

# Debunking the Myth of Little “Mrs. Perfect”

## Proverbs 31:10-31

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 10, 2020 (Mother’s Day)

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### 6 Overlooked Facts About supposed “Little Mrs. Perfect”

#### I. The alleged Prov. 31 woman isn’t real. “Little Mrs. Perfect” doesn’t exist.

- A. Proverbs is a book of **axioms**. This is general wisdom and truth that honors the Lord and blesses His people.

**Prov. 21:5** “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.”

This doesn’t mean every diligent planner is prosperous, or that everyone who is poverty-stricken lacked a good plan. It just means, generally speaking, careful & proper planning is better than deciding as you go.

**Prov. 22:6** “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

This doesn’t mean godly parents always produce godly kids. Instead, parents should have the long view in mind as they raise their kids.

- B. Remember—**descriptive language** is not the same as **prescriptive language**.

**Isa. 20** **describes** what the Lord had Isaiah do, but doesn’t prescribe what all preachers must do in order to make a point.

**Acts 2** **describes** what took place at Pentecost, but doesn’t prescribe what must take place for all believers.

Proverbs 31:10-31 is a woman’s **description** of a woman’s various roles. It was not intended to be a prescriptive checklist for women to measure themselves with.

#### II. Prov. 31:10ff doesn’t describe a young woman, but an older & prosperous woman.

- A. She has servants (Prov. 31:15).  
B. She’s old enough & prosperous enough to buy land (Prov. 31:16).  
C. Her household contains scarlet, fine linen & purple (Prov. 31:21,22).

- D. Her husband is among the elders (Prov. 31:23).
- E. Her children are old enough to appreciate her and call her blessed (Prov. 31:28).

Prov. 31:10ff is a summary of a fruitful life lived over many years, highlighting specific things done during different seasons of life. It's not about "doing all the things, all the time."

### III. Prov. 31:10ff is truly applicable to all women, even those without husbands and children.

DA Carson says the best rendering of the original Hebrew is actually "the truly capable woman." The "excellence" depicted in Prov. 31:10ff isn't limited to wives and mothers.

**Ruth 3:11** "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are **a worthy woman.**"

The same Hebrew term translated "an excellent wife" in Prov. 31:10 is used to describe Ruth who was both unmarried and childless at the time!

### IV. Prov. 31:10ff isn't about checking all the boxes on a list. It is about character.

- A. She is **trustworthy** (Prov. 31:11).
- B. She is **hardworking** (Prov. 31:27).
- C. She is **strong** (Prov. 31:17,21,25,26).
- D. She is **kind and caring** (Prov. 31:12,20,28)

### V. It's not performance, but love for God that is worth praising.

**Prov. 31:30** "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

### VI. Prov. 31:10ff is written to a man. The only command given is his to obey!

**Prov. 31:29,31** "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all"...  
<sup>31</sup> "Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates."

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group discussion:**

- (A) Are you a list-maker? Why or why not? Do you see lists as helpful to keep you on task or just a potential record of wrongs?
- (B) What personal checklists do you compare yourself to? Are they rooted in Scripture? Christian Culture? Pop-culture? “Just because”?
- (C) What new thing did you learn about Proverbs 31? What did you know already that was helpful to review?
- (D) In the past, what have you felt towards the supposed “Little Mrs. Perfect” in Prov. 31:10ff? Envy? Admiration? Anger? Something else?
- (E) Jot down 2-3+ character traits from Prov. 31:10-31 that you see in someone else. Encourage her by letting her know they came to mind as you pondered these verses.
- (F) Which traits in Prov. 31:10ff did you see in your mother? Thank the Lord for those, and let her know she came to mind as you considered these things.