

Proverb 31
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
July 18, 2009

Proverb 31:

- 1 The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:
 - No one seems to be able to identify King Lemuel
 - There were many kings in the middle east
 - He is not listed among the kings of Israel or Judah
- 2 What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?
- 3 Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
- 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink;
- 5 Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.
- 6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.
- 7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.
- 8 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die.
- 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.
 - King Lemuel's mother gave him a three-fold warning against:
 - Womanizing
 - Drinking
 - Injustice (by a ruler)
 - These things can all be a downfall of a ruler
 - They can cause bad judgment
 - They can cause bad decisions
- 10 Who can find a virtuous wife (*or a wife of valor*)? For her worth is far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
 - The husband trusts his wife
 - Her decisions
 - Her actions
 - Her faithfulness
- 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.
- 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.
 - She obtains material to make clothing by herself
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.
 - She obtains the makings for meals
- 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.
 - They didn't have any microwave
 - She had to fix everything from scratch

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- 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.
 - She conducted real estate transactions by herself
 - Then she plants the food she will later make into meals and drink
- 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.
 - She is not weak
 - Physically nor mentally
- 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night.
 - She made her own assessment of her dealings
- 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle
- 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
 - She gives help to the unfortunate
 - Sometimes that meant she had to make clothes for them
- 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.
 - She makes the clothes that keeps her family warm
- 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
 - She makes nice clothes for herself
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.
 - She doesn't get upset that all her husband does is sit among the elders ☺
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.
 - She also sells some of the garments she makes
- 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.
 - Her reward will be at the resurrection
- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
 - She knows God's Law and tells it to others
- 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.
 - **Proverbs 14:**
 - 23 In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.
 - **Proverbs 19:**
 - 15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.
- 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:
 - She is respected and admired by her family
 - **Ephesians 5:**
 - 1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
 - 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

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- **1 Corinthians 13:**
 - 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
 - 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
 - 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
 - 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
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- 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
- 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.
 - Submit to each other – both equally
 - Expositor’s Commentary
 - “No one is to coerce another, for all voluntarily accept the discipline. Hence, all delusions of superiority are banished and no one thinks of himself more highly than he ought.”
 - It’s not what you have to do to be a Christian; it is what you want to do because you are a Christian.
 - This applies to the marriage, too – you treat each other properly because you want to, not because you have to
- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
- 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
 - **Matthew 19:**
 - 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"
 - 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.
 - This is the attitude the husband should have about the wife
 - The husband is not “better”

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- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
- 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
- 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
 - They are fused into a single entity
 - **John 17:**
 - 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:
 - 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
 - **Matthew 19:**
 - 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'
 - 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?
 - 6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
- 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.
- 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.
- 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."
- 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
 - The respect goes both ways
- **1 Peter 3:**
 - 1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

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- 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.
- 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--
- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
- 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,
- 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.
- 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
- 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."
- 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.
- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

Genesis 2:

- 18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."
- 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.
- 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.
 - The horse may have been the closest, in my opinion
 - Dogs may be 2nd
 - Cats were last
- 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.
- 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.
- 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."
- 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

My favorite quote about the marriage relationship outside of the Biblical quotes is from Peter Marshall. He was a Scottish immigrant who became the pastor of the New York

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Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC and Chaplain of the US Senate. In a sermon given on Mother's Day in 1934, Peter Marshall gave his philosophy of marriage:

- “Marriage is not a federation of two sovereign states. It is a union –
 - domestic
 - social
 - spiritual
 - physical.
- It is the fusion of two hearts –
 - The union of two lives –
 - The coming together of two tributaries,
 - Which, after being joined in marriage, flow in the same channel
 - In the same direction
- Carrying the same burdens of responsibility and obligation.”

Ecclesiastes 9:

- 4 But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.
- 5 For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.
- 6 Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun.
- 7 Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works.
- 8 Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.
- 9 Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.