



Four Ingredients of Eternal Value (Proverbs 31:10-31)

As a woman, do you often feel insecure, falling short of God's design for your life? Have you ever asked yourself, "*What characteristics does God value most in shaping me?*" When cooking, a chef uses just the right ingredients for her recipe. At the conclusion of Proverbs, King Solomon offers four ingredients of eternal value. We must read these with two caveats. First, each female needs to be careful not to consider herself a failure by comparing her life to the list. No woman on this side will get it all right every time. The descriptors comprise a portrait of what God values. Second, a male should not dismiss the passage as insignificant to his gender, but rather embrace the characteristics as something he should nurture in the women in his life.

(1) Priceless Wife (Proverbs 31:10-12)

"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" (Proverbs 31:10-12).

The first ingredient of eternal value is a priceless wife. Marriage is the Bible's most frequently used metaphor to describe the kingdom of heaven. Even the Church is called, "the bride of Christ" (Revelation 19:7). In Christ, God paid a world record price for each of us (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We are priceless in His eyes, not because we are worthy, but because we are worthful. Our value comes from another, Jesus Christ.

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Do you possess God's ultimate value in Christ? Have you fully surrendered your life to Him as Savior and Lord?

(2) Hard Worker (Proverbs 31:13-19)

"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 night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.
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" (Proverbs 31:13-19).

The second ingredient of eternal value is a hard worker. Hard work is important to God (Proverbs 10:4). When He walked the earth, Jesus Christ accomplished the work His



Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). Each of us is designed to reflect the heart of Christ in our work (Colossians 3:23).

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Are you characterized and known as a hard worker? What would coworkers say about your work ethic? The answer can be insightful.

(3) Giving Wise Mother Filled with Strength & Dignity (Proverbs 31:20-29)

“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’” (Proverbs 31:20-29).

The third ingredient of eternal value is generosity, a giving wise mother filled with strength and dignity. This comes from valuing family.

Family flows the heart of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote:

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:14-19).

Jesus Christ is giving and our ultimate picture of generosity. Paul revealed: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). He is both the wisdom and the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:24).

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Are you reflecting the giving, wise, strong, dignified heart of Christ? Could you grow in



any of these Christ-like characteristics? If so, select one and focus on it this week. Pray to God that He would give you the heart of Christ.

(4) Follower of God (Proverbs 31:30-31)

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate” (Proverbs 31:30-31).

The fourth ingredient to eternal value is a follower of God. Paul implored the church at Corinth to follow him as he followed Christ (2 Corinthians 11:1). To fear the Lord is to follow Him. Two kinds of fear exist. One is slave-like, a fear that God is a demanding taskmaster. The second sees God as a loving Father and surrenders to Him. The former is a fear that God would stay; the latter is reverence, or a fear that God would leave. Consequently, a woman who fears the Lord is not scared of God. Instead, she humbles herself to Him in obedience.

Paul tells the church at Philippi that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:11). We are designed to revere and humble our hearts to Him. Then it is Christ in us who reveals the four ingredients of eternal value. He is our only eternal Hope (1 Timothy 1:1). Left to ourselves, we will always fall short of God's character, but when we surrender to Him, the Spirit of Christ restores us to His original design, one that is in process on this side of heaven.

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Follow God by asking Him to reveal any area in Solomon's passage where you are falling short. Pray to Him these two simple sentences: "I can't. You can." "I can't restore myself. God, in Christ, only you can." He will make you new, again, and use you to bring His restorative work to others.

Conclusion

Will you receive your ultimate value in Christ today by surrendering anything you are holding back from Him? He will renew you to be a priceless, hard-working, giving and wise follower of His.