



GFC STUDENT MINISTRY
Middle School Camp
June 18-21
Register @ graceky.org/events



Debunking the Myth of Little “Mrs. Perfect”
Proverbs 31:10-31
Pastor Peter LaRuffa

1. 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 in poverty lacked a good plan. Generally speaking, careful planning is better than working in haste.

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 (praise the Lord).

Save the date! GFC Family PICNIC
Save the Date!
June 30
11am

SINGLES RETREAT
RED RIVER GORGE
JUNE 1-3
Register by May 25 at graceky.org/events
GRACE SINGLES

CULTIVATING CONTENTMENT
May 20 - June 17
Florence Campus Cafe
11:15am
GRACE SINGLES

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 against.

2. 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 and prosperous enough to buy land (Prov. 31:16).
- c. Her household contains scarlet, fine linen & purple (Prov. 31:21,22).
- d. Her household is among the elders (Prov. 31:23).
- e. Her children are old enough to appreciate her and call her blessed (Prov. 31:28).

Proverbs 31:10ff is a summary of a fruitful life lived over many years, highlighting specific things done at various times & seasons. It is best understood with lifelong, fruitful living in mind, not "doing all the things, all the time."

3. Prov. 31:10ff is truly applicable for all women, even those without husbands and children.

The "excellence" isn't limited to wives and mothers. 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!

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**.

4. Prov. 31:10ff isn't a checklist. 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).

5. It's not her performance, but her fear of the Lord 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

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

Prov. 31:31 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. Did you learn anything new or review something helpful concerning Proverbs 31? If so, what?
- B. In the past, what have you felt towards the supposed "Little Mrs. Perfect" in Prov. 31:10ff? Envy? Admiration? Anger? Something else?
- C. Jot down 2-3+ character traits from Prov. 31:10-31 that you see in someone else. Encourage him/her by letting them know they came to mind as you pondered these verses.
- D. What 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.
