

Single?

Message on Proverbs

By Bob Harrington

Proverbs 31:10-11 A wife of noble character who _____? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

Proverbs 20:7 The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his _____ after him.

1. Don't Being Married.

1 Corinthians 7: 8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. 9But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. . . . 32I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.

Proverbs 21:9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

2. Don't Being Married.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

3. If You Want Marriage, Find a Person.

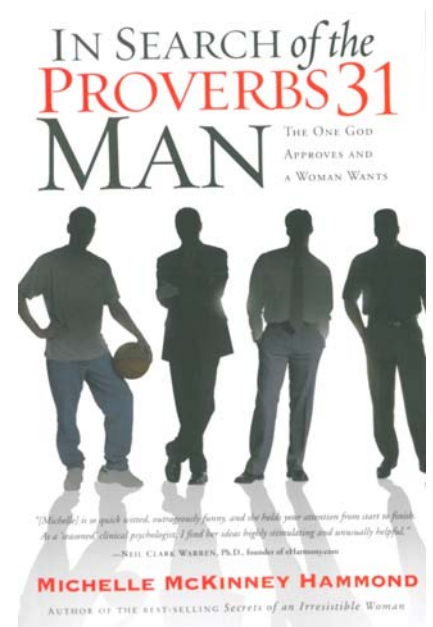
The Woman You Want - Proverbs 31:10-21

Bruce Waltke, PhD, *Commentary on The Book of Proverbs* . . .

The poem is structured as an acrostic (i.e., the initial consonant of each verse follows the order of the Hebrew alphabet) . . . This valiant wife has been canonized as a role model for all Israel for all time. Wise daughters aspire to be like her, wise men seek to marry her, and all wise people aim to incarnate the wisdom she embodies, each in his own sphere of activity.

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city

The Man You Want – Proverbs



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom and humility comes before honor. (Proverbs 15:33) A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. (Proverbs 14:16)

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. (Proverbs 10:4) Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor. (Proverbs 12:24) Better is a patient man than a warrior, a man that controls his temper than one who takes the city. (Proverbs 16:32) A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. (Proverbs 17:27)

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20) A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (Proverbs 12: 26)

A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool. (Proverbs 17:10) Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. (Proverbs 19:20)

He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. (Proverbs 28: 13)

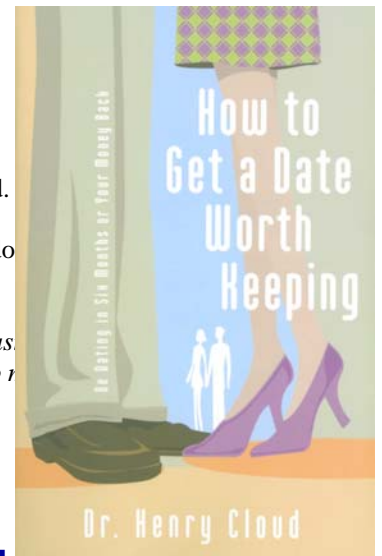
A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. (Gives thought to his ways – Proverbs 14:15) The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him. Proverbs 20:7)

4. Trust and Pray to God, But You Must at it Too.

Proverbs 13:4 - The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 - Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

HCC's Lee Wilson is founder of www.realchristiansingles.com. "A lot of single people say, I am just happy. Unfortunately, if they really want to get married (and should) then they must pursue it. Too many more articles at http://realchristiansingles.com/cms_articles.php



5. You Want to Listen to From Godly, Wise People.

Proverbs 12: 15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to **advice**.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to **advice** and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of **counsel**, but with many advisers they succeed.

John Townsend and Henry Cloud, *Safe People*. People who are good for you (in marriage and elsewhere) are going to have a threefold effect over time:

- You end up closer to God.
- You end up closer to others.
- You become more of yourself.

Small Group Questions

1. What is one of the best dates you have ever been on? What made it a good date?
2. What most stood out to you from this teaching on Proverbs? Explain.
3. What advice is most important for people in their teenage years in regard to dating? What about for someone in their 20s or 30s or 40s or 50s?
4. If there is one thing that you could tell everyone about finding the right spouse, what would it be? Why?
5. How can we pray for and support the singles at HCC?
6. Answer the question: how can we pray for you this coming week?