loves and deeply respects God and his words.

The Impact and Influence of a Good Woman: Proverbs 31:28-31

Her life and works are acknowledged warmly and thoughtfully. Her life has the capacity to inspire and instruct others on whom and what matters most.

Pause and Reflect

Women, in what realms do you see evidence of solid maturity? Where do you feel a need to mature? Be as specific as possible.

Choices for Growth: Choose examples of women who inspire and instruct you...who might they be?

Choose today to be, with God's Spirit's help, a source of genuine spiritual instruction and inspiration. Who needs you to be that kind of good and godly woman?

Cultivate a thoughtful and active faith in God, rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus. A relationship where you know that your sins have been fully forgiven, that you are cherished by God and free to become more fully the woman God has in mind for you.

A Word to Men

If you are married, encourage your wife to be and do what she has capacity and gifts to be and do! Don't stifle; affirm and appreciate in specifics. Do you need to improve in this area? Men, how you treat the women in your life, younger and older, matters to God. Treat with respect, thoughtful consideration, truthful interaction and humility.

Thank You!

To every good woman that is integral to this church family...and there are many!