

The Christian Home

Lesson One

Determine to Have a Christian Home

I Three Homes we all need.

- A A Heavenly home.
- B A Church home.
- C A Christian home.

II What makes a home Christian?

Colossians 3:15-21 ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. ¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

A The Ingredients of a Christian home.

- 1 Peace *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."*
- 2 Thankfulness *"...and be ye thankful."*
- 3 The Word of God *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."*

B The Instruction in a Christian home.

- 1 God-honoring music *"...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"*
- 2 The Love of Christ *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed..."*
- 3 Accountability to Christ *"...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"*

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C The Individuals in a Christian home.

- 1 Wives *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."*
- 2 Husbands *"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."*
- 3 Children *"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."*
- 4 Fathers *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."*

Best Practices

- Make your home a place of peace, not a battleground.
- Eliminate murmuring and complaining from your home.
- Take time to read God's Word and pray together as a family each day.
- Fill your home with music that honors God.
- Do not laugh at things that you have told your children are sinful.
- Teach your children that we are all personally accountable to Jesus Christ.
- Submit to the leadership of your husband, even if he is not all he should be.
- Love your wives and make this commitment, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- Do not provoke your children to wrath by hypocrisy, unrealistic expectations, or an unforgiving spirit.

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Lesson Two

Marriage by Divine Design

Genesis 2:18-24 ¹⁸ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. ¹⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. ²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. ²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto 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 shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

I The Plan for Marriage.

A God's Intention.

- 1 Man shouldn't be alone.
- 2 Woman should be a help-meet.
- 3 Couple should be married – one flesh – for life.

B God's Direction.

- 1 Be fruitful.
- 2 Multiply.
- 3 Replenish the earth.
- 4 Subdue it.
- 5 Have dominion over the fish, fowls and flocks – everything (Genesis 1:28).

II The Pattern for Marriage

- A Leave father and mother (doesn't mean "leave town" but he takes on the responsibility and authority in his own home).
- B God created male and female (a man is to marry a woman – there are no other options within God's pattern).
- C Sexual behavior between men (homosexuals), between women (lesbians), or between humans and animals (bestiality) is an abomination (abomination has a greater spiritual and ethical meaning. An "abomination" is a huge offense to a Holy God). See Deuteronomy 24:1-4 and Proverbs 6:16-19 for other abominations mentioned in Scripture.

III The Purity in Marriage

- A Marriage is a covenant between God and two people.
 - 1 What God hath joined together (legally binding contract) let not man put asunder.

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- 2 A “lower court” cannot reverse the decision of a higher court.
- 3 People getting “divorced” for grounds other than “adultery” are considered adulterers in God’s eyes – when they marry someone else. It is the act of adultery that breaks the marriage vows in God’s eyes. At that point, God recognizes divorce as an option, but not a requirement.

B An adulterer is a married person that engages in sexual behavior with someone other than their spouse. Fornication (*porneia*) is any illicit sexual activity.

C God can and will forgive fornication and adultery. However, sin has consequences. We must learn to not pass judgment beyond what God has said in Scripture. Our wrong attitudes and actions can drive truly forgiven saints away from our local church.

IV The Permanency of Marriage

Matthew 19:3-10 ³ The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? ⁴ And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? ⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ⁷ They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸ He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication (*porneia*), and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. ¹⁰ His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

A What constitutes a marriage?

- 1 Leaving and cleaving? _____
- 2 Exchanging vows and physical union? _____
- 3 Children? _____
- 4 Faithfulness to your spouse? _____

B Divorce is not in God’s plan for marriage.

- 1 Permitted (not commanded) through Moses.
- 2 Joseph was allowed to “put away” Mary when she was pregnant with Jesus. Had they been married, his legal recourse would have been to have her stoned to death.
- 3 Properly done, the act of divorce is NOT a sin. The act of adultery always is (Jeremiah 3:6-18).

Best Practices

- Know the pattern for marriage taught in God’s Word.
- Take the responsibility to teach your children what the Bible says about marriage.
- Be faithful to your mate and maintain purity in your marriage.
- Determine that you are going to stay with your spouse the rest of your life and put the principles of God’s Word to work in your marriage (relationship).

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Lesson Three

Establish a Biblical Foundation in Marriage

I Speak to one another about how you came to know the Lord and what He means to you.

Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

II Pray together and share answers to prayer.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

III Read God's Word together and share with your spouse the things God has used to speak to you.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

IV Give prayer requests to one another.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

V Attend Church together.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

VI Spend time each day talking about God's care of your lives.

1st Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

VII Choose to forgive.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

VIII Be willing to accept reproof and correction from one another.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

IX Seek Christ for victory over annoying habits in your life.

1st John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

X Allow nothing unclean through your eye gate.

Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me.

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XI Desire the Spirit of Christ in your married life.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

XII Build your life around the Lord.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

XIII Exalt Christ to one another.

Psalms 34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

XIV Cultivate a spirit of gratitude.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

XV Take your rightful place in marriage.

Ephesians 5:21-22, 25, 33 ²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ... ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ... ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

- The husband MUST freely and abundantly demonstrate his love for / to his wife.
- The wife MUST freely and abundantly demonstrate her respect for / to her husband.

Best Practices

- Talk about the blessings you received from the church service (or other biblical encouragement).
- Forgive as easily and completely as Christ has already forgiven you.
- Always accept reproof. Choose the right time to give reproof to another.
- Build your life together around the Lord, not your children, activities or hobbies.
- Exalt Christ by praising Him and speaking of His goodness.
- Cultivate gratitude in your own life.

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Lesson Four

Calvary Love in the Christian Home

Romans 5:1-5 ¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

I Calvary Love is a Covenant Love.

A A Christian marriage is not a contract.

- 1 I execute a contract for a house.
- 2 I execute a contract for a car.
- 3 If I break a contract, the “property” is repossessed.

B A Christian marriage is a covenant.

- 1 He made a vow to God that he would love, honor and cherish her as long as he lived – or until her death.
- 2 She made a vow to God that she would love, honor and obey him as long as she lived – or until his death.
- 3 Our covenant wasn’t to each other, it was to God!
- 4 A non-Christian marriage is still a covenant. Even between “atheists”. Even if they didn’t mention God in their vows. It is God that is “joining” them together.

II Calvary Love is a Causing Love.

A Why does my wife love me? ^{1st} John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

B Men initiate, women respond. When I say “I love you” she responds by saying “I love you too”. Our relationship is a cause/effect relationship.

- 1 I can know if I am loving her rightly, by her actions and reactions to me.
- 2 If everything is not right, then I am probably the cause. She is merely reflecting what I have been giving.
- 3 If everything is great, then one of two things is happening.
 - a I am loving her rightly, or
 - b I am married to a saint that is responding rightly even though I am not the one causing her too.
- 4 A wife will have to take the initiative to show her husband respect. He needs it more than he needs her “love”.

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III Calvary Love is a Constraining Love.

- A When I properly love my wife, she will want to live with me and please me. 2nd Corinthians 5:14a For the love of Christ constraineth us...
- B When I properly love my children, they will strive to live in a way that brings honor to their Dad.

IV Calvary Love is a Calming Love.

- A My wife and my home will be calmed (not fearful) when I display Jesus' love properly. 1st John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- B My wife and my home will be a haven to me and others when I display Jesus' love in my home. 1st John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

V Calvary Love is a Continuing Love.

- A If my love is like Jesus' love, then I will never leave nor forsake her (Hebrews 13:5).
- B If my love is like Jesus' love, then my arms are always open to her.
- C If my love is like Jesus' love, then I will spend my life giving to her and caring for her.
- D If my love is like Jesus' love, then my wife will know that I love her.
- E If my love is like Jesus' love, then others will see that I love her dearly.

Best Practices

- Keep the covenant you have made with God to be the husband God desires for you to be.
- Look after your wife better than she can look after herself.
- Speak to your wife gently, not in harsh tones.
- Cause your wife to respect you more because of your love and care for her.
- Love your wife and give her such attention that she feels she cannot sin against your love.
- Calm your wife's fears and anxieties by assuring her that God is in control.
- Make this commitment to your wife, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Never!"

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Lesson Five

The Connection between Home and Heaven

1st Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

I The Responsibility of the Husband.

- A “likewise ye wives” 1st Peter 3:1 (she is to submit her will as Christ submitted His)
- B “likewise ye husbands” 1st Peter 3:7 (He is to follow the steps of Christ)
- 1 “dwell” (G4924) *συνοικέω* (soon-oy-key'-o) From G4862 and G3611; to reside together (as a family): - dwell together.
 - 2 “knowledge” (G1108) *γνώσις* (gno'-sis) From G1097; knowing (the act), that is, (by implication) knowledge: - knowledge, science.
 - 3 “honour” (G5092) *τιμή* (tee-may') From G5099; a value, that is, money paid, or (concretely and collectively) valuables; by analogy esteem (especially of the highest degree), or the dignity itself: - honour, precious, price, some.
 - 4 “weaker” (G772) *ἀσθενής* (as-then-ace') From G1 (as a negative particle) and the base of G4599; strengthless (in various applications, literally, or figuratively and morally): - more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength, weak (-er, -ness, thing).
 - 5 “vessel” (G4632) *σκεῦος* (skyoo'-os) Of uncertain affinity; a vessel, implement, equipment or apparatus (literally or figuratively [specifically a wife as contributing to the usefulness of the husband]): - goods, sail, stuff, vessel.
 - 6 “grace” (G5485) *χάρις* (khar'-ece) From G5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).
 - 7 “life” (G2222) *ζωή* (dzo-ay') From G2198; life (literally or figuratively): - life (-time).
 - 8 “hindered” (G1581) *ἐκκόπτω* (ek-kop'-to) From G1537 and G2875; to excise; figuratively to frustrate: - cut down (off, out), hew down, hinder.
- C The Husband should be self-giving, not self-serving.

II The Riches of the Christian life.

- A We are heirs with our spouse.
- 1 Spiritual Poverty, or
 - 2 Spiritual Riches.

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- B You are an heir when you receive an inheritance. (1st Peter 1:4)
 - 1 You are both “heirs” when you are both saved.
 - 2 Believers should marry only another believer.

- C The inheritance is meant to be shared.
 - 1 Are you enjoying your salvation in your marriage?
 - 2 Do you sing together, pray together, talk about the Lord together, and worship together?
 - 3 Are you in harmony – spiritually?

III The Results that are certain to follow.

- A The result of following God’s way is that we get our prayers answered.

- B Many times, families do not pray together because they do not get along.

- C A family is a husband and wife. It doesn’t include children unless they are in the home.

Best Practices

- Live a self-sacrificing life, not a self-serving life.
- Husband, be the spiritual leader in the home.
- Study your wife and learn what she needs, what she loves, and what she likes and dislikes.
- Honor your wife and treat her as your most precious earthly treasure.
- Share spiritual things with your wife.
- Enjoy your salvation together with your wife.
- Pray together with your family every day and listen to one another talk to God.

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Lesson Six

Adultery, More Bitter than Death

Ecclesiastes 7:20-29 ²⁰ For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. ²¹ Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: ²² For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others. ²³ All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it *was* far from me. ²⁴ That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? ²⁵ I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness: ²⁶ And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart *is* snares and nets, *and* her hands *as* bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her. ²⁷ Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, *counting* one by one, to find out the account: ²⁸ Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. ²⁹ Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

I The Search.

- A We look to other people and condemn them, while we need to look at ourselves and be just as honest.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

- B We want all the answers and all of the knowledge.

Ecclesiastes 7:23 All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.

- C We are searching.

Ecclesiastes 7:24-25 ²⁴ That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? ²⁵ I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:

- 1 Searching for Significance.
- 2 Searching for Security.
- 3 Searching for Satisfaction.

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II The Snare.

Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

- A More bitter than death. *Alive, but wishing death were a reality.*
- B Her heart is snares and nets. *Image of a live trap.*
- C Her hands as bands. *Little dainty hands become chains of iron.*

III The Safety.

- A Escape – those who please God.
- B Taken – sinners.
- C Safety has more to do with our nearness to God than our distance from the opposite sex.
- D No one falls into sexual sin who has not first fallen in their relationship with God. *Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

Best Practices

- Stay near to God so you can resist temptations - *James 4:6-10.*
- Fellowship with the Lord daily and do not let your heart become cold towards Him - *James 4:8.*
- Faithfully attend church to keep your heart stirred to live right - *Hebrews 10:25.*
- Realize that our greatest fulfillment and satisfaction can only be found in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- Keep the covenant you have made with God and be faithful to your spouse.

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Lesson Seven

Fathers, the Glory of Children

I Children's Parents....

- A The word "mother" is found in the Bible 363 times.
- B The word "father" is mentioned more than 1,300 times. God has a message for fathers.
 - 1 Fathers should be Christians.
 - 2 Fathers should have Bible-based convictions.
 - 3 Fathers should live clean lives.

II Children's Glory....

Proverbs 17:6 Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

- A Children glory in the Leadership of their fathers.
 - 1 Fathers are designed to lead their family.
 - 2 Fathers should lead by example.
 - 3 Fathers should lead spiritually.
- B Children glory in the Love of their fathers.
 - 1 Father's love should be firm.
 - 2 Father's love should be committed.
 - 3 Father's love should be tenacious.
 - 4 Father's love should be tough.

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- 5 Father's love should be tender.
 - a God's love for His children is tender.
 - b Children usually view God's love the same way they view their father's love for them.

- C Children glory in the Loyalty of their fathers.
 - 1 Fathers should be loyal to Christ.
 - a Prove your integrity.
 - b Prove your decency.
 - c Prove your honesty.

 - 2 Fathers should be loyal to their family.

 - 3 Fathers should be loyal to their church.

Best Practices

- Know that you have trusted Christ by faith as your Savior.
- Behave like a Christian in your home.
- Have Bible-based convictions and speak about them often.
- Live such a clean life that your children will never be ashamed of you.
- Take the responsibility of being the leader in your home.
- Work on expressing your love tenderly to your wife and children.
- Pray for the salvation of your children.
- Lead you children to Christ and into a life of obedience to Him.
- Be loyal to Christ, to your wife, to your children, to your church, your pastor and those in authority over you.
- Be willing to hold yourself accountable.

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Lesson Eight

A Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10-15 ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. ¹² She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. ¹³ She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. ¹⁵ She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

I The Heart of a Virtuous Woman.

- A A woman's character (what she is) is more important than her conduct (what she does).
- B Virtue is allowing Christ to indwell, take control and make us like Him from the inside.
- C Virtue in the heart will produce modesty in our appearance. *1st Timothy 2:9-10* ⁹ *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

II The Husband of a Virtuous Woman.

- A She has her husband's trust (vs. 11).
 - 1 The Hebrew word is "safely trust" (as opposed to "carelessly trusting").
 - 2 He trusts her not just intellectually, but with everything that he is and has.
- B She is a crown to her husband. *Proverbs 12:4* *A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.*
 - 1 As a crown, she beautifully symbolizes his power and authority.
 - 2 A crown causes other people to respect and admire it's wearer.

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III The Home of a Virtuous Woman.

A The home is her first place of importance and influence (vs. 12-15).

B The home is prepared because of her hard work (vs. 16-24).

- 1 Buying and preparing food.
- 2 Planting and harvesting produce.
- 3 Helping those in need.
- 4 Clothing herself and her family.

C The home is prosperous because of her diligence (vs. 25-31).

- 1 The difference between prosperity and poverty is in the little details. Do what other people “do” and you will have what other people “have”.
- 2 The prosperous take care of their possessions. They store what they receive. Their word is kept when they give it. They are not prosperous because they have “things” but because of their character.
- 3 Those in poverty simply do NOT force themselves to do the things that prosperous people do. “Broke” is temporary. “Poor” is an attitude.

- Proverbs has a lot to say about women. How fitting that the book ends with a picture of a woman of strong character, great wisdom, many skills, and great compassion.
- Some people have the mistaken idea that the ideal woman in the Bible is retiring, servile, and entirely domestic. Not so! This woman is an excellent wife and mother. She is also a manufacturer, importer, manager, realtor, farmer, seamstress, upholsterer, and merchant. However, her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements. They are the result of her reverence for God. In a society where physical appearance counts so much, it surprises us to realize that her appearance is never mentioned. Her attractiveness comes entirely from her character.
- The woman described in this chapter has outstanding abilities. Her family's social position is high. Do not despair in trying to imitate in her in every detail; your days are not long enough to do everything she does at all times! See her instead as an inspiration to be all you can be as God presents opportunities to you. We can learn from her industry, integrity, and resourcefulness.

Best Practices

- Be the kind of wife your husband can trust.
- Have the beauty of the Lord on your life by spending time with God each day.
- Make your home your priority.
- See the home as your great place of service and influence for God.
- Place your husband and home first in importance above all other earthly concerns.
- Live such a godly life that your children will call you “blessed”.